

Barbican Quartet



Programme 2026/2027

Amarins Wierdsma
violin

Kate Maloney
violin

Christoph Slenczka
viola

Yoanna Prodanova
cello

domselær

Artist Management

www.domselær.nl

Barbican Quartet

The Barbican Quartet is an internationally acclaimed string quartet known for its unique sound, expressive performances, and intelligent interpretations. The ensemble blends the individual strengths of its members into a cohesive musical identity, exploring both the classical string quartet repertoire and contemporary works.

In 2022, they won first prize at the ARD International String Quartet Competition, along with several special awards. They had previously won third prize at the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition and first prize at the Joseph Joachim International Chamber Music Competition (2019). In 2024, they released their debut album, *Manifesto on Love*, which received high praise, including the Supersonic Award from *Pizzicato Classical Music Journal*.

The Barbican Quartet has performed at prestigious venues such as Laeiszhalle Hamburg, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and various international festivals. They regularly collaborate with renowned musicians, including Quatuor Ébène and James Ehnes.

Founded in London, the quartet received mentorship from Quatuor Ébène, Günter Pichler, and others. They currently hold the Nina Drucker Quartet Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music. Their name reflects both their first concert at the Barbican Centre and their mission to preserve and innovate the string quartet tradition. They are currently based between London, Vienna, and Munich.

bio



"Even those who know Mendelssohn Bartholdy's String Quartet in A minor like the back of their hand we're surprised at Friday's Landsberg concert: The Barbican Quartet takes the music to a new level with unprecedented harmony and immense expression. A truly magical listening experience.."

Susanne Greiner – Merkur.de

"Once again, the quartet presented its impressed listeners with a thrilling interpretation. They perfectly understood how to convey to the audience the frequently changing moods between soulfully romantic sections and sudden Beethovenian chords. Particularly impressive, in addition to their extremely powerful playing, was the transition to pianissimo, which is only perceptible as a whisper, the quiet passages, and their almost limitless variety."

IVZ Aktuell - Mettingen

NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

2022	1 st prize ARD String Quartet Competition
2020	St. John Smith Square Young Artists
2019	1 st prize Joseph Joachim International Chamber Music Competition
2018	1 st prize St Martin in the Fields Chamber Music Competition
2018	Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize
2017	Maisie Lewis Award
2016	Park Lane Group Artists

Programme 1

VOICES IN HARMONY: MASTERWORKS OF INNOVATION

Luigi Boccherini String Quartet in G minor op. 32 No. 5

Benjamin Britten Quartet No. 3

L. van Beethoven String Quartet No. 14, op. 131



What compels a composer to craft a masterpiece for the string quartet, an ensemble whose delicate interplay of voices demands precision, balance, and creativity?

The Barbican Quartet explores the boundaries of this revered form, bringing together three masterworks in this program, each revealing a unique approach to harmony, structure, and emotional depth. Boccherini's String Quartet in G minor exemplifies the grace of Classical harmony, where the four instruments blend seamlessly, creating a refined dialogue of contrasting voices. Britten's String Quartet No. 3 disrupts traditional conventions, using dissonance and resolution to propel the quartet into bold new territories of tension and release. The evening culminates in Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 131, a landmark work that transcends the expectations of the string quartet form, using complex harmonic transformations and unexpected structural shifts to reveal the inner depths of the human spirit.

These three pieces, bound by the intimate dialogue of the string quartet, invite us to reflect on the timeless conversation between technical mastery, emotional depth, and the relentless pursuit of artistic innovation.

Programme 2



video example

IDOLS

Hildegard von Bingen	O frondens virga
Bryce Dessner	Aheym
Luigi Boccherini	String Quartet in G minor op. 32 No. 5

Caroline Shaw	Three Essays
Johannes Brahms	String Quartet in C minor op. 51 No. 1
Bryce Dessner	Tenebre



What inspires a composer to create a work of art? How do composers from different periods draw inspiration from the past, and how do contemporary voices tap into this rich legacy to shape their own music?

The Barbican Quartet explores this and more in this captivating and unique program which spans centuries and explores the legacies of musical giants. From Hildegard von Bingen's transcendent *O frondens virga*, to the modern but lyrical textures of Bryce Dessner in *Aheym* and *Tenebre*, we bridge the past and present. Luigi Boccherini's *String Quartet in G minor, Op. 32 No. 5* brings refined classical beauty, while Caroline Shaw's *Three Essays* speaks to the ever-evolving nature of music. We close with Brahms' deeply emotional *String Quartet in C minor, Op. 51 No. 1*, a masterwork that leaves an indelible mark on the soul.

This programme can be performed with visual effects, depending on the technical capacity of the venue.

Programme 3



video example

ONCE UPON A TIME IN VIENNA

W.A. Mozart

Quartet in D major K. 575

Alexander von Zemlinsky

Quartet No. 2

L. van Beethoven

String Quartet No. 14, op. 131



Experience the elegance of Vienna through three iconic works.

Mozart's Quartet in D Major, K. 575 opens the evening with its graceful charm, followed by Zemlinsky's emotionally charged String Quartet No. 2, full of passion and complexity. The night culminates with Beethoven's revolutionary Op. 131, a groundbreaking masterpiece that pushes the boundaries of the string quartet form. Join us for an unforgettable evening of musical brilliance, where the past whispers through each note, and Vienna's rich heritage comes to life in full harmony.

Programme 4

LUX INTUS (NEW ALBUM - RELEASE SPRING 2026)

W.A. Mozart	String quartet in D major K. 575
Rebecca Clarke	Poem
Sophia Jani	Commission (to be confirmed)
Benjamin Britten	Quartet No. 1
Edward Elgar	Nimrod arr. by Barbican Quartet



Curiously, Mozart, Britten and Clarke all played viola, thus igniting the initially playful idea to name this project 'Lux Intus', Light Within. Furthermore, a usually joyous and extroverted key, D major here is often introverted, as if shining from within. There is an enormous amount of hope in this music: Mozart's extraordinary positivity and charm permeate every phrase, and Britten straddles his deep creativity to overcome a sense of isolation while in exile as a pacifist during the Second World War. Lux Intus explores the many sides of hope, holding onto light during the darkest of times.

Rebecca Clarke's stunning Poem, so rarely performed and recorded, is a musical gem.

A new commission by Sophia Jani will tie the programme into the present day: we are ever committed to the idea of time travelling, connecting past and present.

Quintet with Nikola Meeuwsen



REPERTOIRE

Ravel	selection from Miroirs for piano solo
Ravel	Sting Quartet in F
Fauré	Piano Quintet No. 1 in D op. 89

The successful collaboration with Nikola Meeuwsen continues with a reprise of the 2025 concert programme.

Nikola Meeuwsen (2002) is considered one of the most promising pianists of his generation. In 2024, he had his solo debut at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam. In 2025 and 2026, he will appear as a soloist with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and the Residentie Orchestra, among others.

Nikola is frequently invited to international festivals. In 2024 he performed at the Sion Chamber Music Festival alongside Janine Jansen. He collaborates with leading musicians such as Noa Wildschut, Benjamin Kruithof, SongHai, Alexander Warenberg, and Enrico Pace. Nikola has studied with Marlies van Gent and, since 2014, with Enrico Pace at the Accademia Pianistica in Imola. He is currently a student at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in Brussels under Frank Braley and Avedis Kouyoumdjian.

In 2020, Nikola's debut CD was released, featuring works by Schumann, Scriabin, Brahms, and Bach. In 2026, a new album featuring works by Mendelssohn, Liszt, Schumann, and Bach/Busoni will be released on the Channel Records label.

Special offer from 2027



THE RAZUMOVSKY QUARTETS: BEETHOVEN'S BOLD NEW VISION

Beethoven String Quartets op. 59
No. 1 in F major
No. 2 in E minor
No. 3 in C major



video example

In 2027, we mark the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death, reflecting on his monumental impact on the world of music. His Razumovsky Quartets (Op. 59), composed for the Russian aristocracy, represent a bold new direction for the string quartet. The String Quartet No. 7 in F major, Op. 59 No. 1, opens with grandeur and dramatic contrast, while the String Quartet No. 8 in E minor, Op. 59 No. 2, delves into darker, more introspective realms. The String Quartet No. 9 in C major, Op. 59 No. 3, concludes this set with vibrant energy and expansive innovation.

Together, these quartets embody Beethoven's revolutionary spirit, transforming the string quartet into a vehicle for profound expression and setting the stage for future generations of composers.

Photography: Andrej Grills, Christoph Vandory, Melle Meivogel, Foppe Schut

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