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**ARMIDA QUARTET**

**Martin Funda, violin**  
**Johanna Staemmler violin**  
**Teresa Schwamm viola**  
**Peter-Philipp Staemmler cello**

**2018/19 season**

Winning the ARD International Competition in 2012 (also sweeping all other prizes including the audience prize) propelled the Armida Quartet on to the international concert platform. 2018 saw the Quartet make their USA debut. In 2017 they Quartet completed a season as ECHO (European Concert Hall Organisation) "Rising Stars" as their fourth disc was released. In 2016 they participated for two seasons on the BBC New Generation Artists Scheme, during which the Armida Quartet gave its' BBC Proms debut and celebrated its' tenth anniversary.

Founded in Berlin in 2006, the Armida Quartet took its' name from a Haydn opera, the "father of the string quartet". They have studied with members of the Artemis Quartet and Rainer Schmidt (Hagen Quartet), also drawing musical inspiration from Alfred Brendel, Reinhard Goebel, Eberhard Feltz, Walter Levin, Natalia Prischepenko and Tabea Zimmermann. The quartet has participated in masterclasses with the Arditti, Alban Berg and Guarneri Quartets.

The 2018/19 season sees the quartet as guest artists at the Mecklenberg Vorpommern Festival where they will premiere and perform a new quintet by pianist Kit Armstrong. Other artists they will collaborate with include Daniel Müller-Schott and the Modigliani Quartet. They return to Amsterdam's Robeco series. During the main season the quartet perform across Europe with concerts in Luxembourg, Bonn, Cologne, Trento, Nottingham, Lakeside Arts. They make a return tour to the USA in Spring 2019. They are Artists in Residence with the Duisburg Philharmonic. As well as chamber concerts, they will perform Daniel Schnyder's concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra.

2017/18 season highlights included their USA debut tour with performances in New York City and Boston. In a collaborative project with Martin Fröst they performed in Barcelona, and with Jörg Widmann in Leipzig and Gent, and joined the Modigliani Quartet in Vienna's Konzerthaus, Berlin's Philharmonie, Hannover and Hamburg.



As ECHO "Rising Stars", nominated by Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie the Quartet performed in no less than 22 of Europe's major concert halls including Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Baden-Baden, Barcelona, Birmingham, Budapest, Brussels, Philharmonie Cologne, Dortmund, Hamburg, Lisbon, London, Luxembourg, Cité de la Musique Paris, Stockholm and Vienna's Konzerthaus. On their programme they premiered a new quartet by Marko Nikodijevic.

The ensemble's debut CD for CAVi in 2013, featuring works by Béla Bartók, György Ligeti and György Kurtág, was selected by the German Record Critics' Award for its critics' choice list. Celebrating its' 10th anniversary in 2016 their second disc of Mozart quartets won equally high praise. Their next disc of Beethoven and Shostakovich has been followed by a highly praised fourth disc of fugues "Fuga Magna", released in 2017.

Working with chamber partners is an inspiration for the Armida Quartet – they have additionally worked with Raphael Alpermann, Thomas Hampson, Ewa Kupiec, Maximilian Hornung and Tabea Zimmermann and fellow BBC NGA alumni collaborations have included Pavel Kolesnikov, Lise Berthaud, French horn player Alec Frank-Gemill and Quatour Van Kuijk.

First prize winners of the Geneva Competition in 2011 they have also received scholarships from the Irene Steels-Wilsing Foundation and the Schierse Foundation in Berlin.

The Armida Quartet are represented by Emma-Jane Wyatt at EJ-Arts in collaboration with [www.kdschmid.co.uk](http://www.kdschmid.co.uk)