

The Girard Quartet

Hugues Girard : Violin

Agathe Girard : Violin

Odon Girard : Viola

Lucie Girard : Cello

Composed of members of one large family, the Girard Quartet was born of a shared passion brought to life by family performances of chamber music from a very early age.

Trained by the *Ysaye* Quartet at Paris's *Conservatoire Régional* and then by Miguel da Silva at Genève's *Haute Ecole de Music*, the Girard Quartet were learning at the same time from some of the greatest quartets at the European Chamber Music Academy, the *Académie musicale* in Villecroze, *Proquartet*, and Aix-en-Provence's *Académie du festival*, quickly making a name for themselves at several important international music competitions. Winners of the *Prix Académie Maurice Ravel* in 2010 at the Saint-Jean-de-Luz festival, the Quartet were also prize winners at the *Concours de Genève* in 2011, and followed this by winning awards from the *Fondation Banque Populaire* and the *HSBC Académie du Festival* in Aix-en-Provence.

At the present time, they are quartet in residence at the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium's Royal Chapel, where they benefit from close contact with the Artemis Quartet. They are also supported by the Singer-Polignac Foundation. Guests in many prestigious concert halls and festivals in France including the Auditorium of the *Musée d'Orsay* and the *Théâtre du Châtelet* both in Paris, Nantes's *La Folle Journée*, Arles's *Soirées et Matinées musicales*, the Deauville festival, and *La Grange de Meslay*, the Quartet are also sought after on the international scene, notably in London's Wigmore Hall as well as in Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Morocco, Russia and Japan.

The Girard Quartet play with internationally renowned musicians such as Philippe Bernold, Maurice Bourgue, Miguel da Silva, Nicolas Dautricourt, Henri Demarquette, Yovan Markovitch, Jean-Claude Penner, Raphaël Pidoux, François Salque, and Dame Felicity Lott.

Regularly invited by *France Musique* (*Mardi Idéal, Plaisirs d'Amour, Génération Jeunes Interprètes, Plaisirs du Quatuor...*) and by *Radio Classique*, they also collaborate with Jean-François Zygel. Their first album on the *Discophiles Français* label was lauded by music critics (*Choix de France Musique, Qobuzissime*).

This year, the Girard Quartet continue their performances of the complete set of the Beethoven string quartets which are scheduled over a three-year period at the *Auditorium* of Caen.

The Quartet combine their concert activities with an ongoing drive to make their music available to audiences of all tastes. With this in mind, they have already established joint ventures with several primary schools and music schools and have thus been able to reach hundreds of children throughout France. They have held music residences at the *Théâtre de Coulommiers* as well as the *Vieux-Palais d'Espalion*.

The Girard Quartet all play instruments made between 2014 and 2016 by the Parisian stringed instrument maker, Charles Coquet.