**BORUSAN QUARTET**

Esen Kıvrak *1st violin*

Özgür Baskın *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 intruments like a 1776 Lorenzo Storioni violin, a 1785 Ferdinando Gagliano violin, a 2008 Stefano Conia viola and a 1740 Petrus Guarneri violoncello.

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, West Cork, Europalia, Mersin, Bodrum D-Marin, Istanbul and Ankara music festivals and in addition to many venues in Turkey, appeared at Zurich Tonhalle, Carnegie Hall (New York), Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna), Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Philharmonie de Paris (Paris), Konzerthaus (Berlin), Le Corum (Montpellier), Schloss Elmau (Germany), L’arsenal (Metz), G. Verdi Hall (Milan) and Musikverein (Vienna).

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, *Mozart & Verdi* published by Lila Music in July 2016, and last CD *Company* published by Onyx in September 2017 and was named the BBC Chamber Recording of the Month by BBC Music Magazine.

The Quartet gave concerts in Austria, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Algeria, Holland, Serbia, Qatar, Belarus, Portugal, Jordan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Greece, USA, Barbados, Japan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovenia and England. 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.

The ensemble, which performed at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival as the quartet in residence for the second time in July 2019, will be joining the String Quartet Biennial Amsterdam 2020 also as the quartet in residence.

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.

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