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“An intriguing cycle” – The Kuss Quartet releases Mozart Quintets and new works for Quartet by Rebecca Saunders and Enno Poppe

“Further volumes are promised, which are sure to form an intriguing cycle.” (Gramophone Magazine). In preparation for the 25th anniversary of its first stage appearance, the Kuss Quartet is continuing the complete recording of the string quintets by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Selected fellow musicians make up the numbers, while highly contemporary works supplement the programme: the quartet commissioned six composers to come up with “postcards to Mozart” for the project.



Enno Poppe (*1969)
[1] „Aufstrich“ For String Quartet

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)
String Quintet No. 3 C Major KV 515*
[2] I. Allegro
[3] II. Menuetto – Allegretto – Trio
[4] III. Andante
[5] IV. Allegro

Rebecca Saunders (*1967)
[6] “Kiss” For String Quartet

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)
String Quintet No. 5 D Major KV 593
[6] I. Larghetto – Allegro
[7] II. Adagio
[8] III. Menuetto: Allegretto
[9] IV. Allegro

Kuss Quartett Jana Kuss *Violin* | Oliver Wille *Violin* | William Coleman *Viola* | Mikayel Hakhnazaryan *Violoncello* | *with Sào Soulez Larivière *Viola* | Rubicon | release datein Germany: 30 October 2026

Musical postcards addressed to the Salzburg master: for its new CD project, the Kuss Quartet once more sets off on a **musical journey through time**. Creating acoustic bridges between the present day and a long-past epoch has become a **trademark of these four virtuosos**, and one that recently led to their being awarded the **German Record Critics’ Award** (for their Schubert album, Rubicon RCD1104). In its praise, the jury said, “It is rare to find such compelling dramaturgy in a programme of music that was written almost two centuries apart.”

Now Jana Kuss, Oliver Wille (violins), William Coleman (viola) and Mikayel Hakhnazaryan (cello) have turned their attention to all the six string quintets by Mozart — and once again put **classical masterpieces into correspondence with new compositions from our time**. *“We found that ‘only’ recording the Mozart quintets was not really our thing,”* the ensemble says. *“So we had the idea of asking great composers of today whom we know to compose short ‘postcards’ to Mozart.”* The **altogether three CDs** will thus feature not only the Mozart string quintets but also **new works** written by Manfred Trojahn and Matthew Shlomowitz (Vol. 1), **Rebecca Saunders** and **Enno Poppe (Vol. 2)** and Isabel Mundry and Sarah Nemtsov (Vol. 3). The concept not only beautifully highlights the relevance of Mozart to the present day and its music but is also a homage from our times to the immortal legacy of the Viennese classical master.

For the Kuss Quartet, *“the Mozart string quintets are without doubt among the most beautiful — and many even say the best — works that Mozart ever composed. So it is no wonder that we have long wanted to take on the challenge of recording this wonderful music.”* Twenty-four years after the quartet’s first stage performance (25th anniversary in 2027), the four musicians are now fulfilling this wish as a kind of anniversary project. And they are deliberately including **top instrumentalists from the young generation** in it: *“We thought we would ask younger people to record this fantastic music together with us. Young*

viola players who are no longer studying and stand at the start of their careers — so we decided on three wonderful young artists."

For **Volume 2** with the quintets in C major KV 515 and D major KV 593, the quartet chose French-Dutch violist **Sào Soulez Larivière**. He was the first-prize winner at the 2023 Prague Spring International Competition and has been a professor of viola at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg since the autumn of that year.

Julia Mauritz

Lindenstraße 14
50674 Köln

+49 (0)221 - 168 796 24
julia.mauritz@schimmer-pr.de
www.schimmer-pr.de