

MAXWELL QUARTET

BIOGRAPHIES FOR PRESS/PUBLICITY

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LONG BIOGRAPHY (700 WORDS)

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 Edinburgh, and Perth Concert Hall. The quartet has toured widely across Europe, with performances in France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and Portugal, including at Rheingau Festival, Tivoli Copenhagen, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, Stavanger Kammermusikkfestival, Just Classik Festival, Wonderfeel Festival, Lammermuir Festival, Cheltenham, St Magnus, and many more.

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. In 2020, the quartet undertook a 35-date tour of the United States. The quartet’s collaborators have included the Danish String Quartet, Calidore Quartet, pianist Imogen Cooper, clarinetist Kari Krikku, baritone Roderick Williams, and folk duo Chris Stout & Catriona McKay. They have performed premieres of newly-commissioned works by composers including Anna Meredith, Eleanor Alberga, and Sir James MacMillan. 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, and reached number 3 in the classical specialist charts. In 2021, the follow-up album Haydn String Quartets Op 74 / Folk Music from Scotland received widespread critical acclaim and reached number 6 in the classical specialist chart, as well as being selected as one of Apple Music’s “10 Best Albums of the Month (Classical)”.

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), and Krzysztof Chorzelski (Belcea Quartet).

The quartet plays on violins by David Tecchler and Giovanni Batista Rogeri, a viola by J.B Vuillaume, and a cello by Francesco Ruggieri, all on loan from generous benefactors. Additionally they perform on modern instruments by British makers Roger Hansell, John Dilworth, and David Rattray.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (300 WORDS)

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 Scottish folk music heritage and a commitment to the string quartet repertoire. The Quartet's ongoing series of recordings with Linn Records, featuring string quartets by Joseph Haydn alongside MQ's unique transcriptions of Scottish traditional folk music, has received widespread critical acclaim ("To judge by what I hear here, they are among the best Haydn quartets playing anywhere" American Record Guide), with Op 71 and Op 74 both reaching Number 3 in the Classical Specialist Charts, and selected as a Recording of the Year by MusicWeb International.

The quartet has a busy international touring schedule, with performances at venues including London's Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall London, Queen's Hall Edinburgh, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Dortmund, and at many major chamber music festivals including Rheingau, SQB Amsterdam, Stavanger & Trondheim Festivals in Norway, and many more. They have also performed in over 40 states in the USA and Canada, to critical acclaim from the New York Times ("eloquent performers who bring the same sense of charisma and sense of adventure to their programming"), and in 2020 the quartet was honoured to be the only non-US quartet to be invited by the Guarneri Quartet to perform at a 50th anniversary celebration of the Guarneri's career at the New York Metropolitan Museum. Known for their collaborative abilities, MQ has worked with leading musicians including pianists Imogen Cooper, Conrad Tao, and Benjamin Grosvenor; clarinetist Kari Krikku, baritone Roderick Williams, and string quartets including Danish and Calidore Quartets. MQ has also been honoured to perform new commissions by composers including Anna Meredith, Eleanor Alberga and Sir James MacMillan.