

ORION STRING QUARTET

THE PLAIN DEALER

August 17, 2008



Kirchner: Complete String Quartets

**Orion String Quartet
Albany**

More than 50 years of creative energy explode in the four string quartets by American composer Leon Kirchner. A student of Arnold Schoenberg, Kirchner stretches the bounds of tonality and form in these kinetic, rapturous pieces, dating from 1949, 1958, 1966 (winner of the Pulitzer Prize) and 2007. The Orion String Quartet appears to have lived inside these works. This is one of the most compelling releases of the year — and possibly the decade. Grade: A



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