

Nicolas Van Kuijk | Violine
Sylvain Favre-Bulle | Violine
Emmanuel François | Viola
Anthony Kondo | Violoncello

Style, energy, the courage to take risks coupled with a fascinating wildness: anyone who can play with such breathtaking precision must be able to draw on boundless virtuosity and absolute sovereignty.



More importantly, the Van Kuijk marry high technical polish (tuning and ensemble virtually flawless), close attention to Mendelssohn's detailed markings and a spirit of youthful, spontaneous ardour. While the Van Kuijk never short-change Mendelssohn's lyricism, their playing is free of any whiff of indulgence or affectation. Phrasing with gentle flexibility and applying vibrato selectively, they locate a crucial innocent sweetness in, say, the song-without-words Andante of the E flat Quartet, Op 12. They perfectly judge the delicate balance between plaintive song and mandolin-style staccato counterpoint in the Andante of the D major, Op 44 No 1. Here and elsewhere Mendelssohn's characteristic shafts of viola colour receive their full expressive due.

Gramophone | CD Mendelssohn Vol.1 | Richard Wigmore



The Quatuor Van Kuijk celebrated its 10th birthday with the complete recording of Felix Mendelssohn's quartets.

Vol. 1 contains quartets 1 to 3, it has been praised as "Disque du jour" (Radio France) and "CD of the week" (NDR). With its latest CD, Vol. 2, the quartet Van Kuijk completed the Mendelssohn recording in March 2023 with the Quartets Nos. 4, 5 and 6.

The programme for the 25/26 season features rarely heard string quartets by Kabalevski, Korngold and Tailleferre, among others.