

MAXWELL QUARTET



"Take note of the Maxwell Quartet – they bring wit, charisma and a sense of adventure to their programmes"

The New York Times

"This music had a mystery, delicacy, and depth that made you want to hear it again instantly"

The Observer

"The Maxwells are four young, burly, bearded Scotsmen, with tastes both for Haydn and for the Scottish fiddle tradition. To judge by what I hear here, they are among the best Haydn quartets now playing anywhere."

American Record Guide

"A young ensemble whose fresh, unaffected playing marries technical brilliance with an authentically Haydnesque joie de vivre"

Gramophone



ABOUT

COLIN SCOBIE | VIOLIN GEORGE SMITH | VIOLIN ELLIOTT PERKS | VIOLA DUNCAN STRACHAN | CELLO

1st Prizewinner and Audience Prizewinner at the 9th Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition in 2017, and hailed as "brilliantly fresh, unexpected and exhilarating" by The Scottish Herald, and "superb storytelling by four great communicators" by The Strad Magazine, the Maxwell Quartet is now firmly regarded as one of Britain's finest young string quartets, with a strong connection to their folk music heritage and a commitment to bringing together wide-ranging projects and programmes to expand the string quartet repertoire.

The quartet performs regularly across the UK and abroad, at venues including London's Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, Queen's Hall, Perth Concert Hall. After its success at Trondheim in 2017, the quartet has toured widely across Europe, with performances in France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and Portugal, including at Tivoli Concert Hall, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, Stavanger, Schiermonnikoog, Wonderfeel Festivals, Lammermuir Festival, Fjord Classics, Cheltenham, St Magnus, and many other festivals across Europe.

The Maxwells' debut tour of the USA in January 2019 garnered critical acclaim from the New York Times ("eloquent performers who bring the same sense of charisma and sense of adventure to their programming"), and saw the group performing to sold out venues in New York, Florida, California and Washington. Their USA Tour in 2020 spans three months and sees them performing in over 30 states, with performances at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and a residency at Music in The Vineyards Festival in Napa, CA. The quartets collaborators have included the Danish String Quartet, composer/clarinettist Mark Simpson, pianist Benjamin Grosvenor, and composer/electronic musician Anna Meredith. The Quartet's debut CD on Linn Records, released in March 2019 and featuring string quartets by Haydn alongside the quartet's own compositions based on Scottish traditional folk music, received unanimously glowing reviews from international press.

The Quartet is formed of four close friends, who grew up playing folk and classical music together in youth orchestras and music schools across Scotland. The group officially began in 2010 at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where its founding members

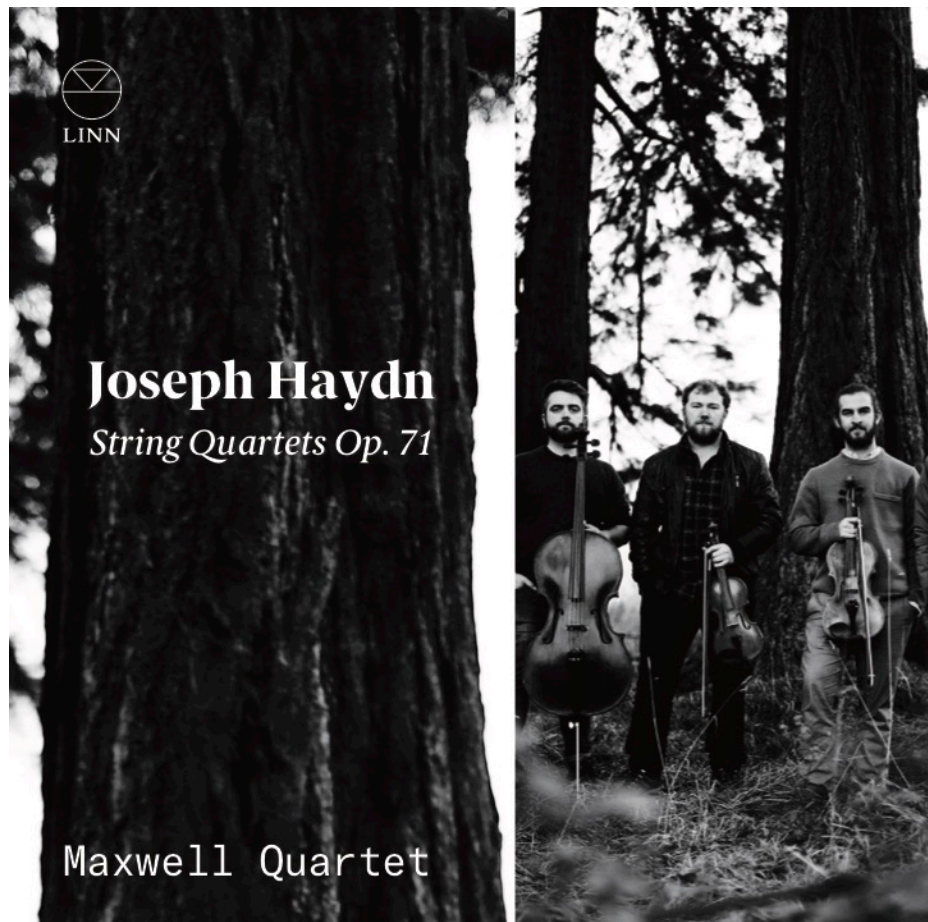
met as postgraduate students. In 2011, the Maxwell Quartet was named as Residency Artists for Enterprise Music Scotland 2011-2013, which saw several acclaimed concert tours over their two-year tenure. Performing widely across Scotland, the quartet established a reputation for delighting audiences with their "unaffected enthusiasm" (North Highland Times) and their "panache and conviction" (Strathearn Herald). The quartet has since held residencies at Oxford University, Perth Concert Hall and many chamber music festivals across the UK, including their own festival *Loch Shiel* in the west highlands of Scotland, and a new self-curated concert series at *Guardswell Farm* in Perthshire. The quartet currently holds the position of Associate Artist at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, and at Music at Paxton Festival in the Scottish Borders.

Passionate about collaborating with musicians and other artforms, the quartet has worked with a global roster of artists and institutions including theatre company Cryptic, installation artists Wintour's Leap, the Royal Ballet School, soul duo Lunir, folk duo Chris Stout & Catriona MacKay, cinematographer Herman Kolgen, and many more. In addition to a busy concert diary, the quartet regularly feature in broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio Scotland, as well as regularly giving schools workshops and concerts for children.

The Maxwell Quartet has studied with the Endellion Quartet through a Chamber Studio mentorship programme at King's Place, and privately with Hatto Beyerle, founding member of the Alban Berg Quartet, in Hanover, Germany. Other mentors have included Miguel da Silva (Quatuor Ysaye), Erich Hobarth (Quatuor Mosaiques), Krzysztof Chorzelski (Belcea Quartet), Donald Grant (Elias) and Alasdair Tait.

The quartet plays on two fine Italian violins, by Castello and Calcanius, generously loaned to them from the Harrison Frank Foundation; a J.B Vuillaume viola, and a Francesco Ruggieri cello, both on loan from generous benefactors.

Album: Joseph Haydn String Quartets Op. 71 (2019, LINN/OUTHERE)



- Apple Music: *Top 10 Classical Albums You Must Hear This Month* (Apr 2019)
- France Musique "*Disque du Semaine*" (Mar 2019)
- BBC Radio 3 Record Review *Disc of the Week* (Mar 2019)
- BBC Radio Scotland Classics Unwrapped *Disc of the Week* (Apr 2019)
- Amazon Classical Specialist Chart #3 (Mar 2019)
- Amazon Classical Artist Chart #21 (Mar 2019)
- Classic FM Chart #30 (Mar 2019)

International Praise for Haydn: String Quartets Op. 71

Recording of the Year: '... letting this superb playing simply wash over you has been one of the year's great pleasures.'

MusicWeb International

'Together they give us an interpretation of these three quartets that Haydn would surely applaud.'

My Classical Notes

"Between Haydn's music we get fine, Scottish folk music with the same warmth and focused sound with lots of details."

Politiken

'Alternating classical quartets with traditional Scottish numbers, it sparkles with conviviality and palpable enjoyment of the music...With crisp articulation, well-judged tempos and a clear, open recorded sound, there is much to enjoy here.'

The Strad

'The players emphasize the music's broad gestures and its technical brilliance. The playing is energetic and accurate throughout...'

★★★★★

All Music

'The playing is quite beautiful...Listening to this I guess I will come to associate these quartets with Scottish folk music. But I'm keeping it for the winsome playing in Haydn.'

American Record Guide

'...a young ensemble whose fresh, unaffected playing marries technical brilliance with an authentically Haydnesque joie de vivre.'

Gramophone

'The Maxwell Quartet combines the three Haydn Quartets from his op. 71 with folk songs from their home country Scotland. The performers give their playing a very classical and relaxed atmospheric character.'

★★★★★

Pizzicato

'...an expression of true Haydn joy. And that's really contagious.'



RBB Kulturradio

'...this is a recommendable performance of the Op.71 quartets with that of Op.71 No.2 standing out from the crowd...And nobody should miss out on their intensely beautiful epilogue, the lament, Griogal Cridhe.'

MusicWeb International

CD of the Day: 'With this first recording, these four young Scots set the bar high. Inventiveness, rhythmic energy and irreproachable intonation...'

France Musique

'His String Quartets Op 71 of 1793 are witty, skilful, and bursting with an energy that Scotland's Maxwell Quartet capture to the full.'

The Observer

'The Maxwell Quartet engages in a youthful version, full of grace and spirit.'

ResMusica

'The Maxwell Quartet offers a balanced reading, both tinged with energy and breathing space...The story echoes the Scottish inspirations that sometimes also crossed the work of the great master.'

La Libre Belgique

'Their Haydn should be enough to earn a recommendation on its own, but interspersed with Scottish tunes it points up Haydn's way with folk tunes and rhythms and ends with the timeless beauty of Lady MacGregor's Lament.'

BBC Radio 3 'Record Review'

'In these three quartets what dominates is elegance, virtuosity and the brilliance of inspiration...A beautiful CD of chamber music which will delight fans of the genre.'

Espace Livres

Album: Joseph Haydn String Quartets Op 74/Folk music from Scotland (2021)



- Number 6 Classical Specialist Chart (January 2021)
- CD of the week BBC Radio Scotland
- Album of the Year (Fanfare)
- Five Stars, BBC Music Magazine

International Praise for Haydn: String Quartets Op. 74

'Maxwell Quartet's Haydn is my kind of Haydn. It's smartly and sharply executed, tongue-in-cheek droll, perky, playful, and puckish in the Allegros and Vivaces, archly coy in the Menuettos, and touching but not sentimental in the Andantes and Adagios.'

Fanfare

'From the first listening, their proposal is striking for its remarkable cohesion and compactness, combined with a very luminous and brilliant timbre, as well as a balanced overall vision.'



Musica

'Their Haydn sounds fresh, dynamic and spirited, and in the concluding "Rider" Quartet they almost let the horses run wild. The CD proves that classical music and folklore, played with such passion and virtuosity, go wonderfully together.'

Sächsische Zeitung Dresden

'The Maxwell Quartet uses a wide palette of colours ... and relies entirely on the natural flow of the music.'



Fono Forum

'To judge by what I hear here, they are among the best Haydn quartets now playing anywhere.'

American Record Guide

'The Maxwell Quartet, with its agile and distinctive style of playing, with astonishing precision and transparency... reveals its own roots.'

OE1

'The Maxwell's Haydn is broad, energetic, and technically brilliant.'



All Music

'The sunny and robust playing rooted in the ground alludes to dance and suggests a remarkable stage presence.'

Classica

'Their Haydn is dazzlingly fresh, served by a perfect clarity of the discourse.'



L'Echo

'Their new album, built around "papa Haydn", is a resounding success.'

La Voix du Nord

'The three Op. 74 quartets ... are wonderfully inventive and original, and the Maxwell Quartet plays them with infectious enthusiasm throughout. Altogether irresistible.'



BBC Music Magazine

'For all those who enjoyed the Maxwell Quartet's widely acclaimed 2019 debut album ... it's time to celebrate, because the follow-up is just as good.'

The Strad

'We are grateful to the musicians for giving a meticulous, sympathetic and lively account of this late set.'

La Libre Belgique

'Haydn is experiencing a renaissance through ensembles of the younger generation.'



WDR 3

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WDR 3

'The Maxwell Quartet: keep this name in mind ... it won't cease to be talked about.'



MAD, Le Soir

'... the Maxwell Quartet respond eagerly to the boldness and brilliance of these predominantly extrovert works.'

Gramophone

'The playing and recording techniques are of exquisite class, and the overall communication is phenomenally coherent with cult potential.'

Neue Musik Zeitung

'This Scottish ensemble shows all the originality and subtlety of Haydn's music, especially in the dance movements. They juxtapose familiar elements so amazingly that something completely unexpected emerges.'

SWR2

'The Scottish songs, of great beauty, quickly turn from wistfulness to dance, this is an experience not to be missed.'

Musikzen

'The Scottish ensemble displays fine instrumental skills, enhanced by an airy and unaffected sound recording.'



Diapason

CD of the Week: 'They don't take genre boundaries that seriously and always play with full dedication. But make no mistake, the gentlemen make serious music ...'

NPO Radio 4

'Even without the folk injections this album would remain remarkable for the joy and energy of these Scottish musicians, ideal interpreters of Haydn's mischievous jokes, sudden mood swings and lyrical ingenuity.'



The Times



Live History

UK Promoters (abridged)

Perth Concert Hall
Wigmore Hall
Queen's Hall
Purcell Room
The Shipwright
Kettle's Yard
Holywell Music Room
Edinburgh International Festival
Banstead Arts Festival
Perth Chamber Music
Westbourne Music
Inverurie Music
Music Inverness
St Magnus Festival
Lammermuir Festival
The Sage Gateshead
Osprey Music Society
Dundee Chamber Music
St James' Guernsey

St John's Smith Square
St Martin-in-the-fields
Cheltenham Festival
Cryptic Theatre/Sonica Festival
North Norfolk Music Festival
Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh
Ryedale Festival
Beverley Festival
Newbury Spring Festival
Sound Festival
Haddo Arts Festival
Milngavie Music Club
Aberdeen Performing Arts
Aberdeen Chamber Music
Nairn Chamber Music
Tonbridge Arts
Music at Paxton Festival
Manchester Chamber Music Society

Europe and the USA (abridged)

Trondheim Kammermusikkfestival (NOR)
Stavanger Kammermusikk Festival (NOR)
Amsterdam String Quartet Biennale (NED)
Festival Wonderfeel (NED)
Festival Schiermonnikoog (NED)
Rheingau Festival (GER)

Schneider Concerts (NY)
Athenaeum Arts La Jolla (CA)
Palm Springs Concert Association (CA)
Lodi Music (CA)
Borrego Springs Concerts (CA)
Camerata Musica Pasco (WA)
St Martin's Abbey (WA)
Bay Chamber Festival (ME)
Ponca City Concert Association (OK)
Los Gatos Concerts (NM)
Santa Barbara Museum of Art (CA)
Cedar City Music Arts Association (UT)
Trinity Episcopal Church Concert Series, Watertown (NY)
Beaux Arts Chamber Music Series (FL)
Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach (FL)
Indian Wells Valley Concert Association (CA)
Summer Music from Greensboro (VT)
Kendal at Hanover Series (NH)
Del Norte Curry Community Concert Association (CA)

Just Classik Festival (FRA)
Festspillene Helgeland (NOR)
House17 Festival (LUX)
Schouwburg Hall, Leuven (BEL)
Messina Town Hall (ITA)

Colorado River Concert Association (AZ)
Shoshone County Community Concert Association (ID)
Community Concert Association of Morgan City (LA)
Minot International Artists Series (ND)
Carlsbad Community Concert Association (NM)
Grant County Concert Association (NM)
Coos County Community Concert Association (OR)
Josephine County Community Concert Association (OR)
Sioux Falls Concert Association (SD)
Aberdeen Community Concert Association (SD)
Harlingen Concert Association (TX)
Tyler Concert Series (TX)
Everett Civic Music (WA)
Central Basin Community Concert Association (WA)
Mason County Concert Association (WA)
Lander Community Concert Association (WY)
Charleston Chamber Music Society (WV)
Westminster Canterbury, Richmond (VA)
Rockefeller University (NY)
Los Alamos Concert Association (NM)
Vilar Performing Arts Center, Beaver Creek (CO)

Live Reviews

New York Times

"striking arrangements of folk music... As Sunday's eloquent performance demonstrated, the players bring the same charisma and sense of adventure to their selections. The slightly tart, resinous sound of traditional fiddle playing carried over beautifully into fresh readings of Haydn and into the Beethoven. But perhaps the most arresting moment was James MacMillan's "Memento" from 1994, in which wisps of a melody floated on hazy harmonies and coalesced into heaving sighs before dissolving again into ghostly strains, rendered with a kind of fierce tenderness. CORINNA da FONSECA-WOLLHEIM

France Musique

"With this first recording, these four young Scots set the bar high. Inventiveness, rhythmic energy and irreproachable intonation in a programme conceived around the three Op. 71 Quartets" RODOLPHE BRUNEAU-BOULMIER

The Observer

"After each of the three quartets, the Maxwells add some evocative Scottish folk tunes, providing gentle, wistful punctuations between Haydn's essays, beautifully serene" NICHOLAS KENYON

BBC Radio 3

"Because they play the music as though they've known it all their lives, it seems to make perfect sense. Their Haydn should be enough to earn a recommendation on its own, but interspersed with Scottish tunes it points up Haydn's way with folk tunes and rhythms and ends with the timeless beauty of Lady MacGregor's Lament" ANDREW MCGREGOR

The Scottish Herald

"The Maxwells were brilliant in Nielsen's First Quartet... as too was their Shostakovich 10, where they caught the confidentiality of the music by scarcely letting it raise its voice"

"Brilliantly fresh, unexpected and exhilarating... an enlightening and enthralling musical experience" MICHAEL TUMELTY

The Guardian

"Very fine performances from the Maxwell Quartet... a clear and impassioned reading alive to the score's delicate lyricism and need for control" GUY DAMMAN

The Telegraph

"Affectionate and warm... the quartet shone in their hands... a persuasive advocacy" IVAN HEWETT

The Scotsman

"Succinct and beautifully crafted, it felt like every note mattered in the Maxwells' thoughtful performance...an explosive performance"

"Philip Glass' String Quartet No. 2 was brought alive by the visceral rhythmic playing of the Maxwell Quartet" KEN WALTON



S022-2023 Season Schedule

Collaborative pianists include:

Awadagin Pratt

Isata Kanneh-Mason

Alasdair Beatson

01 JUL 22 Rheingau Festival (GER)

02-10 JUL 22 Festspillene Helgeland (NOR)

17-20 JUL 22 Ryedale Festival (UK)

21 JUL 22 Edinburgh Pianodrome (UK)

22-24 JUL 22 Music at Paxton (UK)

07-15 AUG 22 Music in the Vineyards CA (USA)

15-22 AUG 22 Bay Chamber Festival ME (USA)

24-26 SEP 22 Margrafler Festival (GER)

28-30 SEP 22 Beverley Festival (UK)

10-14 OCT 22 Haddo Arts festival (UK)

22 OCT 22 Bollington Arts Club (UK)

30 OCT 22 Sound Festival (UK)

06 NOV 22 Mobile Chamber Music Society (USA)

10 NOV 22 Armstrong Auditorium, Edmond OK (USA)

11-13 NOV 22 Chamber Music Tulsa (USA)

16 NOV 22 Muziekgebouw Amsterdam (NED)

20 NOV 22 Blokzijl Musik (NED)

02 DEC 22 Halifax Concert Society (UK)

06 JAN 23 Edmonton Chamber Music Society (CAN)

08-09 JAN 23 Calgary ProMusica (CAN)

14 JAN 23 St Martin's Abbey Lacey (USA)

15 JAN 23 University of Oregon (USA)

19 JAN 23 Mesa Arts Centre AZ (USA)

22 JAN 23 Music at Kohl Mansion (USA)

27 JAN 23 Queen Elizabeth Hall (UK)

31 JAN 23 Konzerthaus Dortmund (GER)

S022-23 Repertoire

Henry Purcell, *Fantasias*

Benjamin Britten, *String Quartet no. 2*

Eleanor Alberga, *String Quartet No. 2*

Caroline Shaw, *Punctum*

Eleanor Alberga, *Piano Quintet "Clouds"*

James MacMillan, *We Are Collective (commissioned for the Maxwell Quartet)*

Joseph Haydn, *Op 77 Quartets*

Johannes Brahms, *String Quartet no 3 Op 67*

Maxwell Quartet, *"Gather"*

Historic Scottish folk music, arranged by the Maxwell Quartet

Maxwell Quartet *"Worksongs"*

New compositions by the Maxwell Quartet based on the music of the historic industries of Scotland





CONTACT

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