

Ligeti Quartet

Short bio (233 words)

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 such as the UK, Canada, United States, China, Germany, Denmark, and France.

Highlights for the ensemble in 2024 include the live US premiere of their latest Anna Meredith album Nuc at New York City's Bang on a Can Festival, a tour showcasing electroacoustic music by various composers at the CrossCurrents Festival in Birmingham (UK) paired with the sister location in Bogota, Colombia, and the release of a new recording with critically acclaimed singer Lotte Betts-Dean and guitarist James Girling. The quartet was also selected to represent the UK at Classical Next in May 2024.

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.

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Long bio (643 words)

Freya Goldmark, violin

Patrick Dawkins, violin

Richard Jones, viola

Val Welbanks, cello

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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.

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).

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), and 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.