

Arcadia Quartet

Ana Török Violin
Răsvan Dumitru Violin
Traian Boală Viola
Zsolt Török Cello

"The Romanian ensemble lives through the emotional eruptions in Janáček's music with heart and soul ... every accent is a stitch into the heart."

Marcus Stäbler, Fono Forum, April 2014

"the playing has such intensity....The result is an assault on the senses, piercing the heart of this unsettling music"

The Financial Times, September 2013

Winners of the 2014 **Osaka International Chamber Music Competition**, the 2012 **Wigmore Hall London International String Quartet Competition**, the 2011 **Almere International Chamber Music Competition** in 2011 and the **International Chamber Music Competition Hamburg** in 2009, Arcadia Quartet is rapidly establishing itself as one of the most exciting string quartets of their generation.

Formed in 2006 while students at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Romania, the quartet finished their postgraduate studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, and became the Alumni members of the European Chamber Music Academy, while they have performed across the world including performances at the Budapest Spring Festival, the International George Enescu Festival (Bucharest), Cité internationale des arts (Paris), Alte Oper Frankfurt, Pollack Hall (Montreal), The Royal Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Wigmore Hall (London), Suntory Hall (Tokyo), Izumi Hall (Osaka), Musikverein (Vienna), Aldeburgh Festival, Konzerthaus Berlin, North Norfolk Music Festival, Romanian Athenaeum, Q'arto Mondí Festival (Poznań), Salle Gaveau (Paris), Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Kammermusiktage Mettlach, Zeist Music Days Festival in The Netherlands, throughout the United Kingdom, in Portugal, in Tel-Aviv and in Beijing. The Quartet made their BBC Radio 3 debut with a broadcast concert from the Wigmore Hall in March 2015, and in April 2015 were invited to become the Quartet-in-Residence at the prestigious Tinerimea Română National Art Centre in Bucharest, playing six concerts a year broadcast by the Romanian Broadcasting Company. Over the years the Quartet have collaborated with many internationally renowned

artists such as Marin Cazacu, Diana Ligeti, Amit Peled, Remus Azoitei, Sarah Chang, Robert Levin, János Bálint, Seiya Ueno, Ad Libitum Quartet, Con Tempo Quartet, Belcea Quartet, etc. The Arcadia Quartet's debut disc of works by Mendelssohn and Brahms was released by Fontenay Classics in 2009 attracting critical acclaim. Ensemble Magazin wrote of 'their intimate performance', 'their exceptional sonority' and their 'expressive power which leaves a deep impression on the listener'. Their recording of Janáček Quartet No. 1 and No. 2 was released on the label Orchid Classics in October 2013. The Sunday Times wrote of 'a beauty that pierces the heart', and that 'both works are played with searing intensity by the fine young Romanian quartet'. The Financial Times wrote that the quartet 'create a mood of edgy expressionism that, in its violent swings and chromatic stresses, is shockingly direct and dramatic, like an opera – or a nightmare', that 'the result is an assault on the senses, piercing the heart of this unsettling music'.

The Arcadia Quartet started collaborating with Chandos Records in September 2017, launching an album containing the complete Bartók string quartets. This double CD comes with commendatory reviews from the most esteemed professional publications of the world and with 5 star reviews in the magazines Diapason and Classica. The album was named *Disc of the Week* by BBC Radio 3, one of the best albums of October 2018 by WQXR-FM in New York, and *Disc of the Month* by Classica magazine in January 2019.

An extraordinary new project is on the way with Chandos Records: the recording of all 17 string quartets of Mieczysław Weinberg. This set of 6 CDs will be launched in the following 5 years. The first volume has been launched in January 2021 and was included in the best chamber music recordings category of *The best classical albums released in 2021 so far* by the BBC Music Magazine (Classical Music Magazine), receiving a 5 star review. It was named *Record of the Week* on BBC Radio 3's Record Review, and was included in the Westdeutscher Rundfunk's *Die Alben der Woche* (Record of the Week, March 2021 edition), receiving a 5-4-5 star review.

*valid until April 2022

Ana Török, violin (b. 1984, Baia Mare)

She began studying the violin at the age of 4 in her native town and, beginning with 1996, she continued and completed her high school studies in Târgu Mureş. She attended higher education and the Master's programme at the „Gheorghe Dima” Music Academy of Cluj-Napoca, in Professor Victoria Nicolae's violin class.

Since 2008 she has been first concert master of the "Transylvania" State Philharmonic of Cluj-Napoca, one of the most prestigious Romanian symphony orchestras, and concert master of the Romanian National Youth Orchestra. Distinguished with numerous chamber or solo performance awards – „Jeunesses Musicales” Bucharest, 2001, the „Sigismund Toduță” Competition, Cluj-Napoca, 2003, the 2003 and 2004 editions of the Performance Competition organized by the Romanian Mozart Society, Cluj-Napoca, – Ana Török acquired fame also as soloist, performing as invited guest of the Târgu Mureş, Oradea, Braşov and Cluj-Napoca Philharmonics.

Răsvan Dumitru, violin (b. 1984, Braşov)

Dedicated to the study of the violin from the age of 5, Răsvan Dumitru attended the Art School of Braşov with Prof. Maria Mireanu and then the „Gh. Dima" Music Academy of Cluj-Napoca, in Univ.-Prof. Dr. Victoria Nicolae's class. He has been first concert master of the Romanian National Opera orchestra of Cluj-Napoca between 2007 and 2011, and principal of the second violin section of the Romanian National Youth Orchestra between 2008 and 2010. Currently he is principal of the second violin section of the "Transylvania" State Philharmonic of Cluj-Napoca and teaches violin and chamber music at the "Gheorghe Dima" Music Academy.

Recipient of several national and international awards, and semi-finalist of the Concours Musical International de Montreal (2006), violinist Răsvan Dumitru also performed as a successful recitalist, both in Romania and abroad (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands). He performed as soloist with several Romanian orchestras, including the Braşov Philharmonic, the “Transylvania” State Philharmonic of Cluj-Napoca and the Chamber Orchestra of the Romanian Radio Broadcasting Company. He has also cultivated a vivid interest in the performing style of the Baroque repertoire, by collaborating with several Baroque ensembles.

He is playing a Leon Fischesser violin, lent to him for his life by the Swiss foundation Musique et Vie, following a competition held in 2005.

Traian Boală, viola (b. 1978, Constanța)

Traian Boală studied the violin and then the viola at the Art School in his native town. He began his higher education studies at the Music Department of the „Transylvania” University of Brașov (with professor Leona Varvarichi) and continued them with the Master's degree studies at the „Gheorghe Dima” Music Academy of Cluj-Napoca (with professor Sorin Gherbanovschi).

He successfully participated in several performance competitions, earning, among others, first prizes at the „Mozart” Competition held in Constanța and at the „George Georgescu” Competition held in Tulcea. Between 2001 and 2003, he was a member of the Kronos Quartet of Brașov, with whom he earned the first prize at the Performance Competition organized by the Romanian Mozart Society of Cluj, and held a series of concerts in Romania and abroad. He played successively in several orchestras, including the „St. George” Chamber Orchestra of Beograd and the "George Enescu" Philharmonic of Bucharest. Presently, he is a member of the "Transylvania" Philharmonic of Cluj-Napoca.

Zsolt Török, cello (b. 1984, Cluj-Napoca)

The youngest child of a family of cellists, Zsolt Török in his turn took up the study of the cello at the age of 6. After graduating from the “Sigismund Toduță” Music High School of Cluj-Napoca, he studied for the Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the „Gheorghe Dima” Music Academy, in the class of Professor Vasile Jucan, member of the Transylvanian Quartet.

He won several national and international awards, including the Jury's Special Prize at the „David Popper” International Cello Competition, Hungary, (2003), the 2nd Prize and the Popularity Prize at the „Sigismund Toduță” Competition (Cluj-Napoca, 2005). Since 2005, he has been a member of the „Transylvania” Philharmonic of Cluj-Napoca. As a soloist, he performed with the Satu Mare, Sibiu, Oradea, Cluj-Napoca and Brașov Philharmonics.