



Zehetmair Quartett | Biography Chamber Music

Thomas Zehetmair | Violin
Kuba Jakowicz | Violin
Ruth Killius | Viola
Christian Elliott | Violoncello

"The four musicians mastered their instruments with somnambulistic certainty; only in this way was it possible for them to go to the limits of what is possible."

Founded in 1994 by Austrian violinist and conductor Thomas Zehetmair, the Zehetmair Quartett now ranks among the world's finest string quartets. The quartet is renowned for its refined, intellectual interpretations characterised by a pristine, uncompromising approach. The four virtuosos perform at an exceptionally high technical level, instilling in their music an exceedingly rare combination of authenticity and remarkable expressiveness. In addition to a repertoire of widely known works, the quartet also captivates audiences with its profound understanding of contemporary music.

One of the unique artistic feats achieved by the quartet include, among other things, its cyclical performance of all string quartets by Robert Schumann in London's Wigmore Hall, the world premiere of String Quartet No. 2 by Heinz Holliger – a work commissioned by Köln Musik GmbH for the Zehetmair Quartett. The 2009 performance by the Zehetmair Quartett during festivities celebrating the 100th birthday of Elliott Carter in New York proved to be a phenomenal success.

The quartet regularly performs at Europe's most important musical centres such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Luxembourg or Helsinki and at the most renowned festivals, among these, the Salzburg Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Edinburgh International Festival or the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival. This season, they will be heard at the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg, among other venues.

For its recording of Bartók's 4th and Hartmann's 1st String Quartet as well as the 1st and 3rd String Quartet by Schumann with *ECM*, the Zehetmair Quartett garnered awards such as the *Diapason d'Or de l'Année*, the *Gramophone Award* (Record of the Year) and the *Edison* and *Klara Prize* for the year's best international production.

A recording featuring string quartets No. 4 by Hindemith and No. 5 by Bartók was acclaimed as a reference recording in the media and was recognised with the *Diapason d'Or de l'Année*. The ensemble's most recent album is dedicated to Beethoven, Bruckner, Hartmann and Holliger.

In November 2014, the Zehetmair Quartett was awarded the *Paul Hindemith Prize* by the city of Hanau for its outstanding musical abilities.

**Season 2022/2023 | Foto: Frederic Laverriere | Quote: Tiroler Tageszeitung, May 3rd 2022
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