

Biography | September 2023

Nicolas van Kuijk | violin
Sylvain Favre-Bulle | violin
Emmanuel Francois | viola
Anthony Kondo | violoncello

Quatuor Van Kuijk's international accolades boast First, Best Beethoven, and Best Haydn Prizes at the 2015 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet competition; First Prize, and an Audience Award at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition; as well as becoming laureates of the Aix-en-Provence Festival Academy. They were BBC New Generation Artists from 2015-17, as well as ECHO Rising Stars for the 2017-18 season.

Following such high success early in their career, the ensemble is an established international presence and has been invited to perform at the Wigmore Hall, London; Philharmonie de Paris, Auditorium du Louvre, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, and Salle Gaveau, Paris; Tonhalle, Zurich; Wiener Konzerthaus and Musikverein, Vienna; Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam; Berliner Philharmonie; Kölner Philharmonie; Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg; Gulbenkian, Lisbon; Tivoli Concert Series, Denmark; Konserthuset Stockholm; and at festivals including the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International, Cheltenham, Heidelberg, Lockenhaus, Davos, Verbier, Aix-en-Provence, Montpellier/Radio France, Evian, Auvers-sur-Oise, Stavanger and Trondheim (Norway), Concentus Moraviae (Czech Republic), Haydn/Esterházy (Hungary), and Eilat (Israel).

2022 marked Quatuor Van Kuijk's 10-year anniversary, with a number of special projects centring around Mendelssohn's string quartet cycle – which they released for Alpha Classics in 2023. Further highlights of the past seasons include a number of international tours hosting debuts at venues including the Library of Congress, DC; Sydney Opera House; Melbourne Recital Centre; and UKARIA, Adelaide. They will also make their debut visit to Colombia and return to several prestigious European halls including London's Wigmore Hall, Berlin Konzerthaus and Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ Recording exclusively for Alpha Classics, the ensemble's debut recording, Mozart, was released to outstanding critical acclaim - CHOC de Classica, DIAPASON D'OR DECOUVERTE. Following celebrated discs of Debussy and Ravel, and Schubert, they continued their ongoing exploration of Mozart with two further releases.

Quatuor Van Kuijk was resident at ProQuartet, Paris, where they studied with members of the Alban Berg, Artemis, and Hagen quartets. Originally students of the Ysaye Quartet, they went on to work with Günter Pichler at the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Madrid, supported generously by the International Institute of Chamber Music, Madrid. The Quartet is supported by Pirastro and SPEDIDAM and is grateful to Mécénat Musical Société Générale for their sponsorship.

Short version

Since its foundation, Quatuor Van Kuijk has had a brilliant start to its career. It won first prize at the Wigmore Hall International Chamber Music Competition. The ensemble has subsequently performed in major concert halls such as the Wigmore Hall in London, the Elbphilharmonie, the Konzerthaus Berlin or the Philharmonie de Paris. It is also a welcome guest at major festivals such as the Aix-en-Provence Festival.

Quatuor Van Kuijk records exclusively for the Alpha Classics label. After two critically acclaimed CDs with works by Debussy & Ravel and Schubert, the quartet has dedicated itself again to Mozart in 2020.

Quatuor Van Kuijk was resident quartet at Proquartet in Paris, where they studied with members of the Alban Berg, Artemis and Hagen Quartets.