

BELCEA QUARTET

CORINA BELCEA - VIOLIN

AXEL SCHACHER - VIOLIN

KRZYSZTOF CHORZELSKI - VIOLA

ANTOINE LEDERLIN - VIOLONCHELO

Founded at the Royal College of Music of London in 1994 by the Romanian violinist Corina Belcea and the Polish violist Krzysztof Chorzelski, who both bring the best traditions of string quartets received from their mentors of the Alban Berg and Amadeus Quartets. This diversity is extended by the French musicians Axel Schacher (violin) and Antoine Lederlin (violoncello).

The Belcea Quartet has shared a residence at the Wiener Konzerthaus with the Artemis Quartet since 2010. The Quartet will be Artist-in-Residence of the new Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin beginning with the 2017/2018 season. In 2016/2017, the quartet will perform in such venues as London's Wigmore Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Brussel's Flagey and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie. The music of the 21st century will also feature prominently in their programs: the centerpiece will be the world premiere of the 4th string quartet by Krzysztof Penderecki. Regular world premières - among them Mark-Anthony Turnage's string quartets *Twisted Blues with Twisted Ballad* in 2010 & *Contusion* in 2014, as well as Thomas Larcher's *lucid dreams* in 2015. The quartet's regular partners include Piotr Anderszewski, Till Fellner, Martin Fröst, Valentin Erben, Ian Bostridge and Matthias Goerne.

The Belcea Quartet has an impressive discography. During its long-term association with EMI Classics, the quartet recorded the complete Britten and Bartók quartets as well as works by Schubert, Brahms, Mozart, Debussy, Ravel and Dutilleux, amongst others. In 2012 and 2013, the quartet recorded the complete Beethoven quartets live in the Benjamin Britten Studio in Snape. This recording was released under ZigZag Territories, the quartet's new label, and it has been recognized with the ECHO Klassik Award. In 2015, the quartet released its highly acclaimed recording of works by Webern, Berg and Schoenberg to coincide with its 20th jubilee. In autumn 2016 they release the recording of the complete Brahms string quartets & piano quintet. The Belcea Quartet's performances of the complete Beethoven string quartets at Vienna's Konzerthaus in 2012 were broadcast by Mezzo TV and were released - on DVD and Blue Ray disk - by the label Euroarts in fall 2014. The release was accompanied by Jean-Claude Mocik's documentary of the entire project, "Looking for Beethoven".

The musicians recently created their very own Belcea Quartet Trust, whose main aims are to support and inspire young string quartets through series of intensive coaching sessions organized according to the needs of each selected ensemble, as well as to support commissioning of new works from today's leading composers to be premiered by the quartet in the future.