

The Belcea Quartet

Corina Belcea-Fisher, violin
Laura Samuel, violin
Krzysztof Chorzelski, viola
Antoine Lederlin, 'cello

The Belcea Quartet has gained an enviable reputation as one of the leading quartets of the new generation. They continue to take the British and international chamber music circuit by storm, consistently receiving critical acclaim for their performances. The Quartet was established at the Royal College of Music in 1994 and has since been coached by the Chilingirian, Amadeus and Alban Berg Quartets. They are the Associate Ensemble at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London and are Quartet in Residence at the Atheneum Concert Hall in Bucharest.

The Belcea Quartet has an exclusive recording contract with EMI Classics and won the Gramophone Award for best debut recording in 2001. Subsequent recordings for EMI include Schubert quartets, Brahms' String Quartet Op. 51 No. 1 and second String Quintet with Thomas Kakuska, Fauré's La Bonne Chanson with Ian Bostridge, Schubert's Trout Quintet with Thomas Adès and Corin Long, a double disc of Britten's string quartets, Mozart's "Dissonance" and "Hoffmeister" quartets, and, most recently, the complete Bartók quartets, for which the Quartet was awarded the title Chamber Music Ensemble of the Year by Germany's prestigious Echo Klassik Awards and nominated for a 2008 Gramophone Award.

The Belcea Quartet's international engagements regularly take them to the Vienna Konzerthaus and Musikverein, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Brussels' Palais des Beaux Arts, Lisbon's Gulbenkian, Zurich's Tonhalle, Stockholm's Konzerthuset, Paris' Chatelet and Opera Bastille, Milan's Sala Verdi, New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center and San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, and to festivals including Luberon, Istanbul, Trondheim, Lausanne, Salzburg, Mecklenburg, and the Schwarzenberg Schubertiade. In the UK they regularly appear at the Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Perth, Bath and Cheltenham festivals, and at the Wigmore Hall where they were resident Quartet from 2001 to 2006.

They regularly work with leading instrumentalists including Thomas Adès, Isabelle van Keulen, Michael Collins, Paul Lewis, Imogen Cooper, Yovan Markovitch, Natalie Clein, Piotr Anderszewski and Valentin Erben. Recent collaborations with singers have included performances of Mahler's Des Knaben Wunderhorn with Ann Murray and Simon Keenlyside; Schoenberg's String Quartet no.2 and a new commission by Joseph Phibbs for string quartet and voice with Lisa Milne at Wigmore Hall; Fauré's La Bonne Chanson with Anne Sofie von Otter at the Cité de la Musique, Paris, Respighi's Il Tramonto with Angelika Kirchsclager at the Langeland Festival and with Ian Bostridge at New York's Zankel Hall and Washington's Library of Congress.

London Winds

Michael Collins, clarinet
Richard Watkins, horn
Robin O'Neill, bassoon

"Competition in this repertoire is pretty formidable...but the London Winds are second to none in terms of technical accomplishment, expressive commitment and warmth of timbre." BBC Music Magazine

A stunning combination of virtuoso players who also enjoy active solo careers, London Winds' performances are renowned for their technical brilliance, interpretative vision and joie de vivre. Founded in 1988 by British clarinetist Michael Collins, the group has rapidly become one of the world's most prominent chamber ensembles. The group is flexible in its make-up, augmenting its five original principal members with top international pianists and chamber musicians for certain repertoire. In particular, London Winds have enjoyed close associations with pianists Stephen Kovacevich, Howard Shelley, Pascal Rogé, Barry Douglas and Boris Berezovsky. London Winds gave its highly successful début concert at the Wigmore Hall, London and continues to perform there regularly; in 2010/11 they will premiere a new work by Thea Musgrave with the Endellion String Quartet at the hall. Elsewhere in London, recent performances include the South Bank Centre and at the Barbican Centre, as part of the BBC's Janacek Festival. Regular guests at all the major British festivals, London Winds has performed at the BBC Proms, City of London, Edinburgh, Huddersfield, Bath, Aldeburgh, Edinburgh and Cheltenham festivals. UK appearances have also included performances at Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, the Aldeburgh Festival, the Wigmore Hall and at the Bath International Festival, in addition to regular BBC broadcasts. Engagements further afield include appearances at the Radio France Ligeti Festival in Paris and at the Rencontres Musicales d'Evian, at the Delft Festival, an Italian tour with Andreas Haefliger and concerts at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam. In the United States they have performed as the Featured Artists of the Newport Music Festival in Rhode Island, at the Bermuda Festival and on tours of Canada, Mexico and the Far East. London Winds is renowned for its excellent interpretation of new music. World premieres include a work for thirteen winds by John McCabe, commissioned to be programmed alongside the Mozart Gran Partita, also for 13 Winds. A new commission by Robin Holloway for wind octet, was premiered at the Cheltenham International Festival. London Winds has made several recordings including György Ligeti's complete wind music for Sony Classical as part of their Ligeti Edition, which won the *Preis Der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik* and was nominated for a 1999 Grammy. The ensemble has also recorded the complete set of Richard Strauss *Wind Symphonies* for Hyperion, and Beethoven's *Quintet for Piano & Winds* and Spohr's *Septet* for Decca, with Pascal Rogé and Chantal Juillet. The London Winds' latest release is an ONYX recording of Mozart's Serenade No.10 ('Gran Partita') and Mozart's Serenade in C minor.