

Signum Quartett

Biography | February 2023

Florian Donderer | violin

Annette Walther | violin

Xandi van Dijk | viola

Thomas Schmitz | violoncello

Performances of unsparing expressivity, intimacy and vitality are hallmarks of the Signum Quartett, pairing music making of the subtlest order with playing of the highest intensity. The dramatic composition of their programmes is innovative and distinct, and is realised with uncompromising perfection in interpretations of effortless transparency.

The quartet has been a welcome guest at the Wigmore Hall London, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Philharmonie de Paris, Konzerthaus Vienna, Philharmonie Cologne, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and at the BBC Proms, with partners such as Nils Mönkemeyer, Dominique Horwitz, Jörg Widmann, Daniel Otten-samer, Nicolas Altstaedt and Elisabeth Leonskaja. In 2023 the ensemble will give its debut at Carnegie Hall in New York.

The Signum Quartett's discography is a testament to their stylistic range: Next to standard works of the quartet literature, they have recorded works by Wolfgang Rihm, Thomas Adès, Jörg Widmann and Kevin Volans. Their recording of Erkki-Sven Tüür's Second String Quartet Lost Prayers for ECM received the reward for the Classical Album of the Year of the Estonian Music Awards 2021.

Following their multi-award-winning album "Aus der Ferne" (Diapason D'Or, Opus Klassik), the Signum Quartett continued its Schubert cycle for PENTATONE with "Ins stille Land", deepening its exploration of the fascinating connections between his string quartets and songs.

In 2015, the quartet launched its innovative social media project #quartweet, where composers of all ages and abilities are invited to tweet a short quartet of 140 notes or less on Twitter. The project has received much media attention and been featured on Deutschlandfunk, BBC In Tune and BR U-21. Contributing composers include Bruno Mantovani, Grawemeyer Award winners Brett Dean and Sebastian Currier and Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw.

In 2022, the quartet established its Bremen-based project *SIGNUM open space*, supported by *Neustart Kultur*. This will be a site for rehearsals, recordings, workshops and education initiatives as well as an interactive exchange with the public. Additionally, there will be interdisciplinary projects such as exhibitions, readings, dance and seminars on body awareness with renowned lecturers.