

MAESTROARTS

Sample Programmes 2025-2027

MAXWELL QUARTET

At a glance:

2025: BYRD AVE VERUM CORPUS / FINNIS 1 / BEETHOVEN 132 / HAYDN 20/4 / BRAHMS 51/2 / FOLK MUSIC FROM SCOTLAND

2026: BEETHOVEN 18/5 / PROKOFIEV 2 / DVORAK 106 / HAYDN 20/2 / ALBERGA NEW WORK / BEETHOVEN 59/3 / FOLK MUSIC FROM SCOTLAND

2027: MOZART DISSONANCE / GLASS 3 / SCHUBERT DEATH & THE MAIDEN / HAYDN 20/3 / GRIEG 1 / FOLK MUSIC FROM SCOTLAND

FROM SEPTEMBER 2025: ZINGARESE

Haydn and Brahms were both greatly influenced by the Zingarese folk style, and this shines through in their string quartets: Haydn's warm and generous Opus 20 no 4 is one of the jewels of the Opus 20 set, and its rustic Menuet is marked "alla Zingarese", and is one of the best examples of Haydn's interest in these folky cross-rhythms and gypsy-style melodies. Composed exactly 101 years later, Brahms' second string quartet (Op 51 no 2) is equally Zingarese in spirit, particularly its finale, a wild, exuberant dance, infused with Hungarian folk rhythms which set in motion a competition of meters. The Maxwell Quartet combine this folk inspired repertoire with their own latest versions of traditional folk tunes from Scotland.

HAYDN	String Quartet in D major Op.20 No.4 Hob. III:34
MAXWELL QUARTET	Folk Music of Scotland
	<i>Interval</i>
BRAHMS	String Quartet No.2 in A minor, Op.51, No.2

FROM JANUARY 2026: BOHEMIA, RUSSIA, AMERICA

The Maxwell Quartet explore the remarkable interplay between classical foundations and folk influence in the string quartet repertoire, with a particular focus on music of both Bohemian and Russian origins. Beethoven's Opus 18 no. 5 was commissioned by the Prince of Lobkowitz, an influential Bohemian aristocrat, and is the epitome of classical clarity and elegance, while pushing boundaries with structural intricacies and emotional depth that point toward the Romantic period. Prokofiev's second string quartet was written during wartime embraces the vitality of folk-inspired rhythms and textures, blending them seamlessly with a modern reinterpretation of classical form. Dvorak was a master of string quartet writing, and his late work Op. 106 draws deeply on his Bohemian roots, blending folk-like themes with lush Romantic harmonies and textures.

BEETHOVEN	String Quartet in A major, Op.18 No.5
PROKOFIEV	String Quartet No. 2, Op. 92 in F Major 'On Kabardinian themes'
	<i>Interval</i>
MAXWELL QUARTET	Folk Music of Scotland
DVOŘÁK	String Quartet No.13 in G major, Op.106

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FROM SEPTEMBER 2026: TRADITION/REINVENTION

The Maxwell Quartet continue their exploration of the quartets of Haydn and Beethoven, where innovation and individuality meet structural mastery. Haydn's Op. 20 No. 2, often called a cornerstone of the string quartet repertoire, revolutionizes the genre with its intricate counterpoint, daring harmonic choices, and democratic interplay among the voices. Beethoven's Op. 59 No. 3 expands this dialogue with a bold, heroic energy, offering dramatic contrasts and a visionary sense of narrative that redefines the quartet as an emotionally charged, symphonic form. In a new commission composed specially for the Maxwell Quartet, British-Jamaican composer Eleanor Alberga, drawing from the breadth of contemporary styles and her own unique perspective uses the quartet as a canvas for bold textures, rhythmic complexity, and fresh approaches to ensemble interplay. Together, these works exemplify the string quartet as a living, evolving medium that balances tradition with reinvention.

HAYDN	String Quartet in C major, Op.20 No.2, Hob.III:32
MAXWELL QUARTET	Folk Music of Scotland
ALBERGA, ELEANOR	New work * Alberga commission available for general performance from Summer 2026
	<i>Interval</i>
BEETHOVEN	String Quartet in C, Op.59 No.3

FROM JANUARY 2027: TENSION & DRAMA

In 2027, the Maxwell Quartet explore works which embody a profound exploration of tension and release, using harmony, texture, and form to create deeply expressive musical narratives. Mozart's Dissonance Quartet earns its name from its daringly chromatic slow introduction, pushing the boundaries of classical harmony while maintaining the elegance and balance characteristic of his style. Glass's Mishima Quartet achieves tension through its repetitive, minimalist structures, layering shifting patterns to evoke a hypnotic yet emotionally charged atmosphere. Schubert's Death and the Maiden quartet uses stark contrasts, turbulent rhythms, and a haunting theme from his song of the same name to grapple with existential themes, blending lyrical beauty with dramatic intensity.

MOZART	String Quartet in C major K465 'Dissonance'
GLASS	String Quartet No 3 'Mishima'
OR	
ALBERGA, ELEANOR	New work
	<i>Interval</i>
SCHUBERT	String Quartet in D minor D810 "Death and the Maiden"

FROM SEPTEMBER 2027: SCANDINAVIA

The Maxwell Quartet's exploration of folk music and its influence continues, with a particular focus on Scandinavian music and its links to Scottish music, and the work of Norway's great composer, Edvard Grieg, who himself descended from Scotland. The Maxwells pair his first string quartet, a work that draws on Norwegian folk music traditions, with Haydn's G minor offering from the trailblazing Opus 20 set, alongside their own reworkings folk music of Nordic & Scots origin.

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HAYDN

String Quartet in G Minor Op.20 No.3 Hob. III/33

MAXWELL QUARTET

Folk music from Scotland and Scandinavia

GRIEG

String Quartet no. 1 in G Minor
