

The Emperor String Quartet

The Emperor String Quartet was formed in 1992. Two years later they were awarded the Menuhin Prize at the London String Quartet Competition and in 1995 they won First Prize, Mozart Prize and Contemporary Music Prize at the prestigious Evian/Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition, launching their international career.

The Quartet made their debut at the Edinburgh International Festival in 1994 and were re-invited the following year. In the UK they have played at all of the major festivals and concert halls and abroad they have played at festivals such as Prague Spring, Reims, Monte Carlo, Radio France/Montpellier, Paris, Evian, Martinu Festival (Czech Republic), Basle, Vienna, Kuhmo, Lapland, Flanders, Hambach and Mostly Mozart (New York City). The Quartet have toured throughout Europe, North America and have toured for the British council in Nigeria and Ecuador. The Emperor Quartet enjoy a varied repertoire. They have taken part in Haydn and Beethoven cycles in London, Edinburgh and New York and have played works by Xenakis, Harrison Birtwistle and Ligeti for major contemporary concert series. They have participated in New Music Workshops for the Society for the Promotion of New Music and Edinburgh Contemporary Arts Trust and have premiered numerous works by talented composers of their generation such as Ian Wilson, Rebecca Saunders, James Macmillan, John Woolrich and Philip Cashian.

The Quartet have broadcast for radio and television in France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Czech Republic, USA, Finland and Sweden. They have been BBC artists since 1993 and have made studio recordings, live broadcasts from the Wigmore and Bridgewater Halls as well as venues around the country. They have recorded a number of programmes in the BBC Radio 3 "Discovering Music" series and were invited to give the BBC William Walton Centenary concert in 2001. They have recorded Elgar's "Introduction and Allegro" with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and their CD recording of Walton was nominated for a Grammy award in 2002. Film soundtrack credits include "There Will Be Blood" (2008) and "Norwegian Wood" (2010) which both feature scores by Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood. They have been BIS artists since 2002.

In their early years the Quartet participated in the "Live Music Now" scheme, playing concerts in a wide variety of community venues. They have enjoyed residencies at Royal Holloway, University of London and the RWCMD in Cardiff. As well as chamber music coaching they run a

busy programme of workshops and interactive concerts aimed at students of all ages and they are supported in this by the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust, First Campus and by Societies around the country.