



PROGRAMMES 2019-2020

'ALREADY A GREAT QUARTET'

We all remember the semi-final of the 2016 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition which the Quatuor Akilone won: a second Beethoven quartet dedicated to Prince Razumovsky (Op 59 N° 2), fresh yet powerful, brilliant and sombre by turns, perfectly together and beautifully executed despite performance nerves. The Quatuor Akilone won first prize, this exploit placing them alongside the Psophos Quartet, the first all-female quartet to win this competition, in 2001.

Until then, although you would sometimes come across a string quartet with one woman player (or, very rarely, two!), we had never seen a group of professional string players form an all-female quartet. Even now, nearly 20 years after this 'premiere', you can count the number of all-female groups on the fingers of one hand. For the last two years the maturity of Quatuor Akilone's playing has astonished us with its power, poetic imagination and beautiful instrumental colour, as these four young women deploy their consummate narrative skill. Whether they are playing Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert or Kurtag, their every concert could be made into a live CD.

Emeline, Louise, Lucie, Elise spells ELLE. Retenons ces prénoms. Let us remember their names : four wonderful people and already, a great quartet.

Stéphane Goldet

Radio France producer from 1978 to 2017

Last programme: Les Plaisirs du Quatuor (The pleasure of quartets) – more than 150 episodes from September 2013 to June 2017, which can be heard on francemusique.fr

Author of Quatuors du XXe siècle (20th century Quartets), published by Actes-Sud/Papiers, preface by Pierre Boulez



Emeline Concé, Elise D
Louise Desjardins : viol



De-Bendelac : violins •
a • Lucie Mercat : cello

The Quatuor Akilone is the fruit of a musical and personal adventure which started in Paris in 2011. This ensemble devotes its elegant playing, generous tone and lively spirit to bringing depth and poetry to the works it performs. Four different personalities, characters and minds come together to form one single 16-stringed, 40-fingered instrument.

As European Chamber Music Academy alumni, they learned an enormous amount from their exchanges with distinguished musicians such as Hatto Beyerle, Vladimir Mendelssohn, Johannes Meissl, Xavier Gagnepain, Jean Sulem, Miguel Da Silva, the Ébène Quartet and Mathieu Herzog.

The quartet believe passionately in sharing the concert platform with other performers, and they have had the good luck to perform alongside Tabea Zimmermann, Jérôme Pernoo, David Walter, Sharon Kam, Pavel Gililov or Jean François Heisser

In May 2016 the Quatuor Akilone won both 1st prize at the 8th Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition, and the ProQuartet prize. Since then they have performed in Japan and throughout Europe. Since 2017 the Quatuor Akilone has received support from Génération Spedidam and the Fondation Banque Populaire, and is part of the *Le Dimore del Quartetto* project which provides residencies in Italy.

The Quatuor Akilone remains firmly based in the world of today, and works with two organisations – Musethica and Les Concerts de Poche (Pocket Concerts) – making music with prisoners, refugees and the disabled. This aspect of the quartet's life is fundamental for these young musicians for whom it is vital to forge links with different audiences. Their guiding principle is to give anyone who wants it the chance to escape for a while into the world of poetry and freedom which is music.





NEW RELEASE

Quatuor Akilone's first recording will be published by Autumn 2018 under the seal Label Mirare

HAYDN Quartet in C major, Op.20 n°2

MOZART Quartet n°14 in G major, K387 'dedicated to Haydn'

SCHUBERT Quartet n°12 in C minor "Quartettsatz"



IN THE PRESS

This quartet yet distinguished for the best Ravel's first movement of all times offers a perfect ensemble, generous, always vivid and never forced or strident. This is truly the French panache and elegance.
Opéracritique

They master with fervour, quivering sensuality and a lovely sense of colour the Schubert Quartettsatz D703, the Ravel quartet and Mozart's K387. they offer a subtle interpretation, perfectly balanced, ideally mozartian. And far from reducing Stravinsky's Three pieces to mere studies, they catch all its richness of expression.

Diapason

PROGRAMMES • S

> July - December 2019

PROGRAMME 1 • EASTERN EUROPE

SCHUBERT Quartet n°12 in C minor "*Quartettsatz*"
KURTAG *Officium Breve*
DVOŘÁK Quartet n°13 in G major

PROGRAMME 2 • VIENNA

HAYDN Quartet Op.20 n°4 in D major
MOZART Quartet n°15 in D minor, K421 "*dedicated to Haydn*"
BEETHOVEN Quartet n°1 in F major, Op.18 n°1

PROGRAMME 3 • FIVE FOR A CONVERSATION

BEETHOVEN Quartet n°1 in F major, Op.18 n°1
Solo piano pieces (to be announced)
SCHUMANN Piano quintet in E-flat major, Op.44

Guillaume Bellom, piano

> January - June 2020

PROGRAMME 1 • OPUS 131 - ON

BARTÓK Quartet n°1 in A minor
BEETHOVEN Quartet n°14 in C sharp

PROGRAMME 2 • IN THE SHADO

BEETHOVEN Quartet n°6 in B-flat major
FAURÉ Quartet in E minor Op.115
BRAHMS Quartet in C minor Op.25

PROGRAMME 3 • FIVE FOR A CO

BARTÓK Quartet n°1 in A minor
Solo piano pieces (to be announced)
SCHUMANN Piano quintet in E-flat

Guillaume Bellom, piano

The periods given are those the quartet prefers, bu

SEASON 2019-2020

THE STEP FORWARD

or
rp minor, Op.131

HOW OF BEETHOVEN

major, Op.18 n°6
p.121
p. 51 n°1

CONVERSATION

or
major, Op.44

> Summer 2020

PROGRAMME 1 • THE MYSTERY OF OPUS 131

'Each in its own way ! Art demands of us that we should not stand still. You will soon find a new way of part-writing and, thank God, less lack of imagination than before.' This was what Beethoven had to say about Opus 131.

The pioneering Opus 131 was to become a major source of inspiration for other composers. A masterly work, it is also a kind of initiation, inspired by the past and looking far into the future. This unusual programme is constructed around a first half which sheds light on this masterpiece, which was to become an anchor point in our musical history.

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| VARIOUS COMPOSERS | Pieces that inspired or have been inspired by Beethoven's Op.131 (commented by the musicians) |
| BEETHOVEN | Quartet n°14 in C-sharp minor, Op.131 |

PROGRAMME 2 • AUSTRIAN ROOTS

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| HAYDN | Quartet op. 64 n°2 in B minor |
| SCHUBERT | Quartet n°14 in D minor D 810, 'Death and the Maiden' |

It can be renegotiated in agreement with the artists.



CONTACT

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