



## quartetto plus – a special festival in an unique location

From the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the spotlight in **Eisenstadt** will be on string quartets. For the third time, the string quartet festival quartetto plus will take place at Esterházy Palace during the spring. Top international quartets will be performing, including the Cuarteto Casals, the Aris Quartet, and the SIGNUM Saxophone Quartet. Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt is a special, atmospheric, and historic venue for a string quartet festival. It is not only one of the most beautiful Baroque palaces in Austria, but also the home of Joseph Haydn during the almost forty years of his service to the Esterházy family. Haydn's "Emperor Quartet" premiered there, along with other works. Thanks to its outstanding acoustics and unique Baroque furnishings, the Haydn Hall is considered a jewel among concert halls worldwide.

Joseph Haydn is often referred to as the "father of the string quartet" because he definitively developed the string quartet in his work, and made important advances in the genre. Naturally, string quartets by Joseph Haydn form the starting point of the program at the quartetto plus festival, but the range also extends to works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the present day. Classical and jazz combine, and literature and music complement each other beautifully.

The **opening concert on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Haydn Hall** will be performed by the award-winning and internationally acclaimed **Cuarteto Casals**, named after the legendary Catalan cellist Pau Casals and known for its multifaceted sound and enormous stylistic range. Under the motto "Fandango", the ensemble will present music from its Spanish homeland: the last of Haydn's "Sun Quartets" will be followed by the third string quartet by Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga, who was born exactly half a century after Mozart and left the world three magnificent quartets before passing away at the age of barely twenty. The Italian Luigi Boccherini worked at the Spanish court and created an enchanting quintet for guitar and string quartet with local Spanish flavour. Emanuele Buono, one of the most respected and active guitarists of his generation, will complete the Cuarteto Casals to form a quintet.

**On April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** there will be the unique opportunity to experience Antonín Dvořák's famous "American Quartet" performed by a saxophone quartet. The **SIGNUM saxophone quartet** is not afraid of crossing the boundaries of repertoire or genre: the four musicians have a unique vision of sound and performance, and they tailor their arrangements to any work of their choosing. Originally from Slovenia and now based in Germany, the ensemble were partly inspired by the Artemis Quartet. Their concert is themed around the "American Dream". Dvořák's quartet will be followed by music by George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein, as well as contemporary music by the American composer David Maslanka and the Vietnamese-American composer Viet Cuong. Due to popular demand, the concert will take place in the Palace's Empire Hall.

Also on **April 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.**, the Haydn Hall will open its doors for a first-class musical and literary evening. Arthur Schnitzler's famous work "Traumnovelle" was first published in 1925, exactly one hundred years ago. Actor **Sebastian Koch**, well known from the worlds of theatre, film, television, and audiobooks, will perform a musical reading from this classic work of psychological metaphor and dream interpretation. The **Hubert Nuss Jazz Quartet**, led by pianist Hubert Nuss, will enrich the nocturnal, somnambulistic ambience of Schnitzler's novella with atmospheric, timeless sounds. Hubert Nuss says of his music that he is in search of "depth and beauty".

The **grand finale** of the quartetto plus festival on **April 6<sup>th</sup>** will be performed by the **Aris Quartet** from Frankfurt, a rising star in the string quartet world that has attracted worldwide attention in recent years. It has won numerous prizes at international competitions, inspired praise from critics, and captivated audiences. Joseph Haydn's "Sunrise Quartet," which has already made a lasting impression on contemporary audiences, will kick off this chamber music matinee under the theme "Sunrise". This is followed by "Five Pieces for String Quartet" by Erwin Schulhoff from 1923: miniatures of concise brevity, witty and playful at first glance, yet exhibiting supreme mastery and profound musical expression upon closer listening. The crowning finale is

Franz Schubert's String Quintet, composed a few months before the composer's death and impressive for its great expressive contrasts. **Eckart Runge**, cellist of the Artemis Quartet for many years and, as such, also a mentor to the musicians of the Aris Quartet, joins them to perform this gem of quartet literature.

**Tickets:**

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