

KELEMEN QUARTET

The Kelemen Quartet, founded in Budapest in 2010, has rapidly gained a reputation as one of the most exciting young string quartets. The quartet is the first prize winner of the prestigious Premio Borciani 2014. It was described by the Ensemble magazine in 2011 that they "... lit a firework of emotions, wrestling with the emotion in the music" and praised as "... perhaps one of the greatest discoveries of this competition". The Kelemen Quartet received the overall second prize, the audience prize and the Musica Viva Grand Prize at the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition 2011 and also received the first prize ex aequo at the Beijing International Music Competition in the same year and at the International Sándor Végh String Quartet Competition in Budapest in 2012. The Kelemen Quartet received further tuition from Zoltán Kocsis, Péter Komlós, Miklós Perényi, Günter Pichler (Alban Berg Quartet), Ferenc Rados, András Schiff and Gábor Takács-Nagy.

On the Kelemen Quartet's first US tour the Dallas News highlighted "the most electrifying string-quartet concert in recent memory" and praised the ensemble's "highly inflected and vividly interactive music-making". Recent highlights include debuts at the Philharmonie Berlin, Palace of Arts in Budapest, Franz Liszt Academy Budapest, Schloß Esterhazy Eisenstadt, Amici della Musica Florence, Wigmore Hall, Nardodni Dom Maribor, Auditorium du Louvre Paris, and at the festivals in Lockenhaus, Lohisoitto, Kaposvár and for West Cork Music Festival as well as tours to Australia and New Zealand, India and Mexico.

In the last seasons, the Kelemen Quartet gave debuts at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Bozar in Brussels, in Geneva, in Hamburg with pianist Menahem Pressler, in Milan at the Società del Quartetto, in Turin, in Venice, at the Musikverein Vienna, and at the Settimane Musicali di Ascona, the Ravenna Festival, Carnegie Hall in New York and Konzerthaus Berlin, Philharmonie Cologne and at the Colmar Festival. Return invitation will take them to the Palace of Arts in Budapest, Florence, Indianapolis, Reggio Emilia, Venice and to the Wigmore Hall. In addition, the Kelemen Quartet had an extended tour in Italy and later in Australia. The Kelemen Quartet has performed with string musicians such as Nicolas Altstaedt, Joshua Bell, Pekka Kuusisto, Joseph Lendvay, Maxim Rysanov, Ákos Takács as well as with pianists Zoltán Kocsis, Menahem Pressler and Ferenc Rados.

All four of the Kelemen Quartet's members are prizewinning musicians and admired as soloists and chamber players. The Quartet's debut CD has been released by the label Hunnia (2012) featuring works by Bartók and Mozart.

Barnabas Kelemen performs on a Guarneri del Gesù violin from 1742 (ex-Dénes Kovács) and Katalin Kokas performs on a Testore violin from 1698 (Milan), both on generous loan from the State of Hungary. László Fenyő plays a cello made by Matteo Goffriller from 1695.