

Ligeti Quartet



sample programmes

The Ligeti Quartet has been at the forefront of modern and contemporary music since its formation in 2010, breaking new ground through innovative programming and championing of today's most exciting composers and artists.

The ensemble has been making waves between classical, contemporary, and electronic music worldwide in countries such as the UK, Canada, United States, China, Germany, Denmark, and France.

Highlights for the 2025-6 season include a feature concert at the Rainy Days Festival at the Philharmonie in Luxembourg and a world premiere of a new work by London-based composer Blasio Kavuma at the Barbican. They will tour to The Hague performing Ligeti, and Nuc, with music from their critically acclaimed album with Anna Meredith. In October 2026 they will be part of the Steve Reich 90th birthday celebrations at the newly opened Schwarzman Centre in Oxford.

Having played at landmark venues around the world including Carnegie Hall, Curtis Institute, Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, Barbican Hall, and Kings Place, the quartet also enjoy performing in more unusual places, previous venues including museums, galleries, theatres, pubs, planetariums, a fishing boat, and a cave. They have commissioned many new works and have collaborated with artists from all types of musical backgrounds including Anna Meredith, Xenia Pestova, Elliot Galvin, Kerry Andrew, Laura Jurd, Meilyr Jones, Neil Hannon, Seb Rochford, Shabaka Hutchings, Sean Noonan, Shed 7 and Submotion Orchestra.

The quartet's most recent album 'Nuc' (2023, Mercury KX) is a celebration of Anna Meredith's music for string quartet, including arrangements by the quartet's viola player Richard Jones. "An album that continually surprises and enlightens" (BBC Music). Their tour of the album in 2023 was supported by Music In The Round and Arts Council England. Their previous album Songbooks Vol. 1 (2020, Nonclassical), part of a long-standing collaboration with award-winning composer Christian Mason, explores the way in which the acoustic properties of the string quartet emulate the human voice through Mason's use of extended techniques and unique sound-worlds. "Magnificently vivid performances... sheer unadulterated exuberance" (Gramophone).



The quartet named themselves after the Hungarian composer György Ligeti (1923-2006), inspired by his kaleidoscopic musical outlook and tireless invention. 2023 included many concerts celebrating the 100th anniversary of his birth. They curated the "Ligeti Day" at Aldeburgh Festival (23 June 2023) during which they performed two concerts of György Ligeti's music and the world premieres of 15 new commissions including Entasis by Lukas Ligeti (supported by Britten Pears Arts, BBC Radio 3, the Vaughan Williams Foundation, and Bourgie Hall).



Nuc

amplified

The critically acclaimed Ligeti Quartet perform tracks from their 2023 album *Nuc* fusing **acoustic and electronic music for string quartet** by the Mercury-prize nominated composer **Anna Meredith**.

The result is a joyful, occasionally furious, never too serious, energetic yet restful collection of tracks which dazzle with Anna's signature compulsive harmonies, rhythmic shifts of gear and sparkling textures.

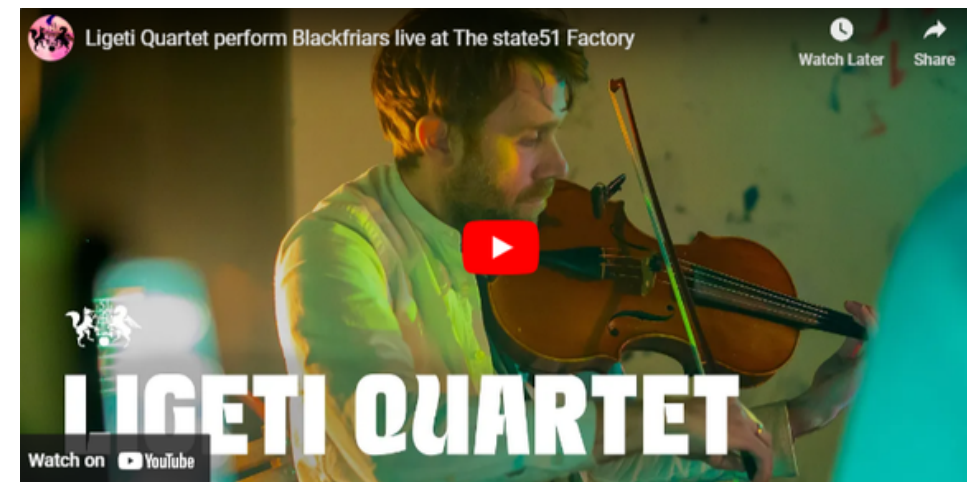
Bespoke projections are by animator Ewan Morris Jones, along with a **video** for 'Tuggemo' featuring a melee of plant, animal and mineral creations which swarm together as the song swells.

Created using a combination of 2D animation and AI techniques, the visual is a compelling, colourful and hypnotic evolution story.

Nuc is performed **amplified** with a full **electronic backing track**. The disc was one of The Guardian's Top 10 Contemporary Albums of 2023.



Programme length: one hour, or two x 45 mins with added repertoire such as Ligeti String Quartets, Reich 'Different Trains', George Crumb 'Black Angels'.



Different Trains

amplified

The Ligeti Quartet celebrate legend **Steve Reich's 90th Birthday** with a special celebratory programme, featuring his best-loved *Different Trains* (presented with optional d&b Soundscape surround sound). They also perform a brand new arrangement of Riley's *Poppy Nogood and the Phantom Band* - a cornerstone recording of the late 60s psychedelic era - for amplified string quartet and d&b Soundscape, alongside accompanying works. In Justè Janulytè's original 2018 work for four string quartets, the groups are placed around the audience, forming a square, whilst the music moves in circular patterns. In this new version, the Ligeti Quartet perform amplified with three pre-recorded layers played back in quadraphonic speaker formation.

Terry Riley: Poppy Nogood and the Phantom Band, for amplified string quartet for optional dnb Soundscape arr. Richard Jones (1969/2024) 22'

Ben Nobuto: New commission **commissioner needed* (approx 20') interval

Steve Reich: Different Trains 30'

Alternative repertoire

Steve Reich: Triple Quartet (performed with pre-recorded tracks)

Ana Sokolović: Commedia dell'arte

György Kurtág: String Quartets (100th Birthday year in 2026)

John Adams: Book of Alleged Dances (selection)

Justè Janulytè: Circle for a Square (1982) 27'

Pauline Oliveros: 70 Chords for Terry (2005) 5'



Ben Nobuto

Into the Night

non-amplified

Join the Ligeti Quartet for their new programme, "Into the Night," built around Dutilleux's 1976 composition "Ainsi la Nuit".

Opening with Nørgård's String Quartet No. 8, "Night Descending Like Smoke," written in 2015, this piece captures the mysterious and ethereal qualities of nightfall. Bartók's "Adagio Molto," a profound exploration of night music, sets a contemplative mood, while Saariaho's "Terra Memoria" pays a poignant tribute to memory and loss.

The programme culminates with Dutilleux's "Ainsi la Nuit," a masterful work renowned for its complex and luminous depiction of the night. Dutilleux's compositional style is marked by its meticulous craftsmanship, rich harmonic textures, and innovative use of timbre and form, creating a sound world that is both intricate and evocative.

As ever the Quartet champion today's music with a new commission, soon to be announced, also appearing in this programme. Experience the Ligeti Quartet as they navigate through the depths and nuances of nocturnal soundscapes.

Nørgård: String Quartet No.8 'Night Descending Like Smoke'

New LQ Commission: 5-10 minutes

Bartok: String Quartet No.5 Adagio Molto, night music 6' interval

Saariaho: Terra Memoria 20'

Dutilleux: Ainsi la Nuit 19'

ALTERNATIVE REPERTOIRE

Niels Rosing-Schow: String Quartet No. 1 - Movements to Hear: in Your Body, in Your Ears, in Your Mind (2025)

Ligeti Quartet x Lucy Humphris

non-amplified

Brilliant trumpet meets boundary-pushing strings. Works by Maxwell Davies, Meredith, Nyman, and Milenko, plus a brand-new commission. Expect pulse, power, and poetic sound worlds – a bold celebration of contemporary music at its most thrilling.

This programme showcases the trumpet's extraordinary versatility in dialogue with the string quartet. Maxwell Davies' *Trumpet Quintet* combines austere modernism with moments of haunting beauty, while Anna Meredith's *Solstice In, Solstice Out* fuses acoustic and electronic sensibilities into a vivid rhythmic tapestry. Michael Nyman's *Trumpet Quintet* brings the composer's characteristic pulse and clarity to chamber forces, and Kirsten Milenko's *Duets* (for trumpet quintet) draws listeners into an intricate interplay of breath, tone and texture. The evening concludes with a newly commissioned work, expanding the repertoire and reaffirming the Ligeti Quartet's commitment to contemporary innovation.

Peter Maxwell Davies: Trumpet Quintet

Anna Meredith: Solstice In, Solstice Out (from the Ligeti Quartet's album **Nuc**)

Kirsten Milenko: Duets (for trumpet quintet)

--interval--

New Commission (to be announced)

Michael Nyman: Trumpet Quintet



Baroque+

non-amplified

What would a dance suite look like in the 21st Century? Baroque composers used dance forms of their day, reflecting their era and socio-cultural environments. And now in 2025, with all the richness of electronic dance music at our fingertips - techno, House, dubstep... Join the Ligeti Quartet in this re-imagining of what could be a contemporary dance suite, connecting past to present via the timelessness of the string quartet.

Bach-Birtwistle: Contrapunctus VII 5'

Sofia Gubaidulina: Reflections on the Theme B-A-C-H 7'

John Adams: Pavane: She's so Fine, from Alleged Dances 7'

Anna Meredith / Vivaldi (arr. R. Jones): Haze & Thunderbolt 7'

Henry Purcell: Fantasia Upon One Note 6'

Mark Gotham: Fantasia Upon One Pulse 7'

Caroline Shaw: Entr'acte 11'

Peter Maxwell Davies: Vanitas, Arrangement of fragment by J. Ban 3'

Ana Sokolovic: Innamorati, from Commedia dell'arte 4'

*alternative repertoire, requiring amplification:

Anna Meredith Tuggemo 5' / **Jlin Patton** Little Black Book 5'



Poppy Nogood

amplified

2025 is the 90th Birthday year of Terry Riley, a composer whose catalogue of work continues to influence widely diverse musicians and musical approaches. To celebrate and acknowledge this great composer, the Ligeti Quartet present a brand new arrangement of *Poppy Nogood* - a cornerstone recording of the late 60s psychedelic era - for amplified string quartet and dnb Soundscape, alongside accompanying works.

The quartet have been given exclusive permission from Riley to re-arrange this iconic piece.

The Ligeti Quartet celebrate Riley's contribution to the string quartet canon with a performance of a seminal work, *Cadenza on the Night Plain*, which emerged from his early collaborations with the Kronos Quartet in the 1980s. This partnership became essential to their respective developments and in this piece you can hear the free-wheeling Terry Riley, of extended keyboard improvisations, getting to grips with a form loaded with musical backstory.

Alongside these, they will perform *70 chords for Terry* by Pauline Oliveros, a close contemporary of Riley's, whose approach to listening and improvisation reveals radical new ways of communal music-making.

Terry Riley: *Poppy Nogood* and the Phantom Band, for amplified string quartet for dnb Soundscape arr. by Richard Jones and sound designer Tim Harrison (1969/2024) 22'

Pauline Oliveros: *70 Chords for Terry* (2005) 10'

Justé Janulyté: *Circle for a Square* (1982) 27'

This concert will be presented in D&B Soundscape.



Nouvelles Études

non-amplified

Nouvelles Études (New Studies) is a collection of 14 works by 14 composers for string quartet, each inspired by one of György Ligeti's Études for piano. They were all performed for the first time at the Aldeburgh Festival 2023 to celebrate the centenary of Ligeti's birth.

Now, the Ligeti Quartet are looking to commission and premiere four remaining composers to complete the set of 18 études.

Cassie Kinoshi: (b. 1993) *Désordre: Sampled* 2'-3'

Benoît Delbecq: (b. 1966) *Ushant* 2'

Xiaoyong Chen: (b. 1955) *The blocked and in between: memories of György Ligeti for string quartet* 2'38"

Franghiz Ali-Zadeh: (b. 1947) *Fanfares for Ligeti* 3'35"

Manfred Stahnke: (b. 1951) *9th String Quartet: Fragment* 3'

Ana Sokolović: (b. 1968) *Ungherese (Ghost 3) Part of the Commedia dell'arte* 2'

Mandhira de Saram: (b. 1984) *Chers Amis* 2'30"

Elliot Galvin: (b. 1991) *Hungarian Metal* 2'35"

Silvia Fômina: (b. 1962) *Vertigo: the unsupportable pleasure* 3'

Emily Hazrati: (b. 1998) *György's Apprentice* 2'30"

Sidney Corbett: (b. 1960) *Suspended Disbelief* 2'20"

Nicole Lizée: (b. 1973) *Entreflaques* 2'

Rolf Hind: (b. 1964) *L'Esprit de l'Escalier (d'après no. 13)* 3'

Justé Janulyté: (b. 1982) *Infinite Column* 3'

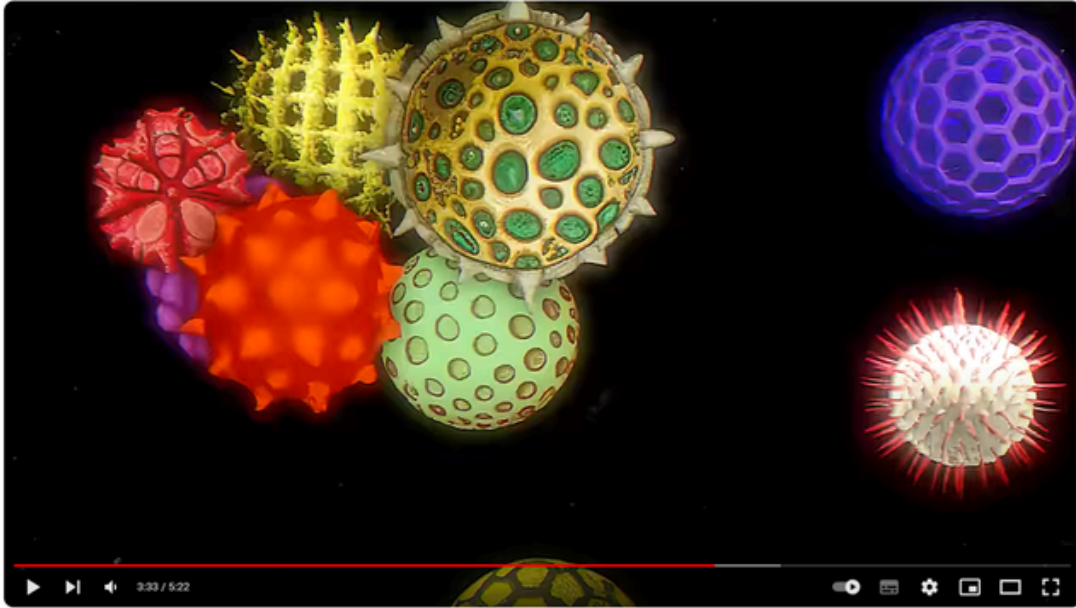
Commissioned by the Ligeti Quartet, with the generous support of Britten Pears Arts, BBC Radio 3, the Vaughan Williams Foundation and Bourgie Hall.

György Ligeti: (b. 1923) *String Quartets No. 1 & 2*



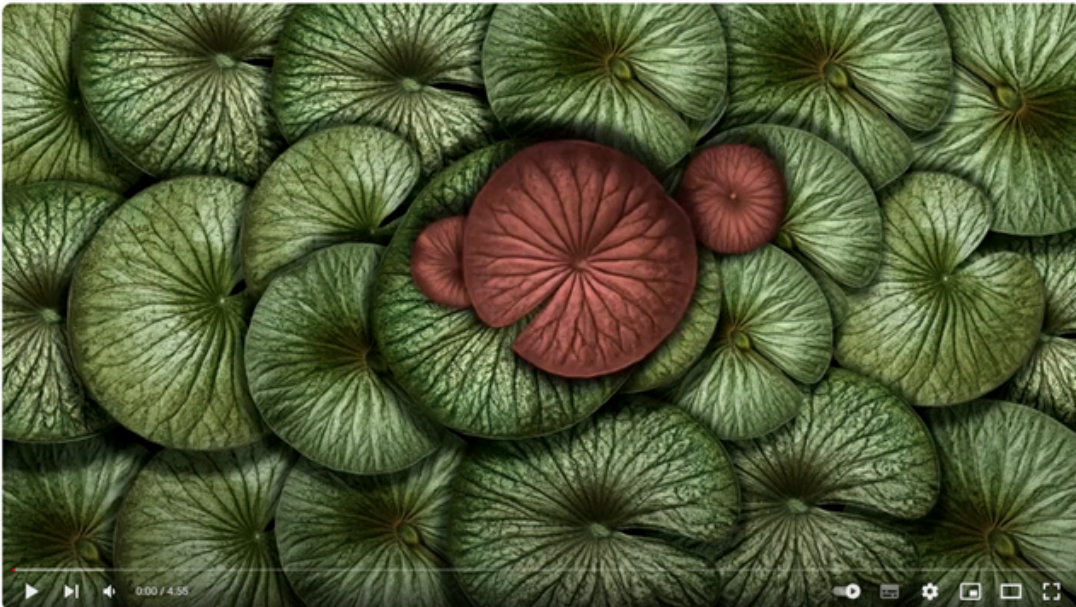
Videos

Ligeti Quartet x Anna Meredith: Tuggemo

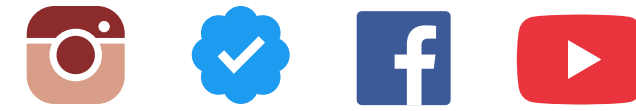


Ligeti Quartet x Anna Meredith - Tuggemo

Ligeti Quartet x Anna Meredith: Nautilus



Ligeti Quartet x Anna Meredith - Nautilus



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