

“...stylish, open-minded and adventurous...” The Guardian, 13 June 2020



The Dudok Quartet Amsterdam is forging a reputation as one of the most creative and versatile young quartets of its generation. With its ethos of “*sharing the heart of music*”, the Quartet is committed to crafting unique and eclectic programmes in order to engage with its audiences in new and imaginative ways.

In repertoire ranging from Ligeti, Shostakovich and Weinberg through to Mendelssohn, Mozart and Beethoven, the Dudok Quartet constantly strives to forge and explore new pathways and connections in music. Their intelligent approach and flair for programming also sees them regularly perform their own arrangements of pieces and they have so far produced arrangements of composers including Gesualdo, des Prez, Brahms and Messiaen.

The Dudok Quartet has performed at many of the major European venues and festivals including the Vienna Konzerthaus, Wigmore Hall, Beethovenhaus Bonn, De Bijloke, Barcelona Auditori, De Doelen, Festspiele Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Heidelberg String Quartet Festival, West Cork Chamber Music Festival and the Amsterdam String Quartet Biennale, as well as appearing regularly at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Amsterdam Muziekgebouw. The Quartet made its US debut in January 2018 at the Northwestern University Winter Chamber Music Festival, with other recent highlights including the Quartet’s New York debut at the Park Avenue Armory and digital concerts for the Washington Library of Congress and Fontana Chamber Arts Kalamazoo. Collaboration is a key part of the Quartet’s mission and recent partners have included Pieter Wispelwey, Vladimir Mendelssohn, Hannes Minnaar, Erik Bosgraaf and Annelien Van Wauwe.

Ever enterprising, the 2020 coronavirus crisis saw the Dudok Quartet embrace new initiatives with the launch of its own “Signature Sessions” concert series in Amsterdam, supported by the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, as well as the release of its own podcast series “Muziekverhalen”, in which they delved deeply into their approach to composers including Haydn and Brahms.

European highlights of the current season include recitals in Tournai, Maastricht, the Hague and Würzburg as well as a tour to Sweden and the UK. The Quartet also returns to the Amsterdam Concertgebouw to give the world premiere of a new work written for it by legendary Dutch composer Theo Loevendie. Elsewhere, the Quartet continues its commitment to education work with performances of the Luxembourg Philharmonie’s production *Petite Poucette*; a re-telling of the Hans Christian Andersen Thumbelina fairytale in a staged performance for children.

In 2015 the Dudok Quartet released its first recording on the Resonus Classics label: “*Métamorphoses*” explores the theme of musical innovation through works by Ligeti, Haydn and Brahms and was awarded **Editor’s Choice** in Gramophone. Their 2018 disc “*Solitude*” features works by Mendelssohn, Weinberg and Shostakovich curated around the theme of loss and loneliness with The Strad praising the disc as “*an intense listening experience that will have you on the edge of your seat*”. The Dudok’s most recent recordings of the complete Haydn Opus 20 Quartets were released in 2020 to critical acclaim with Gramophone praising the “*mingled virtuosity, finesse and coursing energy*” of the performances. 2021 sees the release of the Quartet’s first recording on the Rubicon Classics label of the complete Brahms Quartets, which the Quartet perform on gut strings.

Other recent projects have included 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. Entitled “*Quartet! A card game with Beethoven*”, the project has toured to venues including the Vienna Konzerthaus, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie as part of the Dudok’s ongoing commitment to education and outreach work.

Having first met as members of the Ricciotti Ensemble, a Dutch street symphony orchestra, 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. Winner of a 2018 **Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award**, other awards include prizes at the **Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition** and **Joseph Joachim International Chamber Music Competition Weimar** as well as the prestigious Dutch **Kersjes Prize** (2014). Another recent project, developed in residency at Snape Maltings (Aldeburgh), is the Quartet’s “*Rape of Artemisia*” programme, which recounts the famous legal battle fought by Artemisia - a Renaissance “*Me Too*” exploring themes including abuse of power, seduction, violence and female artistic strength.

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. It 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*”.