

Quatuor Arod

Jordan Victoria Violin | Alexandre Vu Violin | Tanguy Parisot Viola | Jérémy Garbarg Cello

So, what is this “Arod”? A forgotten composer, a mythical city, a mysterious acrostic? Why not, indeed. In fact, Le Quatuor Arod chose as their tutelary figure a horse imagined by Tolkien in *The Lord of the Rings*. A symbol of strength and ardour and means “agile, swift”. Arod also embodied a spirit of freedom and companionship given that elf Legolas provided him with a bareback horse, without reins.

Quatuor Arod was born in 2013 at the Conservatoire de Paris. All the members of the quartet studied there, benefiting in particular from the teaching of Jean Sulem. Starting out as a group of students, burning to get their fingers on the finest pages of the repertoire, the ensemble chose as their first outing the FNAPEC competition, which has crowned such great string quartets as the Modigliani and Ysaÿe. The Quatuor Arod won the first prize there (2014), which for them opened the doors of the ProQuartet residency—the European Centre for Chamber Music.

After working at the Conservatoire with the Quatuor Ébène, then very regularly with the Quatuor Artemis at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Élisabeth in Brussels, the quartet took up a residency at the Fondation Singer-Polignac then gave itself a new, ambitious challenge with the Carl Nielsen International Chamber Music Competition in 2015. To prepare as best as they could, they turned to who was to become their real mentor: Mathieu Herzog, violist of the Quatuor Ébène. With him, they refined technique and musicality, and learned how to cope with a constantly shared daily life.

When the quartet decided to take on the Everest of competitions, the ARD in Munich 2016, quite naturally Mathieu Herzog was there to give them a fillip. This challenge paid off because they won the First Prize, a supreme accolade which has been awarded only seven times since 1959. They were following in the footsteps of previous winners as the Tokyo, Artemis and Ébène quartets. Pushed into the limelight by this exploit, the Quatuor Arod was made the BBC New Generation Artist from 2017 to 2019 and the ECHO Rising Star for the 2018-2019 season, before continuing their glittering career.

Critics worldwide have hailed the rare energy of the Quatuor Arod in concert as well as the quality of their recordings, the first of which was devoted to Mendelssohn, and the second created like a musical kaleidoscope centred around Mathilde Zemlinsky.

Just five years after their first get together, they are sought for across the five continents and in the most prestigious concert halls: Philharmonie de Paris, Wigmore Hall in London, Berliner Philharmonie, ElbPhilharmonie Hamburg, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Bozar Brussels, the Oji Hall Tokyo and none other than Carnegie Hall New York for their first tour of the USA.

The quartet enjoys working with artists as Elsa Dreisig, Adam Laloum, Jérôme Pernoo, Antoine Tamestit, Alexandre Tharaud and Camille Thomas. More than just being performers, they are also driving on the music of tomorrow: in 2017, they premiered *Al Asr*, Benjamin Attahir’s first string quartet, commissioned by La Belle Saison and ProQuartet.

Jordan Victoria plays a violin By Francesco Goffriller; Alexandre Vu plays a violin By Giovanni Battista Guadagnini; Tanguy Parisot a Composite Viola Carlo Ferdinando Landolphi, Pietro Giovanni Mantegazza - 1775; Jérémy Garbarg plays a cello By Giovanni Battista Ruggieri - circa 1700

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