

SCHUMANN QUARTET

Erik Schumann *Violin*
 Ken Schumann *Violin*
 Liisa Randalu *Viola*
 Mark Schumann *Cello*



“Personal and profound“ (BBC Music Magazine)

“You need a common denominator, a joint ideal, in whose name you are ready to give your all. This requires not only idealism, but above all love, dedication, humility, self-sacrifice, consideration, empathy, the readiness and ability to deal with conflict, and reflection. A constant juggling act between the material, us as a group and oneself.” (Liisa Randalu)

The Schumann Quartet has long ceased to be an insider tip: an ensemble that gives concerts in **London’s Queen’s Hall**, the **Elbphilharmonie Hamburg**, the **Concertgebouw Amsterdam**, the **Konzerthaus Wien** und the **Berliner Philharmonie** in just one season, as these four musicians will do, has already reached the top flight of the international music scene. But despite this, their concerts still always radiate the magic of youthful free-thinking, unbridled joy in crossing boundaries and unreserved curiosity when entering new musical territory.

Another highlight in the 18/19 season is its **three-year residency** at the **Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Center in New York City**, which began back in December 2016. Furthermore, the quartet will go on tour in Israel and twice in the US, will give guest performances at festivals in Germany, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Bulgaria.

The three brothers Mark, Erik and Ken Schumann have been playing together since their earliest childhood. In 2012, they were joined by violist Liisa Randalu, who was born in the Estonian capital, Tallinn, and grew up in Karlsruhe, Germany. Those who experience the quartet in performance often remark on the strong connection between its members. The four musicians enjoy the way they communicate without words: how a single look suffices to convey how a particular member wants to play a particular passage. Although the individual personalities clearly manifest themselves, a common space arises in every musical work in a process of spiritual metamorphosis. The quartet's openness and curiosity may be partly the result of the formative influence exerted on it by teachers such as Eberhard Feltz, the Alban Berg Quartet, or partners such as Menahem Pressler.

Press Highlights 17/18

„The Schumanns' performance combined probing intensity with wit and energy, and a wonderful alertness to shifts of mood. An outstanding evening, every second of it.“ (The Guardian, 5.1.2018)

„We're in a golden age for young string quartets. Hardly a month goes by without another brilliant debut that leaves critics scrabbling for new superlatives. Even so, the Schumann Quartet is something special. This group, consisting of three brothers of German/Japanese parentage together with an Estonian-born violist, last night played a sensational all-Haydn concert at the Wigmore Hall. The word is apt, because there was hardly a bar that didn't display a jaw-dropping virtuosity.“ (The Daily Telegraph, 5.1.2018)

„The Schubert may be worlds-away in atmosphere, but the Schumann members' greatest strength remained the ability to bring out phrases that really matter.“ (Classical Source, 14.5.2018)

"There is an excellent feel for the music, with lightness, agility, clarity and - especially in the Molto allegro e vivace final movement - what Randalu describes as the opportunity for 'wild joy in playing'." (The Whole Note, 29.5.2018)

„The Schumann players' ensemble in this fearsome work was absolutely flawless, their intonation incredible and their rhythmic accuracy exquisite. Especially impressive was how precise the quartet's sudden crescendos and decrescendos were – actually breathtaking. [...] Although the programme was relatively short in minutes, each work was rich and dense in its own way, offering quite a full evening for the ears and brain.“ (The Strad, July 2018)

CD-Releases

- **Intermezzo** (2018 // Berlin Classics 0301058BC)
Works of Schumann, Reimann, Mendelssohn Bartholdy; with Anna Lucia Richter, Soprano
- **Landscapes** (2017 // Berlin Classics 0300836BC)
Works of Haydn, Takemitsu, Bartók, Pärt
German Critic's Award
Editor's Choice Gramophone
- **Mozart-Ives-Verdi** (2015 // ARS Produktion SACD 38 156)
BBC Music Magazine Award (Best Newcomer, Jury-Award)

Next Release: „**Chiaroscuro**“ in Spring 2019 (Berlin Classics)

A combination of Bach's fugues (edited by Mozart) as "promenade", like bridges which connect contrasting composers and music, from Glass to Gershwin, Mendelssohn to Shostakovich. The programme will be played on 22 May 2019 at London's King's Place, on 31 March 2019 at the Opéra de Dijon and at other venues in Germany, Belgium and Netherlands.

Video

Trailer Intermezzo
(with english subtitles)

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