

Programme Note by Chris Darwin: please use freely for non-commercial purposes

**Franz Schubert (1797-1828) String Quartet D.804 in A minor (Rosamunde)  
(1824)**

*Allegro ma non troppo*

*Andante*

*Menuetto – Allegretto – Trio*

*Allegro moderato*

The *Rosamunde* quartet takes its name from the Andante's theme, which had appeared in the incidental music Schubert wrote in 1822 for an unsuccessful play of that name. The play was lost, but the incidental music was rescued from the oblivion of family chests by Sir George Grove and Arthur Sullivan on a trip to Vienna in 1867. The quartet was written in the same year of failing health as Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" quartet. Here the mood is wistful. The opening movement recalls one of Schubert's songs 'Gretchen at the Spinning Wheel': "*My peace is gone, My heart is sore, I shall find it never and nevermore*" and the trio another 'The Gods of Greece': "*Beautiful world, where are you?*".