



## Biography

*“Musically compelling ...”* **The Strad**

**Nathaniel Anderson-Frank**, *violin*

**Michael Trainor**, *violin*

**Tetsuomi Nagata**, *viola*

**Jessie Ann Richardson**, *Cello*

The Piatti Quartet are one of the most distinguished quartets of their generation. Prizewinners at the 2015 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition (formerly London), they have performed in all the major venues and festivals around the country as well as concerts throughout the world, with national broadcasts on BBC Radio, ABC (Australia), RTE (Ireland) and France Musique (France).

The Piattis continue to expand the string quartet repertoire, and are known for their work with leading British composers. Current commissions include new works by Mark Anthony-Turnage, Darren Bloom (Cheltenham Festival), Emily Howard (New Scientist Live), Freya Waley-Cohen and Jacques Cohen.

Their most recent disc, ‘Albion Refracted’, was released for Champs Hill in September 2018. It features a new commission by Joseph Phibbs (String Quartet No. 1), which was commissioned by the Piatti Quartet in 2014 with support from the Britten Pears Foundation and Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust. The disc also features the world premiere recording of Mark-Anthony Turnage’s String Quartet No.1, ‘Twisted Blues with Twisted Ballad’.

The Quartet’s other recordings have been released on the Linn Records and Champs Hill labels, including the Piattis’ lauded contribution to the complete string quartet works of Felix Mendelssohn (Champs Hill), which was BBC Music Magazine’s Critic’s Choice (September 2014). Most recently, the Quartet was featured on a jazz concept album in collaboration with saxophonist Justin Swadling, released in May 2016 by 33 Records. Critical acclaim for this recording has included a 4.5\* review from Downbeat Magazine.

At the 2015 Wigmore Hall International (formerly the London International) String Quartet Competition, the Piatti Quartet won joint Second Prize as well as the St. Lawrence String Quartet prize and the Sidney Griller Award for the best performance of Mark-Anthony Turnage’s ‘Contusion’. The Piatti Quartet were the Richard Carne Junior Fellows in String Quartet at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance from 2014-16; previously they spent two years as Leverhulme Fellows at the Royal Academy of Music. The Quartet also works regularly with the CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust, helping to secure the future of chamber music by performing to young children and families in schools and venues throughout London.

Recent seasons have included debuts in Istanbul and Barcelona, a residency at the Academie du Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, tours of Scotland, Ireland, and the Netherlands, a CD recorded at the Jacqueline du Pre Music Building, Oxford, and residencies at the Rye Arts Festival and the Lincolnshire International Music Festival. Collaborations have included concerts with the Belcea Quartet, Simon Rowland-Jones, Michael Collins, Moray Welsh, Marc Coppey, and Rebecca Gilliver. Recent highlights have also included performances with pianists Tom Poster, Clare Hammond, and Charles Owen.

The Quartet is currently mentored by the Belcea Quartet through the Belcea Quartet Trust. The group has also worked with members of the Chilingirian, Doric and Hagen Quartets and studied at the Reina Sofia Institute in Madrid with Günter Pichler.

The Piatti Quartet takes its name from the great 19<sup>th</sup> Century cellist Alfredo Piatti, who was a leading professor and exponent of chamber music at the Royal Academy of Music.

## Recent Recordings



### ALBION REFRACTED

Champs Hill Records

*"Both trios of pre-war miniatures by Bridge and Britten are superbly done. The Piatti demonstrate their acute sensitivity to mood and texture right from the first of Bridge's Idylls... As with the other works on the programme, the Piatti play [the Turnage] with absolute authority and conviction. A most enterprising and rewarding programme."* **GRAMOPHONE**

*"From soothing pastorale to euphoric rock anthem, this excellent album traces an intriguing path through modern British works for quartet... The Piatti Quartet are on ferociously fine form..."* **BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE \*\*\*\*** Review



### MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet Op.44, No.3 in E Flat Major

From MENDELSSOHN: Complete works for String Quartet

Champs Hill Records

*"The Piatti Quartet open the E flat major Quartet, No 5, with such commitment and perfect ensemble that you might think you were listening to a small, perfectly homogeneous string orchestra..."* **GRAMOPHONE**



### MOZART: Piano Concertos Nos 12, 13 & 14, The Chamber Version

Linn Records

*"Here is a different take on Mozart by a quartet often playing wittily as well as exquisitely, and by a talented pianist."* **FANFARE**

## Reviews

*"Piatti Quartet review: A young ensemble at its finest... To Mendelssohn's final quartet, the F minor, this splendid young ensemble brought lyrical warmth and a gripping urgency."* **THE EVENING STANDARD**

*"More satisfying was the earlier concert in Orford Church from the young Piatti string quartet. They gave a delightfully soft-grained performance of Haydn's Bird Quartet, and a hugely intense one of Beethoven's Quartetto Serioso, with two contemporary pieces in between. Simon Holt's Fourth Quartet Cloud House, here receiving its world premiere, conjured an imaginary walk through a real-life abandoned house on a Welsh mountain."* **THE TELEGRAPH**





## Sample Programmes

### String Quartet Repertoire

#### Programme 1:

**Haydn:** String Quartet Op.33 No. 3 'The Bird'

**Debussy:** Quator

Interval

**Schubert:** String Quartet in G major, Op. 161

#### Programme 2 'Old Albion':

**Purcell:** Chacony in G minor

**Bridge:** 3 Idylls for String Quartet

**Britten:** 3 Divertimenti

Interval

**Elgar:** String Quartet in E minor, Op. 83

#### Programme 3:

**Ravel:** String Quartet in F major

**Phibbs:** String Quartet No. 1 (Piatti commission)

Interval

**Brahms:** String Quartet Op. 51 No. 1 in C minor

#### Programme 4:

**Haydn:** String Quartet Op. 20 No. 4

**Walton:** String Quartet in A minor

Interval

**Mendelssohn:** String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, Op. 80

#### Programme 5:

**Dvořák:** String Quartet in F major, Op. 96

**Turnage:** Winter's Edge (Piatti commission)

Interval

**Beethoven:** String Quartet No. 8, Op. 59 No. 2

#### Programme 6 'Brave New World':

**Stravinsky:** 3 pieces for String Quartet

**Schulhoff:** String Quartet No. 1

Interval

**Britten:** String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Op. 25

### Collaborations

**Piano Quintets** with Charles Owen; Clare Hammond; Julius Drake; Simon Callaghan; Tom Poster; Gottlieb Wallisch

**Elgar:** Piano Quintet in A minor

**Dvořák:** Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major, Op.81

**Schumann:** Piano Quintet in Eb major, Op. 44

**Amy Beach:** Piano Quintet

**Franck:** Piano Quintet in F minor

**Chopin:** Piano Concerto in E minor

**Clarinet Quintets** with Michael Collins; Emma Johnson; Matthew Hunt

**Mozart:** Clarinet Quintet in A major, K.581

**Howells:** Rhapsodic Quintet, Op. 31

**Weber:** Clarinet Quintet, Op. 34

**Reicha:** Clarinet Quintet in B flat, Op. 89

**Bliss:** Clarinet Quintet

**String Quintets** with Pierre Doumenge; Simon Rowland-Jones; Andriy

Viytovych; Krzysztof Chorzelski; Moray Welsh

**Boccherini:** String Quintet in G minor, G. 351

**Schubert:** String Quintet in C major, D. 956

**Mozart:** String Quintet in C minor K406

**Haydn:** String Quintet in G, Hob.2

**Dvořák:** String Quintet E flat major, Op. 97 'American'

### Sextets

**Brahms:** String Sextet No. 2 Op. 36 in G major

**Brahms:** String Sextet No.1 in B flat major

**Strauss:** Capriccio (sextet)

**Zemlinsky:** 'Maiblumen blühten überall' for soprano and string sextet

**Octets** with Belcea Quartet; Castalian Quartet; Fitzroy Quartet; Aris Quartet; Benyounes Quartet

**Mendelssohn:** String Octet in Eb Major, Op. 20

**Shostakovich:** Two pieces for String Octet, Op.11

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### Masterclasses

The Piatti Quartet offer a range of masterclasses, along with CAVATINA education and outreach work, as part of festival residencies. They teach regularly at Trinity Laban, the Royal Academy of Music and the Purcell School.

### Workshops

'Tips and Tricks to Better Intonation' and 'Tips and Tricks to Better Ensemble'; combined with playing through compositions and holding workshops for composition students to improve their string-writing technique.

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### Piatti Commissions and Premieres

The Piatti Quartet regularly commission and perform premieres of new pieces by outstanding composers:

#### Commissions

**Mark-Anthony Turnage:** String Quartet No. 4 'Winter's Edge'

**Joseph Phibbs:** String Quartet No. 1

**Freya Waley-Cohen:** 'Vita' for String Quartet

**Jacques Cohen:** 'From Behind Glass' for String Quartet

#### Premieres

**Simon Holt:** 'Cloud House'

**Emily Howard:** 'Music of Proof'

**Darren Bloom:** 'Five brief lessons in Physics'