

MAXWELL QUARTET

ENSEMBLE

‘Superb storytelling from four great communicators’

The Strad

The Maxwell Quartet combines a refined approach to classical works with a passion for its own Scottish folk heritage and a commitment to expanding the string quartet repertoire through wide-ranging projects. In concert, the players often perform classical repertoire and new music alongside folk-inspired works, and their ongoing touring project *Worksongs* explores the folk songs and cultures of Scotland’s historic industries, including the jute and tweed trades.

This wide-ranging outlook is reflected in the quartet’s discography. Its first two releases on Linn Records paired Haydn with the players’ own compositions, based on Scottish folk music, the first album reaching number three in the classical specialist charts. Their 2023 CD *Gather* brought together traditional Scottish music ranging from 1200 to the present day, such as ancient Celtic plainchant, fishermen’s songs, pipe marches and Shetland Reels, alongside new compositions.

The group works closely with composers, most recently giving the world premiere of Eleanor Alberga’s Quartet no.4 at String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam, and then touring it to Dublin International Music Festival and Aldeburgh Festival, and they have commissioned works from Anna Meredith, Tom Harrold and Mark Simpson.

The Maxwells perform at UK venues such as Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, Queen’s Hall, Edinburgh, and Perth Concert Hall, and across Europe, including at Berlin Konzerthaus, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, and Rheingau, Just Classik, Schleswig-Holstein, Beethoven-Fest Bonn and St Magnus festivals. Since their debut American tour in 2019, which sold out venues in New York, Florida, California and Washington, the quartet has toured the US annually. They recently made their debuts at Carnegie Hall and The Frick Collection in New York.

Passionate about collaborating with other musicians and art forms, the players work with a global roster of artists and institutions, including theatre company Cryptic, installation artists Wintour’s Leap, Royal Ballet School, cinematographer Herman Kolgen, Danish String Quartet, Calidore Quartet, pianist Imogen Cooper, clarinettist Kari Krikku, baritone Roderick Williams, bagpiper Brìghde Chaimbeul, soul duo Lunir and folk duo Chris Stout & Catriona MacKay.

The Maxwell Quartet formed officially in 2010 as postgraduate students at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and a year later were named as Residency Artists for Enterprise Music Scotland, 2011–13, which gave them several acclaimed concert tours. The quartet has since held residencies at Oxford University, Perth Concert Hall, Music at Paxton and Lammermuir Festival. They founded their own Loch Shiel festival in the West Highlands of Scotland, curated a concert series at Guardswell Farm in Perthshire, and serve as Artistic Directors of Mendelssohn on Mull Festival.

MAESTRO*ARTS*

The quartet studied with the Endellion Quartet through a ChamberStudio mentorship programme at King's Place and privately with Hatto Beyerle, founding member of the Alban Berg Quartet, in Hanover. Other mentors have included Miguel da Silva (Quatuor Ysaÿe), Erich Höbarth (Quatuor Mosaïques) and Krzysztof Chorzelski (Belcea Quartet).