Cologne Guitar Quartet

Tobias Juchem | Ptolemaios Armaos | Tal Botvinik | Henrique Almeida [D] [GR] [ISR] [PT]

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Cologne Guitar Quartet was granted with several 1st prizes in various competitions such as "Brigitte-Kempen chamber music competition", "Karlsruhe competition for the Interpretation of contemporary music", "IMKA international internet competition", 2nd prize in "Wuppertaler chamber music" competiton", as well as "Live Music Now" Scholarship from the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation. Their debut CD "Phasma" has been recently released in April 2018.





BIOGRAPHY

Formed in 2014, the Cologne Guitar Quartet is an international ensemble based in Germany. From four different countries (Germany, Israel, Portugal, and Greece), these diverse artists were all members of Prof. Aussel's class at the prestigious Hochsule für Musik Köln in Germany.

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Their repertoire ranges from early and classical music combined with folkloric repertoire from different countries, to modern music by living composers. The Cologne Guitar Quartet is also working on widening the repertoire for guitar quartet by making new arrangements of orchestral and chamber music works. They are collaborating with composers such as Feliu Gasull Sergej Maingardt, Dariya Maminova, Vincent Michalke, Francisco Goldschmidt and Lucia Kilger.

Recognized for their captivating and virtuosic performances, the quartet was invited to perform in various festivals such as "speGTRa" in Aachen, "Les Musicales" in Redon (France), "Zeitgenuss" in Karlsruhe and "Felicja Blumental" in Israel. In 2018 they have toured in China and their upcoming season includes concerts in Italy Portugal, Greece and Germany. Their debut album "Phasma" has been published in April 2018.

The Cologne Guitar Quartet has recently completed their chamber music master studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln. They were mentored by such prominent musicians such as Roberto Aussel, David Smeyers, Hans-Werner Huppertz, Paulo Alvarez, Ansgar Krause, Cuarteto Casals and Kelemen Quartet.



Concerts (selection):_

TRIPCLUBBING concert series of Cologne Philharmonic, Cologne 2017
speGTRa Guitar Festival, Aachen 2016/2018

Jerusalem Theater Jerusalem (Israel Radio Broadcast Authority), Israel 2017
Haifa University music faculty, Israel 2017
BYU Jerusalem center, Israel 2017
Felicja Blumental Festival Tel Aviv, Israel 2017
Bathyscaph Trinitatiskirche, Cologne 2017
Les Musicales de Redon, France 2016
Tenri Japanisch-Deutsche Kulturwerkstatt, Köln 2016
ZeitGenuss Festival for Contemporary, Karlsruhe 2016
Forum Deutscher Musikhochschulen, Gladbeck 2015

Premieres:

Sergej Maingardt - **Hero_In**, 2017 Sergej Maingardt - **Bathyscaph**, 2017 Feliu Gasull – **Tacarigua**, 2016 Cynthie van Ejden - **Landschaft mit Landschaft hinter dem Horizont**, 2016

Prizes:

- 1. Prize "Karlsruher competition for contemporary music" 2015
- 1. Prize "Brigitte-Kempen-Competition" 2017
- 2. Prize "14. Wuppertaler Musik Wettbewerb" 2018

Concert scholarship "YEHUDI MENUHIN Live Music Now" 2016



Reviews (in German):___

Cologne Guitar Quartet. Tripclubbing.

12.10.2017

GB

"...Das Stück für vier E-Gitarren, Video und Zuspiel entstand in enger Zusammenarbeit mit dem *Cologne Guitar Quartet* und Maingardt selbst. Neben den vier Musikern, deren Gesichter und Körper im Video zu merkwürdigen Formen verschmelzen, werden auch eigens mit den Musikern vorproduzierte Klänge zum Teil des neuen Werkes. Das von popmusikalischen Effekten inspirierte Stück hämmert die Zuhörer förmlich durch den Rest der Konzertveranstaltung. Wir sehen einen Tänzer im Video. Oberkörperfrei bewegt er sich wie im Rausch zu der immer intensiver werdenden Musik. Das Spektakel aus Musik und Performance findet seinen ekstatischen Höhepunkt, als sämtliche Akteure der Szenerie auf der Leinwand miteinander verschmelzen und auch die verzerrten E-Gitarren sich immer schwieriger von der Zuspielung unterscheiden lassen."

Girarrenvirtuosen begeistern Zuhörer in Alten Rathous

Aachener Nachrichten, 15.4.2018

Von: cheb

"...Gefühlvoll und fingerfertig präsentierte das multikulturelle Quartett Stücke von der Barockzeit bis in die Moderne. In eigener Arbeit transkribierten sie beispielwiese Vivaldis Konzert "Winter", um nur kurz daruaf Mayako Kubos "Atem Pause" auch stimmlich in Perfektion zu Präsentieren... Für Huppertz war das keine Überraschung. "Es sind unterschiedliche Charaktere und außergewöhnliche Solisten, die perfekt hamonieren", lobte der Professor seine Studenten, die über eine große Spannweite verfügen, in denen alle Zeiten und Kulturen ihren Einfluss finden."

Reviews on Phasma Debut CD (English)

Review on Sonograma magazine:

"...It is an avant-garde work with excellent complex compositional ideas and very well interpreted. Four guitarists whose insurance, which never seems to waver, and confidence permeate intensity in the complex compositional structures... In Phasma, the Cologne Guitar Quartet has managed to build a true and delicious musical universe in a contemporary language."

George Friedrich Haas on Phamsa: "Beautiful! Powerful! Perfect!"

Danish Guitar Society on Phasma:

"...All in all an incredibly successful and brave debut from a guitar quartet that stands out with uncompromising musical ambitions and courage, whilst maintaining an immediate appeal to the listener."

Live Music Now concerts (selection):

2016

Kölner-Obdachlosen-Frühstück in der MüTZe Köln-Mühleim Städtische Tageseinrichtung für Kinder Rondorf Willkomenshilfe Junkersdorf

2017

Lindweiler Hof

Hermann Van-Veen-Förderschule Mönchengladbach Verein für Behindertensport e.V Bad Godesberg Seniorenzentrum Heinrich Kolfhaus Bad Godesberg

2018

Sankt Augustinus Krankenhaus Düren Alexianer Krankenhaus Köln-Porz Heinrich-Hanselmann-Schule Sankt Augustin

Dra	ects:	
12401		

Guitar Quartet + Singer





Guitar Quartet + Percussion

Electric Guitars + Electronics





Amplified guitars + electronics



Tal Botvinik (Israel)



Tal began his guitar studies at the age of 11. He graduated from the Jerusalem Academy High School for Music and Dance. During his military service, Tal participated in the program for "Outstanding Musicians", while completing his Bachelor of Music degree at the Jerusalem Academy, studying with Ruben Seroussi. He graduated with honors his Master of Music degree, studying with world famous guitarist Roberto Aussel in Cologne, Germany. He recently graduated his second Master studies in contemporary music in Cologne, Germany, in the class of Prof.David Smeyers and Prof.Roberto Aussel. At the moment, he is enrolled in chamber music master together with Cologne Guitar Quartet.

Over the years, Tal has won several national and international guitar competitions, such as "Lions", "Guitar Gems", "Ashdod competition", and the guitar competition of the Jerusalem

Academy. He has played with several orchestras, including the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and the Jerusalem Academy orchestra. He has been awarded several scholarships such as "American-Israel Culture Foundation" for solo and chamber music and Alfred Toepfer "Concerto-Music Stipendium".

Tal has taken part in many master classes with well-known guitarists such as David Russell, Pavel Steidl, Zoran Dukic, Charles Remirez, Rafael Aguirre and Scott Tennant.

Tobias Juchem (Germany)

Tobias was born 1985 in Aachen and studied the guitar and piano with Csaba Szekely and Hella Westendorf. He has won the first prize in the national youth competition "Jugend musiziert". From 2007 he studied in Cologne with Ansgar Krause and later with Roberto Aussel at "Hochschule für Musik und Tanz". Furthermore, he attended masterclasses with Lorenzo Micheli, Goran Krivokapic, Thomas Müller-Pering and Dale Kavanagh. Today Tobias teaches in various music schools including the "Offene Jazz Haus-Schule" in Cologne.





Ptolemaios Armaos (Greece)

Armaos Ptolemaios was born in Athens in 1993. He began learning the guitar at the age of 6 in Greece, where he received his Guitar and Harmony diploma in 2010. In 2011 he was accepted into the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne in the class of Prof. Roberto Aussel and he completed his bachelor studies in 2015 with the perfect note. Since September 2015 he is studying his masters degree with Roberto Aussel for guitar and Hans-Werner Huppertz for chamber music. participated as an active member in He has masterclasses given by Roland Dyens, Oscar Ghiglia and



Hubert Käppel, among others. He has won first prizes in national competitions and has been a finalist in the World Guitar Competition in Serbia. He has performed extensively in solo and ensemble works from numerous cultures and styles, with classical and electric guitar, cello, piano, bouzouki and baglama. Besides his instrumental activity he has shown great interest for composition and arranging. Most of his works are written for guitar or ensembles with guitar.

Henrique Almeida (Portugal)



Henrique Almeida was born in 1990 in Amarante, Portugal. He starts playing the guitar at the age of 12 in Centro Cultural de Amarante with Hélder Almeida. At the age of 17 he is accepted to study with Professor José Pina, and later with Artur Caldeira in ESMAE, "Escola Superior de Música e Artes do Espectáculo" in Porto, concluding his studies with highest marks. In 2012 he started his Master studies at the "Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln" in Cologne with the professor Roberto Aussel and had masterclasses with renown artists like Marcyn Dylla, Chen Zi, Feliu Gasul, Jérôme Ducharme, Margarita Escarpa, José Pina, Artur Caldeira e Miguel Carvalhinho. He won the first prize in the International Guitar Competitions of "Santa Cecilia" in Porto and "Cidade do Fundão" in Fundão. Furthermore, he got the third prize in "Jovens Músicos" competition in 2014. Henrique has played in several concert halls around Europe, such as

Paris, Bergerac, Redon, Aarhus, Braga, Maastricht, Cologne, Monschau, Aachen, etc. Henrique founded in Cologne the project "Cantus Portugueses" and works at the moment with the ensemble "Cologne Guitar Quartet", the Duo "Dois Sons", and also as a composer and arranger. His piece "Cavaquinho in Cologne" was premiered by the Cologne Guitar Quartet in 2018 and "Cantar Alentejano" was premiered in January 2019 by the guitarist Adriana Rolão for her Masters Final Exam.



REPERTOIRE

Contemporary music

Mayako Kubo (*1947): Atem Pause (2008/2009)

Goerg Friedrich Haas (*1953): Quartett für vier Gitarren (2007)

Eitan Steinberg (*1955): Guitardion (2000/2015)

Feliu Gasull (*1959): Fantasia sobre dos temes de Manuel De Falla (2006)

Tacarigua (1990)

Quartet Breu (1999)

Sergej Maingardt (*1981): HeroIn, For electric guitar quartet and electronics (2017)

Dariya Maminova (*1988): New piece (2019)

Francisco Goldschmidt (1981): New piece (2019)

Vincent Mischalke (*1991): New piece (2019)

Lucia Kilger (*1990): *New piece (2019)*

Ptolemaios Armaos (*1994): New piece (2019)

Classical Repertoire

J.S.Bach (1685-1750): Concerto for two cembalos BWV 1061

*transcription by Ansgar Krause

A.Vivaldi (1678-1741): Concerto in F minor "Winter" from the four seasons

*transcription by Cologne Guitar Quartet

F.M.Torroba (1891-1982): *Estampas*

George Bizet (1838-1875): Carmen suite

P.I. Tschaikowski (1840-1893): Nussknacker-Suite

N. Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908) Flight of the bumblebee

*transcription by Cologne Guitar Quartet

Manuel De Falla (1876-1946) Ritual Fire Dance, aus El Amor Brujo

*transcription by Cologne Guitar Quartet



Traditional & Folklore Repertoire

Dusan Bogdanovic (*1955): Introduction and Dance

Nikos Skalkottas (1904-1949): from 36 griechischen Tänzen

- Kritikos

- Peloponnisiakos

- Kleftikos

*transcription by Cologne Guitar Quartet

Paulo Bellinato (*1950): A Furiosa

Baio de Gude

Henrique Almeida (1990*) Cavaquinho in Cologne (2018)

Sepharadic song Morenica

*transcription by Cologne Guitar Quartet

Traditional Chinese Song: Horse racing

*transcription by Cologne Guitar Quartet

Gentle Giants (1970-1980): *Knots*

*transcription by Cologne Guitar Quartet



