

„The Novus String Quartet doesn't need reserves and guardedness. As fiery as it approaches the classics, it already plays right at the top.“

NOVUS STRING QUARTET

JAEYOUNG KIM (VIOLIN), YOUNG-UK KIM (VIOLIN),
KYUHYUN KIM (VIOLA), WONHAE LEE (VIOLONCELLO)

With these words closes the 2019 review by *RBB kulturradio* of the quartet's third album including the Berg's Lyric Suite and Schubert's "Death and the Maiden".

Established at the Korean National University of Arts in 2007, the Novus String Quartet is one of the leading chamber music ensembles in Korea, and first caused a sensation in Europe in 2012 when they earned the Second Prize in the string quartet category at the renowned ARD Music Competition. Two years later the quartet crowned itself with the First Prize at the Salzburg Mozart Competition where Lukas Hagen of the Hagen Quartet was the Jury Chair. Ever since the quartet is filling the international concert halls and inspires audience and critics likewise.

From 2011 to 2014, the Novus String Quartet studied with the Professors Christoph Poppen and Hariolf Schlichtig at the *Hochschule für Musik und Theater* in Munich. In 2016 and 2017, the Novus String Quartet was mentored by the Belcea Quartet and was accepted into their Belcea Quartet *Trust Coaching Scheme*. In 2020, the musicians moved back to South Korea, where they are now sought-after professors at the Korean National University of Arts. Young-uk Kim in violin, his colleagues for chamber music.

Their first CD (Novus Quartet #1) was released at the French Label *Aparté* in Spring 2016, presenting works from Beethoven, Webern and the rarely played Korean composer Isang Yun. The 2nd recording including Tchaikovsky's 1st string quartet as well as the sextet "Souvenir de Florence" was released in Autumn 2017, followed by the recording of the string quartet with Berg's Lyric Suite and Schubert's quartet "Death and the Maiden" in the Spring of 2019 which was chosen as *sélection album* by *Le Monde* in January 2019. Their latest release (spring 2022) is one with Shostakovich String Quartets No. 3 & No. 8 on the Aparté label. Back in February, it was rated 5 out of 5 in *Diapson Magazine*.

European highlights of the 23/24 season include concerts at the Edinburgh International Festival, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the Wigmore Hall London.

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