

QUATUOR AKILONE

Biographie

The Quatuor Akilone embarked on a human and musical adventure in 2011 in Paris. The four musicians are the winners of the First Grand Prix and the Proquartet Prize at the 8th International Bordeaux String Quartet Competition in Bordeaux, France. They have received mentorship from Hatto Beyerle, Vladimir Mendelssohn, and currently, Patrick Jüdt.

The Quatuor Akilone enjoys international recognition, having performed across France and abroad, including venues such as Munetsugu Hall in Nagoya (Japan), Wigmore Hall in London (UK), Philharmonie in Paris (France), Muziekgebouw in Amsterdam (Netherlands), and Liszt Academy in Budapest (Hungary), among others.

Through new music, the quartet is deeply connected to contemporary times and spaces. They were honored with a dedication from composer Xu Yi, *Aquilone Lontano*, inspired by the quartet's name (signifying "a kite" in Italian), which premiered at the Paris Philharmonie in 2018. In 2023, the Quatuor Akilone premiered the String Quartet No. 4 by Andris Dzenītis in Latvia. As part of their research and experimentation journey, the quartet embarked on a project called "Parastiches," exploring microtonality and polytempi with Jérôme Désigaud (world music) accompanied by GMEA in Albi (France) and supported by the Maison de la Musique Contemporaine. Their latest album "Deep in the Forest" (October 2024, Klarthe) will be supplemented with a podcast by Tristan Labouret and Samuel Débias, tracing the trails of Antonín Dvořák during their visit to the Czech Republic.

The quartet remains engaged with the world beyond the concert hall, frequently performing outreach concerts in prisons, refugee centers, communities with disabilities or low income. They fulfill this important mission through regular activities with organizations such as Concerts de Poche and Musethica.

The Quatuor Akilone is committed to addressing environmental issues and is a member of the ARVIVA network, as well as ambassadors for the Despiau Chevalets' "Planet" brand. Since 2022, they have been Senior Resident Artists at the Fondation Singer-Polignac in Paris.

The Quatuor Akilone is committed to their territorial engagements and is actively involved in the Occitanie region in France, notably through the festival Gresinhòl based in the Grésigne forest, Tarn. Magdalēna Geka (First violin) plays an Alessandro Gagliano violin from 1734, generously loaned to her through the Anima Music Foundation.

Magdalēna Geka, 1st violin
Elise De-Bendelac, 2nd violin
Perrine Guillemot-Munck, viola
Lucie Mercat, cello