

## Quatuor Diotima

**Yun-Peng Zhao**, violin

**Constance Ronzatti**, violin

**Franck Chevalier**, viola

**Pierre Morlet**, violoncello

The Quatuor Diotima is one of the most in-demand chamber ensembles in the world today; it was formed in 1996 by graduates of the Paris national conservatory (Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris).

The quartet's name evokes a double musical significance: Diotima is at once an allegory of German romanticism - Friederich Hölderlin gives the name to the love of his life in his novel *Hyperion*- and a rallying cry for the music of our time, brandished by Luigi Nono in his composition *Fragmente-Stille, an Diotima*.

The Quatuor Diotima has worked in close collaboration with several of the greatest composers of the late twentieth century, notably Pierre Boulez and Helmut Lachenmann. The quartet regularly commissions new works from the most brilliant composers of our time, including Toshio Hosokawa, Miroslav Srnka, Alberto Posadas, Mauro Lanza, Gérard Pesson, Rebecca Saunders and Tristan Murail.

Reflected in the mirror of today's music, the quartet projects a new light onto the masterpieces of the 19th and 20th centuries, especially Beethoven, Schubert, the Second Viennese School (Schoenberg, Berg and Webern), as well as Janáček, Debussy, Ravel and Bartók.

In the quartet's rich discography one finds, notably, their interpretations of the Second Viennese School (*Naïve*, 2016) and the definitive version of the *Livre pour Quatuor* by Pierre Boulez (on Megadisc). Their recordings are regularly praised and awarded by the international musical press: French magazine *Diapason's* Diapason d'Or (five awards including two Best of the Year), *Classica* (Best of the Year), *Télérama*, Gramophone (Editor's Choice), *The Strad*, and many others.

The Quatuor Diotima has recorded exclusively for the Naïve label for ten years; in 2016 they launched their Diotima Collection for that label, devoted to the works of major composers of our time. The first releases in the collection, devoted to Miroslav Srnka and Alberto Posadas, are to be followed with musical portraits of Gérard Pesson, Enno Poppe and Stefano Gervasoni. In 2019 Quatuor Diotima will record works by Rune Glerup, Tristan Murail and Rebecca Saunders.

Since 2008 The Quatuor Diotima has had a privileged relationship with the Région Centre-Val de Loire, which hosts the quartet in residence. This relationship is also an important laboratory for artistic and pedagogical projects. The Quatuor Diotima has developed a series of quartet concerts in Orléans that brings together a new generation of quartets with established ensembles. At the l'Abbaye de Noirlac, the quartet hosts and teaches master-classes that bring together young composers and quartets from around the world.

The Quatuor Diotima appears regularly in the world's finest halls and concert series. They will perform this season in renowned chamber music series (e.g. Konserthuset Stockholm, Concertgebouw Brugge, Festival Saint Jean de Luz, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, Arras) as well as those devoted to premiers and contemporary music (e.g. GNEM Marseille, Gong Festival Copenhagen, Wien Modern or Transit Leuven). Their debut at Philharmonie Berlin will be followed by many engagements in

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Germany, such as Nürnberg, Stuttgart, Kassel, Hamburg, Schwetzingen, Munich, Duisburg and Hannover.

New works to be premiered this season include those by Eric Tanguy (octet), Enno Poppe (quintet for two violoncelli) and Oscar Bianchi.

The Quatuor Diotima is also regularly invited by the University of York for a series of concerts, chamber music master classes, and to work with student composers.

Autumn of 2018 marked the beginning of a three-year residence as invited artists at Radio France in Paris for the quartet. During the residence period they will perform their habitual repertoire, but will also work with guest musicians in chamber music and rare works for quartet and orchestra, as well as several commissioned works in partnership with other concert series and European radio services. In 2019-2020, the Quatuor Diotima will perform the late string quartets by Ludwig van Beethoven in a series of three concerts.

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*The Quatuor Diotima is a member of the PROFEDIM professional organization.*

*In 2018 Quatuor Diotima was awarded the European Cultural Heritage Award by French Ministry of Culture.*

Saison 2019-2020

<http://quatuordiotima.fr/de/>

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