

Five CD releases for summer listening

If summer was made for leisurely reading, it is also the best time to expand musical horizons. And this summer there's no shortage of interesting and provocative CD releases to choose from. Below are five unique and recent releases that keep finding their way onto my listening queue:

Cypress String Quartet

***Beethoven Late Quartets - String Quartet in B-flat major, Opus 130, with Große Fuge, and Opus 133* | Cypress String Quartet**

Does the classical world need another recording of Beethoven's Late Quartets? This CD suggests that the answer is a resounding "Yes!" This San Francisco-based ensemble distinguishes itself with a brilliant, sometimes austere, but incisive reading of these intimate, difficult and elusive quartets.

[List also included *Dictée, Liber Novus* – John Zorn / *Tribute to a Reggae Legend* – Various Artists / *Cameron Live!* – Carmeron Carpenter / *Beethoven Piano Sonatas Opp.26, 14 & 28* – Murray Perahia]

Read more: <http://blogs.sacbee.com/ticket/archives/2010/07/ortiz-five-cd-r.html#ixzz0vTPk2hsC>