**BORUSAN QUARTET**

Esen Kıvrak *1st violin*

Olgu Kızılay *2nd violin*

Efdal Altun *viola*

Çağ Erçağ *violoncello*

The Borusan Quartet was founded in 2005 under the guidance of Maestro Gürer Aykal. They have since joined master-classes of Alban Berg Quartet, Juilliard Quartet, Gürer Aykal, Joshua Epstein and Maxim Vengerov. They play on invaluable instruments like a 1776 Lorenzo Storioni violin, a 1662 Nicoló Amati violin, a 2008 make Stefano Conia viola and a 1740 Petrus Guarneri cello thanks to a collaboration between Borusan Sanat and the Maggini Foundation in Switzerland.

In addition to their regular performances at the Süreyya Opera House in Kadıköy, Istanbul, the Quartet enjoys a busy schedule with concerts and tours in Turkey and abroad. They have participated in Schleswig-Holstein, Merano, Mozart, Napfilon, Bodensee, Europalia, Mersin, Istanbul and Ankara music festivals and in addition to many venues in Turkey, appeared at Zurich Tonhalle, Carnegie Hall, Konzerthaus (Berlin), Le Corum (Montpellier), Schloss Elmau (Germany), L’arsenal (Metz) and G. Verdi Hall (Milan).

In addition to their recitals, they also played as soloists with Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic, Bilkent Symphony, Orchestra’Sion, Academic Orchestra of the Capital, and the state symphony orchestras of Samsun, Izmir, Istanbul, Bursa, Eskişehir and Antalya.

They received the “Chamber Ensemble of the Year” award at the Turkish *Andante* magazine’s first Classical Music Awards in May 2010 and the same year, won the gold medal at the 2010 ICMEC International Chamber Music Competition the finale of which was held at the Carnegie Weill Recital Hall, NY.

Until now, they have given the world premieres of works by contemporary Turkish composers Oğuzhan Balcı, Mahir Cetiz, Turgay Erdener, Özkan Manav, Alper Maral, Turgut Pöğün, Meliha Doğuduyal and Hasan Uçarsu written for them. They also had the privilege of premiering violinist and composer Alexey Igudesman’s two works, From Edirne to Kars and String Quartet, dedicated to them. Their first CD *Erkin, Aykal, Saygun* featuring string quartets of the composers in the title was published in May 2013 followed by their CD with İdil Biret of Schumann’s Piano Quintet published by IBA label of Naxos in 2014, and last CD *Mozart & Verdi* published by Lila Music in July 2016.

The Quartet gave concerts in Austria, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Algeria, Qatar, Switzerland, Greece, USA, Barbados, Japan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In July 2016 Borusan Quartet was invited to the West Cork Chamber Music Festival for five concerts as quartet-in-residence.

The Borusan Quartet enjoys chamber music partnerships with distinguished artists such as İdil Biret, Itamar Golan, Fazıl Say, Valentin Erben, Gülsin Onay, Hüseyin Sermet, Ruşen Güneş, Reto Bieri, Toros Can, Ferhan & Ferzan Önder, Igudesman & Joo, Muhiddin Dürrüoğlu, Fora Baltacıgil, Gökhan Aybulus and Lawrence Power. Their repertoire encompasses a wide range of works from the classical period to the modern era with particular emphasis on the works of Turkish composers.

**Updated:** September 2016

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