



Biography Cuarteto Casals

Vera Martinez (violin)
Abel Tomàs (violin)
Jonathan Brown (viola)
Arnau Tomàs (violoncello)

www.cuarteto-casals.com

"A quartet for the new millennium if I ever heard one "

...wrote Strad magazine upon hearing Cuarteto Casals for the first time, shortly after its inception in 1997 at the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofia in Madrid.

Since winning first prizes at the London and Brahms-Hamburg competitions, Cuarteto Casals has been a repeated guest at the world's most prestigious concert halls including Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, Musikverein Vienna, Philharmonie Cologne, Cité de la Musique Paris, Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Philharmonie in Berlin, among many others throughout Europe, North America and Asia.

The quartet has compiled a substantial discography with the harmonia mundi label, including to date 11 CD's, with repertoire ranging from lesser known Spanish composers Arriaga and Toldrá to Viennese classics Mozart, Haydn, Schubert and Brahms, through 20th Century greats Bartók, Kurtág and Ligeti. Most recently the quartet recorded its first Beethoven disc which will be available in summer 2017, and Neu Records has released the first of five DVDs of the acclaimed Schubert cycle played live at l'Auditori in Barcelona.

"A sonic signature entirely its own," raved the New York Times, describing Cuarteto Casals' distinctive range of expression. A prize from the prestigious Burletti-Buitoni Trust in London enabled the quartet to purchase a matching set of Classical period bows which it uses for works from Purcell through Schubert, refining its ability to distinguish between diverse musical styles. In addition, the quartet has been profoundly influenced by its work with living composers, especially György Kurtág, and has given the world premiere of quartets written by leading Spanish composers. Keen to broaden the string quartet repertoire, Cuarteto Casals will premiere with the Spanish National Orchestra in March 2017 a new concerto for string quartet and orchestra composed by Francisco Coll and has commissioned six pieces to complement each of the programs of its Beethoven cycle, scheduled for its 20th anniversary season in 2017-18.

In recognition of Cuarteto Casals' unique position as the first Spanish string quartet with a truly international profile, the quartet has been honored with the Premio Nacional de Música as well as the Premi Nacional de Cultura de Catalunya and the Premi Ciutat Barcelona. Furthermore the quartet had the privilege to play on the peerless collection of decorated Stradivarius instruments in the Royal Palace in Madrid, where it will begin a residence in 2018.

Cuarteto Casals often appears on television and radio throughout Europe and North America and has been quartet in residence at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne and the Escola Superior de Musica de Catalunya in Barcelona, where all four members reside.

Season 2016/ 2017

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