

Dudok Quartet Amsterdam

Ensemble

'Stylish, open-minded and adventurous'

The Guardian, 2020

The Dudok Quartet Amsterdam is forging a reputation as one of the most creative and versatile quartets of its generation. With its ethos of 'sharing the heart of music', the quartet believes that chamber music is an act of friendship and play to be shared directly with audiences, and is committed to crafting unique and eclectic programmes that engage listeners in new and imaginative ways.

Constantly searching for and building new musical connections, the players present repertoire ranging from Ligeti, Shostakovich and Bacewicz through to Mendelssohn, Mozart and Beethoven, and create their own arrangements of composers such as Gesualdo, Desprez, Shostakovich, Brahms and Messiaen. They are also committed to commissioning new works and have collaborated with composers including Joey Roukens, Peter Vigh and Theo Loevendie. In 2024 they premiere a new piece by British-Lebanese composer Bushra El-Turk, co-commissioned for the Dudok by the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam, West Cork Chamber Music Festival and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust. Another current repertoire highlight is Steve Reich's *Different Trains*, for which the players have made their own new recording of the accompanying tape track.

Recent projects include the world premiere of Kaija Saariaho's opera *Only the Sound Remains* with Philippe Jaroussky and Dutch National Opera, and a collaboration with director Rosabel Huguet, re-imagining Beethoven's op.132 String Quartet for children – 'Quartet! A card game with Beethoven' – which toured venues including the Vienna Konzerthaus, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, as part of the Dudok's commitment to education and outreach.

The group has performed at many of Europe's major venues and festivals, including the Vienna Konzerthaus, Wigmore Hall, Beethovenhaus Bonn, De Bijloke, Barcelona Auditori, De Doelen, Festspiele Mecklenburg Vorpommern, BBC Proms, Heidelberg String Quartet Festival and West Cork Chamber Music Festival, as well as appearing regularly at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Amsterdam Muziekgebouw. Forthcoming highlights include returns to the Amsterdam String Quartet Biennale and Wigmore Hall, as well as a debut tour of Australia, with performances at Canberra International Festival.

The Dudok Quartet's eclectic recording catalogue showcases the ensemble's courageous and inventive signature style, spanning repertoire from Shostakovich and Bacewicz through to Brahms, as well as their own arrangements. Since 2021, they have recorded for Rubicon Classics, their most recent release being 'What Remains', which brings together works by Joey Roukens, Steve Reich and Messiaen, and was praised by *The Guardian* as 'finely judged and excellently delivered'. Future recording plans include works by Saariaho and Shostakovich, as well as the complete Tchaikovsky quartets.

Having first met as members of the Ricciotti Ensemble, a Dutch street symphony orchestra, the quartet takes its name from renowned Dutch architect Willem Marinus Dudok (1884–1974). A great lover of music, Dudok came from a musical family and composed in his spare time, saying, 'I feel deeply the common core of music and architecture: after all, they both derive their value from the right proportions.'

The Quartet performs on instruments generously on loan from the Dutch Musical Instrument Foundation (NMF): violins by Francesco Goffriller and Vincenzo Panormo, viola by Jean Baptiste Lefèbvre and cello by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume.

Further details

Recordings

For Rubicon Classics: Complete Brahms Quartets (performed on gut strings); 'Reflections', featuring quartets by Shostakovich and Bacewicz alongside their own arrangements of Shostakovich Piano Preludes.

For Resonus Classics: 'Métamorphoses', an exploration the theme of musical innovation through works by Ligeti, Haydn and Brahms, awarded Editor's Choice in Gramophone; 'Solitude', featuring works by Mendelssohn, Weinberg and Shostakovich, curated around the theme of loss and loneliness; and the complete Haydn op.20 Quartets, praised by Gramophone for its 'mingled virtuosity, finesse and coursing energy'.

Collaborations

Collaboration is a key part of the quartet's mission, with recent partners including Olga Paschenko, Pieter Wispelwey, Hannes Minnaar, Erik Bosgraaf, James Oesi and Annelien Van Wauwe.

Awards

The quartet won a 2018 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award, as well as prizes at the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition and Joseph Joachim International Chamber Music Competition Weimar, and the prestigious Dutch Kersjes Prize in 2014.

Studies and mentors

The Dudok Quartet studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Cologne with the Alban Berg Quartet and later at the Dutch String Quartet Academy with Marc Danel. Other important mentors include Eberhard Feltz, Peter Cropper (Lindsay Quartet), Luc-Marie Aguera (Quatuor Ysaÿe) and Stefan Metz.