

Navarra String Quartet



"They have a warmly-rounded and very expressive sound, perfectly suited to Haydn: on this showing, they are already in the first rank of his music's exponents...."

The Independent

Since its formation in 2002, the **Navarra Quartet** has built an international reputation as one of the most dynamic and poetic string quartets of today. Selected for representation by the Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT) from 2006 to 2010, they have been awarded the MIDEM Classique Young Artist Award, a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship, a Musica Viva tour, and prizes at the Banff, Melbourne and Florence International String Quartet Competitions.

The Navarra Quartet has appeared at major venues throughout the world including the Wigmore Hall, Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, the Sage Gateshead, Kings Place, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Esterházy Palace, Luxembourg Philharmonie, Berlin Konzerthaus, the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg and international festivals such as Bath, Aldeburgh, Lammermuir, Presteigne, Bergen, Grachten, Sandviken, Schwetzingen, Rheingau, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Aix-en-Provence, Bellerive, Harrogate Chamber Music and the BBC Proms.

Further afield they have given concerts in Russia, the USA, China, Korea, Australia and the Middle East, and have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, RAI 3 (Italy), Radio 4 (Holland), SWR (Germany), Radio Luxembourg and ABC Classic FM (Australia). The Quartet collaborates with artists such as Li-Wei, Guy Johnston, Mark Padmore, Allan Clayton, Francesco Piemontesi, John O'Connor, Simone Young and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Highly-acclaimed recordings include Haydn's *The Seven Last Words* for Altara Records and a disc of Péteris Vasks' first three String Quartets for Challenge Records, which they recorded whilst working closely with the composer himself. The recording was described by critics as "*stunning*", "*sensational*" and "*compelling*", and was nominated for the prestigious German Schallplattenkritik Award. More recently, the Navarra Quartet recorded a disc for NMC Records featuring the music of Joseph Phibbs, and future recording plans include Schubert's Late Quartets.

Formed at the Royal Northern College of Music, they commenced their studies under the guidance of the late Dr. Christopher Rowland. Their development continued with studies in Cologne with the Alban Berg Quartet, Pro-Quartet in Paris, the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove and from residencies at the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh and at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland. A constant desire to evolve sees the Quartet play regularly to revered musicians such as Eberhard Feltz, Ferenc Rados and Gabor Takacs Nagy. The Navarra Quartet are dedicated to teaching the next generation of musicians in masterclasses and summer courses, and they recently completed a three-year residency as the Associated Ensemble at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

The Quartet plays on a Hieronymus II Amati violin, a Jean-Baptistery Vuillaume violin (kindly loaned to Marije by a generous sponsor through the Beares International Violin Society), and a Grancino cello made in Milan in 1698, generously on loan from the Cruft - Grancino Trust, administered by the Royal Society of Musicians.

Recent highlights include performances at the Southbank Centre's International Chamber Music Series and Leeds International Chamber Music Series, as well as tours of the Mendelssohn Octet in the UK and France with the Elias Quartet. The Navarra Quartet received the prestigious Dutch Kersjes prize in December 2017 in the Royal Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.

Highlights in 2018/19 include the Quartet's US debut at the Lincoln Center in New York; tours of Ireland, the Netherlands and Scotland; and concerts at Wigmore Hall, National Concert Hall Dublin, Saffron Hall, and Middle Temple Hall. The Navarra Quartet will also proudly direct the sixth edition of their own festival, the Weesp Chamber Music Festival.



Valid for use until 1 September 2019
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