

# Quatuor Mosaïques

Erich Höbarth  
Andrea Bischof  
Anita Mitterer  
Christophe Coin

The Quatuor Mosaïques  
was founded in 1987.

The three Austrian musicians and the French cellist Christophe Coin got to know each other in Vienna as members of Nikolaus Harnoncourt's Concentus Musicus. With their shared experiences as a starting point, they decided to form a classical string quartet playing on period instruments.

The primary aim was not to create the sort of 'authenticity' that belongs in museums, but rather to ensure in their work a living link to the great European quartet tradition. Hence an essential inspiration for the group was the legendary Végh Quartet, of which Erich Höbarth had been a member for its last three years.

The ultimate objective of each interpretation must be to reveal the inner spiritual wealth of the music:

'In a mosaic, every detail is seen to have been brilliantly thought out, yet the eye is also capable of apprehending the picture as a whole. It is the same with music: you have to work on the details, then you have to create the best possible listening conditions, and get the distance just right so that the listener can see how the elements have been put together, and at the same time get a complete view of the work of art.' (Christophe Coin)

The Quatuor Mosaïques is regularly described as one of the leading string quartets of the present day. This is backed up by its many award-winning performances. The ensemble has received the prestigious Gramophone Award repeatedly for its interpretations of Haydn, for example. The concerts it gives with pianists András Schiff and Patrick Cohen, clarinetists Wolfgang and Sabine Meyer, and cellists Miklós Pérenyi and Raphael Pidoux represent the summit of excellence in chamber performance.

In 2006 the Quatuor was invited to Spain to play the quartet of Stradivari belonging to the Spanish crown. It presented a programme of *Cuartetos* by Arriaga at the Royal Palace in Madrid, which was subsequently recorded on CD.

The Quatuor Mosaïques' very extensive repertoire includes rarely-performed works by Pleyel, Tomasini, Werner, Jadin, Gross, Boëly and others, not forgetting the great names of the classical Viennese repertoire, up to and including Schumann and Brahms. Increasingly it performs works of the early twentieth century, by composers such as Debussy, Bartók and Webern.

The Quatuor's very rich discography includes works by Arriaga, Beethoven, Boccherini, Boëly, Haydn, Jadin, Mendelssohn, Mozart and Schubert.

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## Erich Höbarth

Born in Vienna, Erich Höbarth studied there with Grete Biedermann and Franz Samohyl, then at the Mozarteum in Salzburg with Sándor Végh. He was a member of the celebrated Végh Quartet during its last three years (1978-1980), then concertmaster of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra until 1986. He also belonged to the Vienna String Sextet for the twenty-five years of its existence. In 1981 Erich Höbarth became concertmaster and soloist with Nikolaus Harnoncourt's Concentus Musicus Wien. He is also artistic director of the Camerata Bern, and he teaches (violin and chamber music) in Vienna and Graz. He works regularly with the pianist Andras Schiff.

## Andrea Bischof

Andrea Bischof was born in Vorarlberg and studied in Vienna with Grete Biedermann and Thomas Christian. For twelve years she held the position of Konzertmeisterin and soloist with the Austrian Bach Soloists. She is a permanent member of the Concentus Musicus, directed by Nikolaus Harnoncourt, and she teaches chamber music at the Universität für Musik in Vienna.

## Anita Mitterer

Born in Osttirol, Anita Mitterer studied with Jürgen Geise in Salzburg, Antonin Moravec in Prague and Thomas Christian in Vienna. She is director of the Baroque Ensemble of Salzburg and a permanent member of the Concentus Musicus in Vienna as a violinist (leader of the second violins). She also teaches (violin and viola) at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

## Christophe Coin

Christophe Coin, born in Caen (Normandy), studied in his native city with Jacques Ripoché, then in Paris with André Navarra. He was a pupil of Jordi Savall and subsequently spent several years as a member of Hespèrion XX. As a soloist he is regularly invited to appear with the Concentus Musicus Wien, the Academy of Ancient Music and Il Giardino Armonico. He founded the QUATUOR MOSAÏQUES and is musical director of the Ensemble Baroque de Limoges. Christophe Coin teaches at the Paris Conservatoire and at the Schola Cantorum, Basel (Switzerland). He has given countless concerts all over the world as a soloist.