

Programmes | 2025/2026

Florian Donderer | violin
Annette Walther | violin
Xandi van Dijk | viola
Thomas Schmitz | violoncello

South Afrika

Bridge the chasms that divide I: "The Lark"

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

String Quartet in D major Op 64 No. 5 Hob.III:63
"Lark Quartet"

Abel Selaocoe, Thandi Ntuli, Neo Muyanga

Newly commissioned works

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

String Quartet No. 12 in E flat major Op. 127

Bridge the chasms that divide II: "Spring"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791)

String Quartet No. 14 in G major K 387 "Spring"

Abel Selaocoe, Dizu Plaatjies, Denise Onen

Newly commissioned works

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

String Quartet Nr.14 in C sharp minor Op. 131

The year 2024 marked thirty years since the fall of apartheid in South Africa. The Signum Quartet has celebrated this "glorious human achievement" and the conflicts contained therein by inviting some of South Africa's most original and powerful voices to reflect on their own experiences and journeys since 1994, weaving a rich musical tapestry as diverse as the country itself.

The time for the healing of the wounds has come.

The moment to bridge the chasms that divide us has come.

The time to build is upon us.

Nelson Mandela, Presidential inauguration, 10 May 1994

To frame these commissions, the quartet has chosen works symbolising hope and transformation. Both the lark and spring symbolise optimism and the dawn of the new, as so wonderfully expressed in these works by Haydn and Mozart. And few compositions express a deep sense of spiritual humanism and triumph over adversity as Beethoven's monumental late quartets.