

Ligeti Quartet



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, boundary-pushing contemporary classical programmes, and championing of today's most exciting composers and artists.

The quartet named themselves after the Hungarian composer György Ligeti (1923-2006), inspired by his kaleidoscopic musical outlook and tireless invention. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth they curated the “Ligeti Day” at Aldeburgh Festival during which they performed 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).

The quartet's album *Nuc* (2023, Mercury KX) celebrated Mercury-prize nominated composer Anna Meredith’s music for string quartet, fusing acoustic and electronic tracks in arrangements by the quartet’s viola player Richard Jones, and performed with amplification and bespoke visuals.

The album 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).

Having played at landmark venues around the world including Carnegie Hall, Curtis Institute, Wigmore Hall, Southbank Centre, Barbican Hall, and Kings Place, recent and future highlights include John Adams’ *Absolute Jest* with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Anja Bihlmaier (March 2027); performances at the Rainy Days Festival at the Philharmonie Luxembourg; premieres of works by Anna Meredith in New York (Bang on a Can Festival), Blasio Kavuma and Ben Nobuto (The Barbican); Reich’s *Different Trains* at Kings Place and the Southbank Centre, and performances at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Aldeburgh Festival and the newly opened Schwarzman Centre in Oxford. Tours include Colombia, China, Spain, Denmark, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and the US, showcasing boundary-pushing contemporary and modern classical repertoire, also working with composers and artists including Terry Riley, Shabaka Hutchings and Zubin Kanga.





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'.



Dracula

Cinema screening with live soundtrack

Dracula (1931) with Philip Glass's 1998 String Quartet Score

To mark Philip Glass's 90th birthday in 2027, the Ligeti Quartet perform his 1998 score for Tod Browning's Dracula (1931) live with the film.

Written for string quartet, Glass's music recasts the classic Bela Lugosi film through a contemporary lens, its steady rhythms and subtle harmonic shifts drawing out the film's atmosphere of unease and fascination.

This rare screening with live performance offers a compelling meeting of early cinema and one of the most distinctive musical voices of the late twentieth century.

Duration: 70 mins



Different Trains

amplified

The Ligeti Quartet celebrate 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 Justė Janulytė’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’
- Justė Janulytė:** Circle for a Square (1982) 27’ interval
- Pauline Oliveros:** 70 Chords for Terry (2005) 10’
- Steve Reich:** Different Trains 30’

Alternative repertoire

- Ben Nobuto:** New commission
- Steve Reich:** Triple Quartet (performed with pre-recorded tracks)
- Ana Sokolović:** Commedia dell’arte
- György Kurtág:** String Quartets (100th Birthday year in 2026)
- George Crumb:** Black Angels
- Terry Riley:** Cadenza on the Night Plain



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’

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 Janulytė: (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

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 was 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 created 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’ interval

Pauline Oliveros: 70 Chords for Terry (2005) 10’
Terry Riley: Cadenza on The Night Plain (1983) 30’

This concert will be presented in D&B Soundscape. A one hour programme is also available.



Nature’s Protest

amplified

The quartet present three new pieces from British composer Blasio Kavuma to sit alongside Cassandra Miller’s ‘Warbleworks’, following four thrushes whose songs follow the harmonic series.

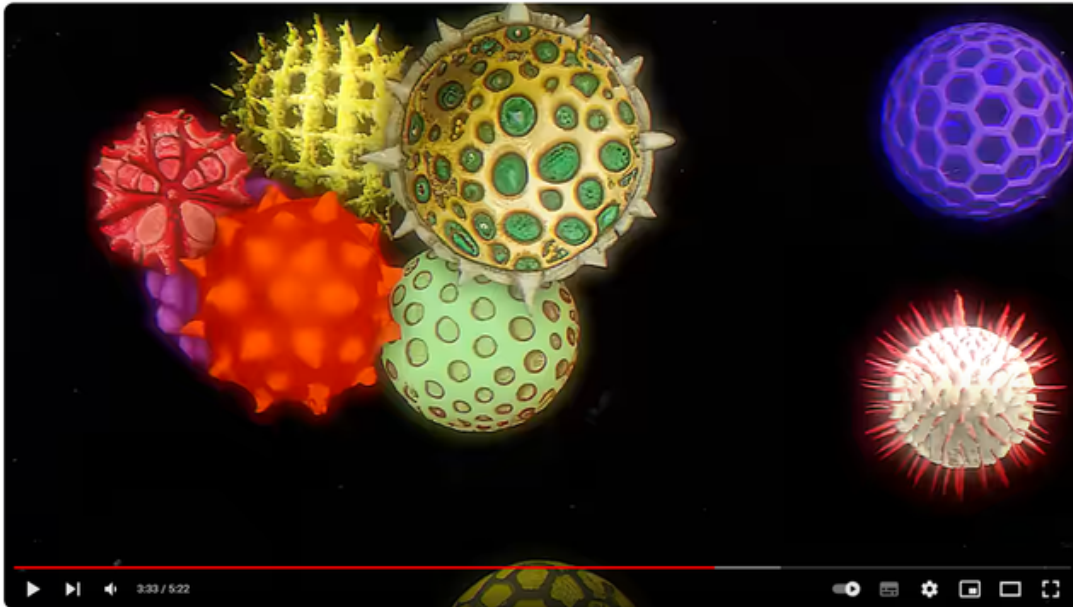
Kaija Saariaho: Nymphéa ‘Jardin secret III’ (1987) 18’
Neal Farwell: String Quartet No. 2, working title ‘Earth Songs’ WP? (2024) 20’ interval
Cassandra Miller: Warblework 1. Swainson’s Thrush 3’
Blasio: commission tbc 4’
Cassandra Miller: - 2. Hermit Thrush 4’
Blasio: commission tbc 4’
Cassandra Miller: - 3. Wood Thrush
Blasio: commission tbc 4’
Cassandra Miller: - 4. Veery
John Luther Adams: The Wind in High Places (2007) 16’
OR
Wadada Leo Smith: String Quartet No. 5 ‘In the Diaspora: Earthquakes and Sunrise Missions’ (2005) 17’
György Kurtág: Rappel des oiseaux
Cassandra Miller: Leaving





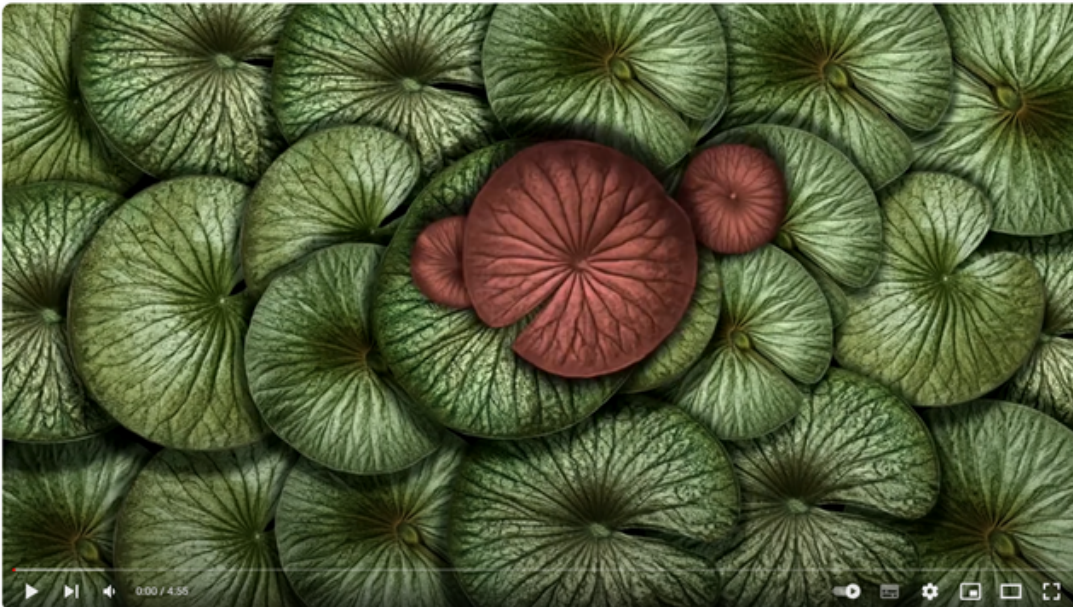
Videos

Ligeti Quartet x Anna Meredith: Tuggemo

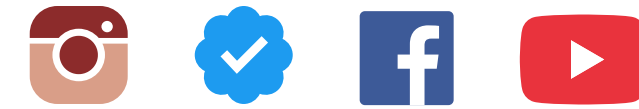


Ligeti Quartet x Anna Meredith - Tuggemo

Ligeti Quartet x Anna Meredith: Nautilus



Ligeti Quartet x Anna Meredith - Nautilus



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