



Ligeti Quartet String Quartet

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Freya Goldmark • violin 1 | Patrick Dawkins • violin 2 | Richard Jones • viola | Val Welbanks • cello

British string quartet 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. This ensemble has been making waves between classical, contemporary and electronic music worldwide in countries including the UK, Canada, United States, China, Colombia, Germany, Denmark and France.

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.

2024 saw the release of a new recording with critically acclaimed mezzo soprano Lotte Betts-Dean and guitarist James Girling, featuring elegies for Hardy and his first wife Emma by composer Arthur Keegan as well as Keegan's arrangements of Hardy settings by Imogen Holst, Benjamin Britten and others. The album was Presto Classical's album of the week on its release.

The quartet's bestselling 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. It was listed as one of The Guardian's top 10 contemporary albums of 2023 and described as "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).

Recent highlights for the ensemble include the US premiere of their latest Anna Meredith album *Nuc* at Bang on a Can Festival in New York City; a tour showcasing electroacoustic music by various composers at the CrossCurrents Festival in Birmingham (UK) paired with the sister location in Bogota, Colombia; and performances at Kings Place, Barbican Centre and Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival alongside concerts in Turkey, Spain, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and the US.

Highlights of the 2025-6 season included 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. The quartet toured to The Hague performing Ligeti, and Nuc, with music from their critically acclaimed album with Anna Meredith, and further to China, collaborating with various emerging composers and performing multiple recitals across the country. Their 2026/27 season includes celebrations for Steve Reich's 90th birthday in collaboration with both the Southbank Centre performing Reich's *Different Trains*, and newly opened Schwarzman Centre in Oxford. The quartet will also perform John Adams' *Absolute Jest* with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Anja Bihlmaier in March 2027.

This ensemble has been a champion of many British awards and national grants through their promotion of new music and community work. They are regular winners of the Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant for projects such as their Nuc album tour and Workout! project initiated during the pandemic in which they workshopped and recorded 100 new pieces by 100 composers from around the world. They have also received awards from the Vaughan Williams Foundation, Hinrichsen Foundation, and Britten-Pears Foundation for new commissions and world premiere performances of works by Robin Haigh, Christian Mason, and Tom Green. Other honours have included the Emerging Excellence Award from the UK Musician's Benevolent Fund, The Felix Foundation Grant, the Tillett Trust Grant, and winners of London's St John Smith's Square Young Artist Scheme.

The Ligeti Quartet are passionate about music teaching, supporting emerging composers, and taking new music to diverse audiences. They have held residencies at the universities of Cambridge (2016-19), Sheffield (2016-20), Goldsmiths, University of London (2018-21), and Nottingham High School (2020-2022). Their educational work has also transpired worldwide with students from Canada's Royal Conservatory of Music at the Glenn Gould School, the University of Montreal, and with annual visits to Copenhagen's Royal Danish Academy of Music. In addition, the UK Arts Council 2019 grant was awarded to the ensemble towards educational work with children with hearing impairment and special education needs.

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