Hardly any Russian composers in the 19th century who helped develop the national Romantic musical language were able to make a living from their artistic activities. They were civil servants, officers, professors of chemistry or even master builders such as Victor Ewald (1860-1935), to whom composition was purely a hobby. He hardly wrote a dozen works during the course of his life. Among these are four quintets for brass instruments, which were among the most original publications of their time. It is unmistakably Russian in every melodic nook and cranny. Three of them can be heard on this recording by the highly virtuosic Italian Gomalan Brass Quintet, who also interpret the 1970 quintet by Alexander Tcherepnin (1899-1977) – an effervescent and clever homage to an unforgotten homeland.