



Biography

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

Nathaniel Anderson-Frank, violin **Michael Trainor, violin** **Tetsuumi 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, they have performed in all the major venues and festivals around the U.K., and given concerts throughout the world, with national broadcasts on BBC Radio, ABC (Australia), RTÉ (Ireland) and France Musique (France).

The Piattis are renowned for their diverse programming and for passionate interpretations across the spectrum of quartet writing. World premieres are regularly performed alongside old masterpieces and the Piattis are particularly known for expanding the quartet genre through their collaborations with leading British composers. Current commissions and recent premieres include new works by Mark-Anthony Turnage, Darren Bloom, Emily Howard (The Music of Proof with celebrated mathematician Marcus du Sautoy), Simon Holt, Freya Waley-Cohen and Jacques Cohen. The quartet have collaborated with artists such as Ian Bostridge, Michael Collins, Krzysztof Chorzelski, Julius Drake, Charles Owen and Guy Johnston.

In 2019, the Piattis’ continue their connection to Mark-Anthony Turnage with the world premiere of his fourth string quartet, Winters Edge, at the Klarafestival, Brussels. Co-commissioned by the Quartet, the Wigmore Hall and Flagey ASBL, further performances include the UK premiere at the Wigmore Hall.

The Quartet previously commissioned Joseph Phibbs’ String Quartet No.1 and a recently released disc for the Champs Hill label features this work alongside the premiere recording of Turnage’s Twisted Blues with Twisted Ballad, with classics by Britten and Bridge. Amongst glowing reviews, a quote from BBC Music Magazine; “... 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...”

The Quartet’s other lauded recordings have been released on the Linn Records, NMC and Champs Hill labels. Recent seasons have included debuts in Rotterdam, Istanbul, and Barcelona, and at the Aldeburgh Festival.

At the 2015 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition, the Piatti Quartet won 2nd Prize as well as the St. Lawrence SQ prize and the Sidney Griller Award for the best performance of Mark-Anthony Turnage’s Contusion.

The Piattis are keen to pass on their passion to future generations and regularly coach chamber music at the Purcell School, Trinity Laban Conservatoire and the Royal Academy of Music. The Quartet would like to thank the Britten Pears Foundation, the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust, the Hattori Foundation, the Razumovsky Trust, the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust, and the Fidelio Trust for their support.

The Piatti Quartet takes its name from the great 19th-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

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.

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'