

Prizewinner of the 32. Würth-Prize of Jeunesses Musicales Germany 2022

"One of the finest chamber music performances I have heard anywhere."
(Robert Markow, Classical Voice North America)

„The Notos Quartett is regarded as one of the "outstanding chamber music formations of our time" (FONO FORUM 9/2017).

Besides this piano quartet's "virtuosic brilliance and technical perfection" audiences and critics worldwide celebrate the Notos Quartett for its "sense of balance and ensemble playing revealing every detail of the composition" and praise the musicians for their "profound musicality that goes straight to the heart".

Since its foundation in 2007 the Notos Quartett has won six first prizes as well as numerous special prizes at international competitions in England, Holland, Italy and China. Above that in 2017 the quartet was awarded the ECHO Klassik as newcomer of the year, at the time a prestigious prize that in its history had only been given to ensembles on the rarest of occasions.

As a reaction to the ECHO Pop committee's decision in 2018 to honour an album containing antisemitic and inhumane language the musicians of the Notos Quartett were the first artists to return their ECHO. This triggered a protest movement that many renowned artists such as Igor Levit and Daniel Barenboim followed by returning their prizes. Subsequently the German music industry decided to abolish the brand ECHO completely.

The upcoming season includes concert tours to Switzerland, Spain, Italy, UK, Japan, and USA. Furthermore the ensemble will be premiering works dedicated to the Notos Quartett by Bryce Dessner and Bernhard Gander.

The Notos Quartett's vision is to perform the well-known masterpieces, to reveal lost and forgotten treasures, and to champion the new compositions for the unique genre of the piano quartet. This is evident on the ensemble's debut album „Hungarian Treasures" released by Sony Classical/RCA in February of 2017. It includes the world premiere recording of Béla Bartók's piano quartet, a rediscovery for which the ensemble receives international acclaim.

The second recording, again released by SONY Classical, is dedicated entirely to the great Romantic Johannes Brahms - with the famous Piano Quartet in G minor and an arrangement of the Symphony no. 3 by Andreas Nikolai Tarkmann created especially for the Notos Quartett.

Numerous broadcasts of concerts, interviews and portraits on all major German cultural radio stations, German TV as well as the BBC, France Musique, Radio4 Holland, P2 Sweden, IPR USA and Radio and TV stations in Japan and Vietnam document the world-wide interest in the Notos Quartet and its extraordinary concert programmes.

In addition to appearances at major festivals and leading concert halls throughout Europe such as the Wigmore Hall London, Philharmonie Berlin, Konzerthaus Vienna, Wigmore Hall London, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, BOZAR Brussels, Tonhalle Zurich and Teatro la Fenice Venice as well as major festivals including Rheingau, Schwetzingen, Würzburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Lockenhaus, Usedom and Radio France the Notos Quartet regularly visits such exotic locations as Japan, China, Australia and Southeast Asia.

Besides its concert activities the Notos Quartett regards promoting the careers of young musicians as an important part of its work. Thus the ensemble has taught at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, lead the "Saigon Chamber Music" Masterclass in Saigon in Vietnam and since autumn of 2015 holds the "Notos Chamber Music Academy", organized since 2019 in collaboration with Jeunesses Musicales, the most prestigious institution for musical education in Germany.

In addition to Günter Pichler, the leader of the legendary Alban Berg Quartet, with whom the quartet studied in Madrid at the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía until 2017, the quartet's companions, teachers and supporters include the Mandelring Quartet, Menahem Pressler, Andrés Schiff, Clemens Hagen and Uwe-Martin Haiberg.

The support of the „Merito String Instruments Trust“ enables the Notos Quartett to play on highly prestigious instruments by old Italian masters and as Pirastro Artists exclusively on strings by the renowned string manufacturer „Pirastro GmbH“.

Notos Quartett

Sindri Lederer - violin
Andrea Burger - viola
Philip Graham - cello
Antonia Köster - piano

www.notosquartett.de/en