



ARCADIA QUARTET

WE BOW TO MUSIC

Formed in 2006 while students at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, the quartet finished their postgraduate studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and became Alumni members of the European Chamber Music Academy. They have performed all over the world, including at the Budapest Spring Festival, the International George Enescu Festival (Bucharest), Cité International 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, Salle Gaveau (Paris), Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, in Tel-Aviv, in Beijing, and throughout the United Kingdom.

The Arcadia Quartet made their BBC Radio 3 debut with a concert broadcast live from the Wigmore Hall in March 2015 and in the following month they were invited to become Quartet-in-Residence at the prestigious Tinerimea Română National Art Centre in Bucharest, playing six concerts a year broadcast by Romanian Radio.

Over the years, the Arcadia Quartet has 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 and Lawrence Foster.

The Arcadia Quartet's debut disc of works by Mendelssohn and Brahms was released by Fontenay Classics in 2009, attracting critical acclaim.

Ensemble Magazine wrote about their "intimate performance, exceptional sonority and expressive power which leaves a deep impression on the listener."

Their recording of Janáček Quartet No. 1 and No. 2 was released on 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 “they 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 recording for Chandos in September 2017, launching their collaboration with the complete Bartók string quartets.

The double CD was welcomed by the musical press worldwide including 5 star reviews in Diapason and Classica, and 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 in January 2019.

Another extraordinary project is on the way with the recording of all 17 Quartets of Mieczysław Weinberg.

The first volume (Quartets Nos. 2, 5, 8) was released in January 2021 and has been included in BBC Music Magazine’s survey of the best chamber music recordings of 2021, 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 in March 2021 edition, also receiving a 5-star review.

Weinberg Volume 1 received the German Record Critics’ Award in Spring 2021 and was nominated for the 2022 International Classical Music Awards (ICMA) in November, becoming a finalist in the Chamber music category.

The second volume (Quartets Nos. 1, 7, 11) was released in May 2022 receiving 5 star reviews by Limelight Magazine, BBC Music and The Sunday Times, who also named it one of the best albums of 2022. Volume 2 has been favourably reviewed by The Strad, named Recording of the Month by Limelight Magazine and also nominated for Recording of the Year 2022 and for the 2023 International Classical Music Awards (ICMA).

The third volume (Quartets Nos. 4 and 16) was released at the end of March 2023 and has been awarded the Diapason d’Or, and also shortlisted for the Gramophone Awards and nominated for the 2024 International Classical Music Awards (ICMA).

The penultimate disc in the series was recorded at the end of April 2024 with the final volume to follow in 2025.

The Quartet founded their own chamber music workshop in 2021, the Arcadia Chamber Music Classes, with the desire to share their experiences with future generations of musicians and to promote classical music at the highest level. Organised annually, this series of master classes and concerts is dedicated to string chamber ensembles and aims to offer guidance, support, and encouragement to young musicians in their professional development, enriching the local community through the art of chamber music.

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 Mureș. She attended higher education and the Master's programme at the Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music, Cluj-Napoca, in the class of Professor Victoria Nicolae.

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 concertmaster of the Romanian National Youth Orchestra (until 2012). Distinguished with numerous chamber or solo performance awards – such as Jeunesses Musicales Bucharest, (2001), the Sigismund Toduță Competition, Cluj-Napoca (2003), the 2003 and 2004 editions of the Performance Competition organised by the Romanian Mozart Society, Cluj-Napoca –, Ana Török acquired fame also as soloist, performing with the Târgu Mureș, Oradea, Brașov, Sibiu, Satu Mare and Cluj-Napoca Philharmonics.

Răsvan Dumitru, violin (b. 1984, Brașov)

Dedicated to the study of the violin from the age of 5, Răsvan Dumitru attended the Art School of Brașov with Maria Mireanu, then the Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music in Cluj-Napoca, in the class of Victoria Nicolae. He has been first concert master of the Romanian National Opera of Cluj-Napoca (2007-2011) and principal of the second violin section of the Romanian National Youth Orchestra (2008-2010), and is frequently invited to the same leading position at the Romanian Chamber Orchestra led by Cristian Măcelaru.

Currently he is principal of the second violin section of the Transylvania State Philharmonic of Cluj-Napoca. A graduate of the doctoral studies of the Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music, he is a university lecturer in the Department of Stringed, Wind and Percussion Instruments, teaching the violin.

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 Brașov 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.

He is the co-founder and president of the Arcadia Quartet Association (since 2013) and director and co-founder of the Arcadia Chamber Music Classes.

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 his Master's studies at the Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music in Cluj-Napoca with professor Sorin Gherbanovschi.

He successfully participated in several competitions, earning, among others, first prizes at the Mozart Competition in Constanța and at the George Georgescu Competition in Tulcea.

As a member of the Kronos Quartet of Brașov (2001-2003), he received the first prize at the Performance Competition organised by the Romanian Mozart Society of Cluj (2001), 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.

Currently he is a member and principal of the viola section of the Transylvania State Philharmonic of Cluj-Napoca and university lecturer at the Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music, teaching viola.

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

The youngest child of a family of cellists, Zsolt Török also 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 finished his Bachelor and Master's degrees at the Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music in Cluj-Napoca, 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 in Hungary, (2003), the 2nd Prize and the Popularity Prize at the Sigismund Toduță Competition in Cluj-Napoca (2005).

He has been a member of the Transylvania Philharmonic of Cluj-Napoca since 2005 and currently he is principal of the cello section. As a soloist, he performed with the Satu Mare, Sibiu, Oradea, Cluj-Napoca and Brașov Philharmonics.