

Press Release // 12th May 2013



**7th BORDEAUX INTERNATIONAL
STRING QUARTET COMPETITION (France)**
**amazing quality and German victory:
1st Grand Prix awarded to the Schumann Quartet**

Held for the first time in the brand new Bordeaux Auditorium this year, the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition started on 6th May, with 12 quartets competing (out of the 14 initially selected). At the previous competition, in 2010, 9 Quartets entered the first round.

Their geographical origins were in France's favour (7 Quartets: *Arranoa, Capriccio, Deixis, Ellipse, Girard, Tercea, Varèse*), followed by Germany (2 Quartets: *Schnitzler, Schumann*), the Netherlands (*Dudok Quartet*), Japan (*Soleil Quartet*), and the USA (*Tesla Quartet*).

The 2013 was judged by a panel of international specialists, chaired by French violinist Sylvie Gazeau... also including Hatto Beyerlé (*violinist - founder member of the Alban Berg Quartet*), pianist Christian Ivaldi, Guillaume Sutre (*violinist - founder of the Wanderer Trio and member of the Ysaye Quartet*), Stefan Metz (*cellist, founder of the Orlando Quartet*), Gaëlle Le Gallic (*France Musique*), and Pavel Vernikov (*violinist - founder of the Tchaikovsky Trio - artistic director of the Sion festival*).

Very high standard and four countries in the final

Among the 9 Quartets that competed in the second round, 4 were chosen for the final on Saturday 11th May: the *Ellipse* (France), *Tesla* (USA), *Dudok* (Netherlands), and *Schumann* (Germany) Quartets, to be judged on their interpretation of Mozart (one of the "Prussian" quartets) and the quartet opus 16 by Albéric Magnard.

By a unanimous decision of the jury, the Schumann Quartet, consisting of 3 Schumann brothers and Liisa Randalu, were awarded the 1st Grand Prix.

Following their deliberations, the co-director of the competition, cellist Alain Meunier, commented that: "*this 2013 competition was magnificent, with a very high standard, varied international representation, and consistent artistic quality from start to finish. We are particularly pleased to have welcomed new, emerging Quartets to Bordeaux ... and we are already preparing for the next competition.*"

The Chair of the jury, Sylvie Gazeau, commented on awarding the 1st Grand Prix to the Schumann Quartet... "*It was obvious! An artistic explosion! Four attractive, strong personalities, forming an extraordinary Quartet that impressed the jury throughout the competition. They are ready for a great, long career.*"

1st GRAND PRIX: Schumann Quartet (Germany)

20,000 € - Production of a CD - Concerts in France and Europe

2nd PRIZE: Ellipse Quartet (France) / 10,000 €

20th CENTURY PRIZE / 5000 €: Ellipse Quartet (France) – **Schumann Quartet** (Germany)

PALAZZETTO BRU-ZANE PRIZE: Ellipse Quartet (France) (+ concert in Venice)

3,000 € for the best performance of Albéric Magnard's quartet opus 16

"JEUNESSES MUSICALES DEUTSCHLAND" PRIZE: Dudok Quartet (Netherlands)

Free participation in the chamber music campus of the International Jeunesses Musicales 4-15 September 2013

PRIZE "INTERNATIONALE SOMMER-AKADEMIE FÜR KAMMERMUSIK NIEDERSACHSEN" 3 weeks of Master Class

Tesla Quartet –Capriccio Quartet –Girard Quartet –Soleil Quartet

www.quatuorbordeaux.com

Schumann Quartet

Erik Schumann, violin
Ken Schumann, violin

Liisa Randalu, viola
Mark Schumann, cello



Founded in Cologne in 2007, the Schumann Quartet is composed of the brothers Erik, Ken (violin) and Mark Schumann (cello), along with violist Liisa Randalu. The Quartet won 1st Prize at the Eighth Competition “SCHUBERT AND MODERN MUSIC” (Graz, Austria, 2012). Likewise they were among the prizewinners at the renowned Paolo Borciani Competition (2011) and at the 7th International Chamber Music Competition in Osaka (2011).

The Schumann Quartet’s choice of name not only pays homage to the great 19th-century composer, but mainly alludes to the three Schumann siblings’ family name.

All four musicians are currently studying under the guidance of Harald Schoneweg (a former member of the Cherubini Quartet) at Cologne Musikhochschule, and with Günter Pichler (the Alban Berg Quartet’s former leader) at the Queen Sofia College of Music, Madrid.

They also continue to receive valuable instruction from Heime Müller, Eberhard Feltz, Henk Guittart and the members of Alban Berg Quartet.

The ensemble is currently supported by scholarships from Villa Musica Rheinland-Pfalz (Mainz) and the Irene Steels-Wilsing Foundation, and was previously selected for a grant by the Werner Richard / Dr. Carl Dörken Foundation.

Ever since the 2009/10 season, the Schumann Quartet has enjoyed the status of Artist in Residence in the “Erstklassik” recital series held in Düsseldorf’s Robert Schumann Auditorium. They are also a welcome, often-invited guest in other concert halls of their home region North Rhine Westphalia, such as the Beethovenhaus in Bonn. Also the quartet goes regularly on tour to Japan, Canada, Austria and Italy.

They have teamed up with chamber music partners such as pianist Henri Sigfridsson, oboist Ramón Ortega Quero, clarinetist David Orlowsky, cellist Nicolas Altstaedt and pianist Cédric Pesca.

WDR Classical Radio (Cologne) has recorded the Schumann Quartet several times – most recently in January 2013, with a live concert broadcast of works by Mozart and Verdi, along with the 3rd String Quartet by recently deceased Düsseldorf composer Jürg Baur.

Released in April 2013, the Schumann Quartet’s début CD features works by Beethoven, Bartók and Brahms.

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www.schumannquartett.de

QUARTETS IN BORDEAUX / INTERNATIONAL STRING QUARTET COMPETITION

Directors: Bernard Lummeaux and Alain Meunier

Press Contacts: Canal Com / Noëlle Arnault – Julia Lagoardette

☎ +33 (0) 556 797 053 ✉ agence@canal-com.eu – visuals can be downloaded at: canal-com.eu