

Johannes Marmen | violin
Laia Valentin Braun | violin
Bryony Gibson-Cornish | viola
Sinéad O'Halloran | violoncello

Winners of the prestigious Banff International String Quartet Competition in 2019, the young musicians of the Marmen Quartet possess something special. Their spirited and well balanced sound is paired with an individual musical freedom that always serves the bigger picture: Music lifts the soul.



The Marmen Quartet, a discovery.

Starting with Haydn's Lark Quartet, the four of them display an astonishing lightness. What is most beautiful is their art of listening and lingering, the homogeneous transition from sometimes slight impatience to the pallid and lost in thought as well as to the furious. And then there are the finely balanced endings, whether in the languorous piano or in the collective forte-groan. In the end, sweetness and silence remain - no one dares to disturb them with applause for a long time. Music with a truly healing effect, which enthused the audience in the Boulez Hall all the more.

Tagesspiegel | Berlin Boulez Saal | Christiane Peitz | 23. September 2021

The Marmen Quartet goes all out from the first note, playing with a presence one would wish for any Haydn interpretation, and with a voluminous, never cumbersome sound. What is special about the art of the British ensemble is its committed playing, the liveliness that does not aim to find a flawlessly distilled sound: Here one experiences a fresh, honest, human way of making music. The Marmen Quartet shines, opens up the work and shows what great music can do: intellectually stimulate and, above all, to be moving.

Süddeutsche Zeitung | Bad Tölz | Paul Schäufele | 23. Oktober 2021

The Marmen Quartet were something different, questing for what might be in the music this performance alone from all others; what might they find in Beethoven today? They had cruised to the finals with Haydn, Ligeti and Mendelssohn that were adventurous and unconventional; their leading into the first movement of Schubert's D. 887 with Salvatore Sciarrino's Seventh Quartet was inspirational.

Bachtrack | Banff International String Quartet Competition 2019 | Laurence Vittes | September 3, 2019

Amsterdam, London Munich, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Berlin: the exciting ensemble inspires at the Pierre Boulez Hall, the String Quartet Festival in Heidelberg, the Rheingau Music Festival, the Wigmore Hall, the Elbphilharmonie, the Liederhalle and the Alte Oper, as well on tours of the USA; Canada and Australia.

The ensemble's debut CD with works by Ligeti (1st and 2nd) and Bartok (4th) will be released by BIS in 2024, followed by a recording of the quartets by Ravel, Debussy and Takemitsu.