

## Wigmore Society Annual Concert A celebration of legacy giving

### Leonkoro Quartet

Jonathan Schwarz violin  
Amelie Wallner violin  
Mayu Konoé viola  
Lukas Schwarz cello

**Erwin Schulhoff** (1894-1942) 5 Pieces for String Quartet (1923)  
*Alla Valse viennese • Alla Serenata • Alla Czeca •  
Alla Tango milonga • Alla Tarantella*

**Maurice Ravel** (1875-1937) String Quartet in F (1902-3)  
*I. Allegro moderato, très doux • II. Assez vif, très rythmé •  
III. Très lent • IV. Vif et agité*

Following the concert, please join us for a light lunch in the Restaurant.

This concert is in honour of all those who have pledged a legacy to Wigmore Hall in their Will. We pay tribute to everyone in the Wigmore Society and remember with gratitude our donors whose gifts were realised recently. These legacy gifts are transformational; they provide a solid foundation to support emerging talent, and innovative artistic and Learning plans long into the future.

*Wigmore Hall is a no smoking venue. No recording or photographic equipment may be taken into the auditorium nor used in any other part of the Hall without the prior written permission of the management.*

*In accordance with the requirements of City of Westminster persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to sit in any other gangways. If standing is permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating, it shall be limited to the number indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.*

*Disabled Access and Facilities - full details from 020 7935 2141.*

*Wigmore Hall is equipped with a 'Loop' to help hearing aid users receive clear sound without background noise. Patrons can use this facility by switching hearing aids to 'T'.*



*Please ensure that watch alarms, mobile phones and any other electrical devices which can become audible are switched off. Phones on a vibrate setting can still be heard, please switch off.*

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## Leonkoro Quartet

'The Leonkoro Quartet [...] possesses an extraordinary stage presence, radiates a fervor for music, embraces full artistic risk, and astounds through their profound sensitivity towards the unique sonority of each piece [...]

The Leonkoro Quartet, founded in Berlin in 2019, can hardly be described more aptly than in the above review published in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* in January 2022.

The ensemble is framed by the brothers Jonathan and Lukas Schwarz on first violin and cello, while the middle voices are formed by Amelie Wallner on second violin and Mayu Konoe on viola. Leonkoro, in Esperanto, means Lionheart, and not coincidentally alludes to Astrid Lindgren's children's book about two brothers (*The Brothers Lionheart*); the story juxtaposes the grave reality of death with a large and heartfelt yearning for comfort and solace - a sentiment that string quartet repertoire addresses in several instances.

In 2022, the Leonkoro Quartet garnered a series of prestigious accolades, solidifying its place among the most celebrated ensembles of its generation. In March, the musicians were bestowed with the highly prestigious Jürgen Ponto Foundation Music Prize, a biennial award recognising outstanding string quartets. Subsequently, the quartet triumphed at the International String Quartet Competition held at London's Wigmore Hall, earning First Prize and a collection of nine special awards.

Continuing its triumphant journey, the quartet seized the top honours - First Prize - at the Concours International de Quatuor à Cordes de Bordeaux in May. Its exceptional performances not only impressed the esteemed jury but also captivated the audience, resulting in the quartet receiving both the Audience Prize and the Young Audience Prize. Shortly thereafter, the group was invited to join the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists Scheme, in which it will participate until 2024.

November 2022 witnessed yet another remarkable achievement for the quartet when it was given the Merito String Quartet Award. Unlike conventional competitions, this award recognizes selected quartets over a year, as they are observed by a panel of renowned string quartet musicians. The Leonkoro Quartet's exceptional musicianship and talent were duly acknowledged, and it will be supported by the Merito String Instruments Trust for four years including a composition commission.

Alongside their academic pursuits in chamber music under the tutelage of Heime Müller (Artemis Quartet) at the Musikhochschule Lübeck, the members have been studying with Günter Pichler (Alban Berg Quartet) at the Chamber Music Institute of the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía Madrid since 2020. Notable mentors of the ensemble include Eckart Runge and Gregor Sigl (Artemis Quartet), as well as pianist Alfred Brendel, with whom the Leonkoro Quartet maintains a regular collaboration.

In Autumn 2023, the quartet will release its highly anticipated debut album, featuring Ravel's String Quartet and Schumann's Third Quartet, on the Mirare label.

In the 2023/2024 season, the Leonkoro Quartet will make debuts at the Berlin Philharmonie, the Kölner Philharmonie, the Flagey Brussels, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Konzerthaus Wien, to name a few, and will appear at renowned festivals such as the Rheingau Music Festival, the String Quartet Biennale Paris and the Heidelberger Frühling. Furthermore, the quartet continues its residency in Leeds.

The Leonkoro Quartet represents Pirastro as Pirastro Artists and serves as Henle App Ambassadors.

Jonathan Schwarz's sound is brought to life by a Cremonese violin by Girolamo Amati II (1696) generously loaned to him by Emmanuel Jaeger through ProQuartet. Amelie Wallner plays a Vincenzo Postiglione violin, generously provided by a private donor. Mayu Konoe and Lukas Schwarz play privately owned instruments.