



Wolfgang Bender, Stefan Häussler • alternating violins

Simone Heilgendorff • viola

Claudius von Wrochem • cello

www.kairosquartett.de

The Berlin-based Kairos Quartet was founded in 1996 and focusses on music of the turn of our century. Landmark compositions since 1950 and world premieres are at the heart of the quartet's activity which also includes samples of the Western musical tradition, that of other cultures (like the Far East), or compositions employing media (electronics, video, speech, or the scene).

The Kairos Quartet takes great care in the selection and combination of pieces, sometimes even curating their own concert series as was the case with "Five Windows onto the String Quartet Since 1950". This concert and talk series took place at the Kulturbrauerei Berlin in 2001/02 and presented composers such as Ferneyhough, Lachenmann, and Lucier.

The Quartet has also developed close professional relationships with many composers of international standing such as Haas (Austria), Estrada (Mexico), Netti (Italy), Newski (Germany/Russia), and Lim (Australia). Through workshops, master classes, and lectures on new music and performance practice the Kairos Quartet reaches out to music students and the general public; these have so far taken place as part of festivals, or in schools of music, in Austria, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Poland, China, Cyprus and Switzerland.

After its successful debut at the Internationale Ferienkurse in Darmstadt 1996 the quartet was invited to numerous international festivals of such different leanings as Ultraschall, MaerzMusik (both in Berlin), Eclat Stuttgart, Huddersfield, Berliner Festwochen, Wien Modern, Salzburger Festspiele, Klangspuren/TransArt, Warsaw Autumn, Ljubliana Festival, Festival d'Automne, and the Festival de Cervantino.

Radio productions and live recordings were made by most major German radio corporations as well as the BBC, DRS, ORF, and RAI.

The quartet's CDs have populated various best-of lists and received the German Record Critic's Award (1/2005). In 2001 it was the first ensemble to become fellows at the Academy Schloss Solitude.

The many artistic partners of the Kairos Quartet include baritone Dietrich Henschel, Mayumi Miyata (sho), the sound poets Valeri Scherstjanoi and Michael Lentz, actress Martina Gedeck, the Schlagquartett Köln, the Vokalsolisten of the SWR, and the musicians of Slowind.

2019/2020 the Kairos Quartet travels to China and Malaysia and performs its debut at Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.

Kairos, the god of the auspicious moment, embodies the subjective concept of Time