

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

Perfection with soul

They come from four different countries and cultures: but what unites Johannes, Laia, Bryony and Sinéad are the musical conversations and stories they present to the audience. This fantastical world of string quartet music emerges from a constant musical dialogue that is able to create a deep and meaningful connection through trust, respect and joy. It is this personal touch, this musical honesty, coupled with freedom and the courage to take risks, that creates this unique moment with the audience in concert.

With the courage, vitality and intensity of its performances, the Marmen Quartet has fast established itself on the international scene as one of the most impressive and engaging talents in chamber music. Highlights of its 2025–26 season included concerts at Konzerthaus Dortmund, Rotterdam's De Doelen, Bouzel Saal, Wigmore Hall, The Library of Congress and Princeton University, as well as its debut at Beethovenfest Bonn and the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival.

The quartet brings its energy and intelligence to an impressive range of repertoire, from Joseph Haydn and Debussy to brand new works. Commissions have included Garth Knox's Secret Letters (written for the group as a companion piece to Janáček's Intimate Letters), Salina Fisher's Heal and Benjamin Staern's String Quartet no.1. In January 2026, the quartet returned to String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam for several performances, including a collaboration with percussionist DOMNIQ and a world premiere by Samuel Adams.

The quartet's recent debut album on BIS featured music by Bartók and Ligeti and won the players many prestigious accolades, including the BBC Music Magazine Awards 2026 Chamber Award, Diapason d'Or, and Gramophone's Editor's Choice. Future recording plans include Debussy, Ravel, Haydn, Chausson and Takemitsu.

Short version

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The quartet's repertoire spans Haydn and Debussy to new works, with commissions like Garth Knox's Secret Letters, Salina Fisher's Heal, and Benjamin Staern's String Quartet No. 1. In January 2026, it returned to the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam, including a collaboration with percussionist DOMNIQ and a world premiere by Samuel Adams. Its BIS debut album, featuring Bartók and Ligeti, earned accolades such as the BBC Music Magazine Awards 2026 Chamber Award, Diapason d'Or, and Gramophone's Editor's Choice. Future recordings will include works by Debussy, Ravel, Haydn, and Chausson.