



## DANISH STRING QUARTET

**Frederik Øland**, Violín

**Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen**, Violín

**Asbjørn Nørgaard**, Viola

**Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin**, Cello

Among today's many exceptional chamber music groups, the Danish String Quartet continuously asserts its preeminence. The Quartet's playing reflects impeccable musicianship, sophisticated artistry, exquisite clarity of ensemble, and, above all, an expressivity inextricably bound to the music, from Haydn to Shostakovich to contemporary scores. Their performances bring a rare musical spontaneity, giving audiences the sense of hearing even treasured canon repertoire as if for the first time, and exuding a palpable joy in music-making that have made them enormously in-demand on concert stages throughout the world.

Since its debut in 2002, the Danish String Quartet has demonstrated a special affinity for Scandinavian composers, from Nielsen, Hans Abrahamsen, and traditional Nordic folk music, alongside music of Mozart and Beethoven. The recipient of many awards and prestigious appointments, including the Borletti Buitoni Trust, the Danish String Quartet was named in 2013 as BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists and appointed to the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's CMS Two Program.

The Danish String Quartet begins the 2018-2019 season in Europe with appearances at the Lammermuir Festival in Scotland, followed by Norway's Trondheim Festival, where they perform Mendelssohn's Octet with the Maxwell Quartet, and collaborate with pianist Joseph Kalichstein in Brahms's Piano Quintet. They return to London's Wigmore Hall for a program that contrasts two Beethoven quartets with Webern. The Quartet tours North America, including performances in Toronto, Richmond, Wake Forest, Durham, Ann Arbor, and New York. They are presented by the 92nd Street Y, Washington Performing Arts, Houston Da Camera, Ensemble Music Society in Indianapolis, and Rockport Music. Concert programs include works by Haydn, Beethoven, Mendelssohn; String Quartet No. 1, "Ten Preludes" by the contemporary Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen; and Scandinavian folk song arrangements. In Europe, the Danish String Quartet travels to Munich, Milan, Antwerp, Berlin, Hamburg, and Madrid. The Quartet returns to the United States for performances in La Jolla, Santa Barbara, and Berkeley, appear for the first time in Logan, Provo, and Los Alamos, and return to play for the Vancouver Recital Society and Laramie.

The Danish String Quartet has received numerous citations and prizes, including First Prize in the Vagn Hombøe String Quartet Competition and the Charles Hennen International Chamber Music Competition in the Netherlands, as well as the Audience Prize at the Trondheim International String Quartet Competition in 2005. In 2009, the Danish String Quartet won First Prize in the 11th London International String Quartet Competition, now known as the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet competition, and return to the celebrated London concert hall frequently. The Quartet was awarded the 2010 NORDMETALL-Ensemble Prize at the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival in Germany, and in 2011, they received the Carl Nielsen Prize, the highest cultural honor in Denmark.

Violinists Frederik Øland and Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen and violist Asbjørn Nørgaard met as children at a music summer camp where they played soccer and made music together. As teenagers, they began the study of classical chamber music and were mentored by Tim Frederiksen of Copenhagen's Royal Danish Academy of Music. In 2008, the three Danes were joined by Norwegian cellist Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin.

[www.danishquartet.com](http://www.danishquartet.com)