

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMING SEASON

Declarations of love

Luigi Nono (1924-1990)	Fragmente – Stille, an Diotima (1979-80)
Leos Janáček (1854-1928) ***	Sting Quartet No. 2 (1928) "Intimate Letters"
Robert Schumann (1810-1856)	String Quartet A major Op. 41 No. 3 (1842)

Luigi Nono's *Fragmente – Stille, an Diotima* is based around the poetry of Hölderlin: a love poem to Diotima. Leos Janáček himself gave his second quartet the nickname *Intimate Letters*, which was inspired by his long and spiritual friendship with Kamila Stösslová: "*Those notes of mine kiss all of you. They call for you passionately...*" For Robert Schumann, the interval of the falling fifth stood for the musical epitomization of his wife Clara's name. This motif is ever-present in his A major quartet, which overflows with ebullience and joy.

Tolstoy's Waltz

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)	Auf dem Wasser zu singen (arr. X.v. Dijk)
Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942)	Five Pieces for String Quartet
Matthijs van Dijk (*1983)	(rage) rage against the (2018)
Leo Tolstoy (1828 - 1910)	Waltz (arr. X.v. Dijk)
Leos Janáček (1854-1928) ***	String Quartet No. 1 (1923) "Kreutzer Sonata"
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)	String Quartet in D minor D 810 "Death and the Maiden"

Matthijs van Dijk is one of South Africa's most important contemporary composers. *(rage) rage against the*, written for the Signum Quartett, was inspired by Dylan Thomas' poem "Do not go gentle into that good night" and is loosely based on thematic material from Led Zeppelin's "In my time of dying".

*A video of the premiere of (rage) rage against the can be found on YouTube.
The programme can be viewed [here](#).*

A century apart | Haydn and Brahms

In the 2022/ 2023 season, Haydn's genre-defining op. 20 celebrates its 250th anniversary, and the op. 51 quartets by Brahms turn 150. Brahms revered Haydn's quartet writing, and was so enamoured by the op. 20 that he had the autograph score in his possession. The Signum Quartett invites you to take a deep dive into these compositions, in one concert or two, and experience the fascinating connections and inter-sections as these remarkable works stand side by side.

One concert

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in E-flat major Op. 20 No. 1 Hob.III:31
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) ***	String Quartet in C minor Op. 51 No. 1
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)	String Quartet in C major Op. 20 No. 2 Hob.III:32 String Quartet in A minor Op. 51 No. 2

Two concerts

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in G minor Op. 20 No. 3 Hob.III:33
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) ***	String Quartet in C major Op. 20 No. 2 Hob.III:32
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in E-flat major Op. 20 No. 1 Hob.III:31
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)	String Quartet in C minor Op. 51 No. 1
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in F minor Op. 20 No. 5 Hob.III:35
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) ***	String Quartet in D major Op. 20 No. 4 Hob.III:34
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)	String Quartet in A major Op. 20 No. 6 Hob.III:36 String Quartet in A minor Op. 51 No. 2

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Aus der Ferne | From afar

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
(arr.: X. van Dijk)

String Quartet in C major Op. 20 No. 2 Hob.III:32
Aus der Ferne
Frühlingsglaube
Schwanengesang D 744
Quartet for Strings (1939)

Priault Rainier (1903-1986)

String Quartet in G major D 887

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)



Priault Rainier is without a doubt one of the most important female composers of the 20th century. She was born in 1903 in South Africa and studied the violin at the RAM in London, later composition with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. In 1943 Priault Rainier was appointed professor of composition at the Royal Academy of Music.

Her Quartet for Strings (1939) was premiered in 1944 in London, and the Amadeus Quartet recorded it in 1951 for Decca, which can be heard [here](#). Priault Rainier composed a number of solo concerti, including works for Jacqueline du Pre and Yehudi Menuhin, who premiered her violin concerto in 1977 at the BBC Proms.

Arcadia

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
(arr.: X.van Dijk)

String Quartet in C major Op. 20 No. 2 Hob.III:32
Die Götter Griechenlands
Wandrer's Nachtlid
Auf dem Wasser zu singen
Arcadiana for string quartet Op. 12

Thomas Adès (*1971)

String Quartet in C minor Op. 51 No. 1

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Arcadia signifies a detached, blissful existence, lost in reverie, and the longing for a peaceful and serene world. *Arcadiana*, this Haydn quartet and these Schubert songs all beautifully mirror the Arcadian sentiment, particularly "Die Götter Griechenlands", which is based upon Schiller's "Schöne Welt, wo bist du?" - "Fair world, where are you?"

The combination with Brahms is compelling, as he famously revered the Op. 20 string quartets of Joseph Haydn to the point of being in possession of the autograph score.

I am most excited by this new recording by the Signum Quartett of my first quartet Arcadiana. It is a thrill to have this magnificent recording. Bravo and many thanks to the Signum Quartett! - Thomas Adès, April 2015

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Between Arcadia and Anarchy

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
(arr.: X.van Dijk)

Quartettsatz in C minor D 703
Die Götter Griechenlands
Wandrer's Nachtlid
Auf dem Wasser zu singen
Arcadiana for string quartet Op. 12

Thomas Adès (*1971)

Rock Lounge

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Cream
Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)
Matthijs van Dijk (*1983)
Led Zeppelin
Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942)
Radiohead
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Adagio and Fugue C minor KV 546
*Sunshine of your love**
from 3 Pieces for String Quartet (1914/1918): Danse
(rage) rage against the
*Heartbreaker**
from Five Pieces for String Quartet: Alla tarantella
*Paranoid Android**
Große Fuge B-flat major op. 133

Duration: c. 51'

**Arrangements: Matthijs van Dijk*

→ *For more infos and programmes regarding the Rock Lounge see separate document
Extracts from the Rock Lounge can be viewed [here](#).*

Fragments of an eternity

Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Robert Fokkens (*1975)
Anton Webern (1883-1945)
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Adagio and Fugue in C minor K 546
"Glimpses of a half-forgotten future" (2012)
Langsamer Satz for string quartet (1905)
Quartettsatz in C minor D 703 (fragment)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Contrapunctus 18 from: "The Art of the Fugue" BWV
1080 (fragment)

Konstantia Gourzi (*1962)

String Quartet No. 2: "P-Illion – nine fragments of an
eternity"

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Große Fuge in B-flat major Op. 133

Abandoned attempts, incomplete legacies, scattered particles of a vanished whole - a mirror to the finite nature of art and life.

A musical twitterverse

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)	Quartettsatz in C minor D 703
<i>A selection of #quartweets, e.g.</i>	
<i>Brett Dean (*1961):</i>	<i>Signum 140</i>
<i>Bruno Mantovani (*1974)</i>	<i>Quatuor à cordes No. 4</i>
<i>Derek Bermel (*1967)</i>	<i>Snake Song</i>
<i>Kevin Volans (*1949)</i>	<i>140 Notes</i>
Anton Webern (1883-1945)	<i>Langsamer Satz</i> for string quartet (1905)
<i>Robert Fokkens (*1975)</i>	<i>the third solitude</i>
<i>Caroline Shaw (*1982)</i>	<i>Brève</i>
Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942)	Five Pieces for String Quartet

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)	String Quartet in D minor D 810 "Death and the Maiden"
	or
	String Quartet in G major D 887

Haydn, Jarnach, Brahms and #quartweets

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in C major Op. 20 No. 2 Hob.III:32
<i>A selection of #quartweets, e.g.</i>	
<i>Brett Dean (*1961):</i>	<i>Signum 140</i>
<i>Bruno Mantovani (*1974)</i>	<i>Quatuor à cordes No. 4</i>
<i>Derek Bermel (*1967)</i>	<i>Snake Song</i>
<i>Kevin Volans (*1949)</i>	<i>140 Notes</i>
Philipp Jarnach (1892-1982)	String Quintet in D major Op. 10 (1908)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)	String Quartet in C minor Op. 51 No. 1

Further information on #quartweets can be found [here](#).

→ You can listen to a selection of the #quartweets [here](#).

If favoured, an interaction with the audience is possible.

The Schubert Experience

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Selection of Lieder

Quartettsatz in C minor D 703
Du bist die Ruh, Lachen und Weinen, Aus der
Ferne, Frühlingsglaube, Schwanengesang et al

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

String Quartet in D minor D 810 "Death and the Maiden"
or
String Quartet in G major D887

"A ceaselessly thrilling journey through Schubert's mysterious world"

Fonoforum | Schubert CD From Afar | Carlos Maria Solare | August 2018

The Signum Quartett offers a Schubert cycle in three parts: All the late string quartets, the string quintet, Lieder arrangements, readings from the letters, and a discussion about Schubert's life and times.

➔ *You can listen to the programme [here](#).*

Widmann at 50 | Five decades, five quartets

String Quartet No. 1 (1997)
String Quartet No. 2 "Choralquartett" (2003/ 2006)
String Quartet No. 3 "Jagdquartett"(2003)
String Quartet No. 4 (2004/ 2005)
String Quartet No. 5 "Versuch über die Fuge" [Attempt at a Fugue] (2005) with soprano

Jörg Widmann's first five string quartets are conceived by the composer as a large cycle, with each individual work reimagining a traditional movement form. It is an unforgettable experience to hear this "macroquartet" in one concert, tracing the development of one of today's foremost musical minds and the genre as a whole.

*What a joy to hear the Signum Quartett's recording of my Jagdquartett on **harmonia mundi!** Technical perfection and precision paired with wild furore and maximum energy. There is exuberant enthusiasm, crazy ferocity, existential fear, boisterousness, madness in all of it. I couldn't be happier. - Jörg Widmann*

Roots

In 2022, Haydn's genre-creating op. 20 quartets turn 250. The Signum Quartet celebrates this in a cycle of three extended concerts, where it looks to the roots of the string quartet in op. 20 and to its own roots as an ensemble. The cycle is comprised of all six of Haydn's groundbreaking op. 20 quartets in combination with repertoire the Signum Quartet has made its own and projects it has developed. These include its ongoing fascination with Schubert, songs from its Rock Lounge, the #quartweet project and its exploration of South African composers.

Roots 1

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in E-flat major Op. 20 No. 1 Hob.III:31
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)	Ins stille Land (arr.: Xandi van Dijk)
	Frühlingsglaube
	Auf dem Wasser zu singen
Erkki-Sven Tüür (*1959)	String Quartet No. 2 "Lost Prayers"

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in G minor Op. 20 No. 3 Hob.III:33
Led Zeppelin	Heartbreaker
Radiohead	Paranoid Android (arr.: Matthijs van Dijk)
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)	Große Fuge B-flat major op. 133

Roots 2

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in D major Op. 20 No. 4 Hob.III:34
A selection of #quartweets, e.g.	
Brett Dean (*1961):	Signum 140
Kevin Volans (*1949)	140 Notes
Anton Webern (1883-1945)	Langsamer Satz for string quartet (1905)
Caroline Shaw (*1982)	Brève
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)	Quartettsatz in C minor D 703

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in C major Op. 20 No. 2 Hob.III:32
Leos Janáček (1854-1928)	String Quartet No. 1 (1923) "Kreutzer Sonata"
Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942)	Five Pieces for String Quartet

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Roots 3

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in F minor Op. 20 No. 5 Hob.III:35
Matthijs van Dijk (*1983)	(rage) rage against the (2018)
Mokale Koapeng (*1963)	Komeng (2003)
Priaulx Rainier (1903-1986)	Quartet for strings (1939)

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet in A major Op. 20 No. 6 Hob.III:36
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)	String Quartet in C minor Op. 51 No. 1

PROGRAMMES WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

Tanja Tetzlaff | violoncello

Anton Arensky (1861-1906)	String Quartet in A minor Op. 35 (with two violoncellos)
Wolfgang Rihm (*1952)	“Epilog” for string quintet

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)	String Quintet in C major D 956 (Op. posth. 163)

Matthias Goerne | baritone

Othmar Schoeck (1886-1957)	Notturmo Op. 47 for baritone and string quartet

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)	String Quartet in D minor D 810 “Death and the Maiden”

Daniel Ottensamer | clarinet

Programme I

Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791)	String Quartet in B-flat major K 458 “The Hunt”
Jörg Widmann (*1973)	String Quartet No. 3 “Jagdquartett” (2003)

Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791)	Clarinet Quintet in A major K 581

Programme II

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)	String Quartet No. 31 in E-flat major Op. 20 No. 1
Jean Francaix (1912-1997)	Clarinet Quintet (1977)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)	String Quartet in F major Op. 41 No. 2 (1842)

Melvyn Tan | piano

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897-1957)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

n.n. (piano solo)

Piano Quintet in E major Op. 15

String Quartet in D minor D 810 "Death and the Maiden"

Works with Elisabeth Leonskaja | piano

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Mieczyslaw Weinberg (1919-1996)

Alfred Schnittke (1934-1998)

Piano Quintet in E-flat major Op. 44

Piano Quintet Op. 18

Piano Quintet (1976)

Works with Judith Jáuregui | piano

Mieczyslaw Weinberg (1919-1996)

Piano Quintet Op. 18

Works with Nils Mönkemeyer | viola

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Philipp Jarnach (1892-1982)

String Quintet No. 2 in G major Op. 111

String Quintet in D major Op. 10 (1908)