AUNER QUARTETT

Daniel Auner violin | Cristian Ruscior violin | Georg Wimmer viola | Konstantin Zelenin violoncello

Named after the great-great-aunt of its first violinist, the Viennese violinist and composer Mary Dickenson-Auner, and founded in 2013, the ensemble has established itself as a distinctive string quartet on the international chamber music scene. It has won several national and international competitions, was Cultural Ambassador of Austria as part of the "New Austrian Sound of Music" programme and has a full international concert diary.

Inspired by the historical Viennese salon culture, the quartet launched their own series titled *Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien* in the Vienna Musikverein. The title alludes to the Vienna that lay beyond the dance music of the Strauss dynasty to 'serious' composers in the circle around Mary Auner, such as Schönberg and Berg. Composers who were persecuted by the Nazi's, driven into exile, and whose work Vienna gradually reclaimed after 1945. The project *Cirque d'eau* - eight compositions about Austrian lakes - is currently being completed with the Austrian composer Johanna Doderer and recorded in various natural sites in Austria.

The Auner Quartett received its musical training in Vienna, studying at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna with Johannes Meissl - Artis Quartett - and at the European Chamber Music Academy. The quartet gained further artistic inspiration from masterclasses with the Alban Berg, Talich, Belcea and St. Lawrence Quartet.
Concert tours have taken them to renowned festivals and concert series across the globe, from Berlin to Brazil, Kuwait to Colombia and all important cities in Europe.

Auner Quartett are committed educators, actively teaching a younger generation of string quartet players. Within the *Rhapsody in School* initiative founded by pianist Lars Vogt the quartet visit schools, giving children a first encounter with classical music.

They have a number of fine recordings to their name, amongst which a portrait album of Austrian composer Johanna Doderer, as well as a CD with String Quartets by Zemlinsky, Wellesz, Webern and Kreisler and a recent album called *Ritus*, presenting commissioned works by Gourzi, Doderer, Bishof and Zahra, as well as the oldest surviving piece of music known to Humankind: *Hymn to Nikkal* (c. 1500 BC)

The quartet play on historical instruments: a violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, on permanent loan from the Austrian National Bank; a viola by G. B. Ceruti and private loans of instruments by G. P. Maggini and G. Grancino.

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