

Biography

Rosa Arnold - viool
Jeanita Vriens - viool
Annemijn Bergkotte - altviool
Rebecca Wise - cello

The Ragazze Quartet plays classical and contemporary string quartet repertoire and is acclaimed for its musical enthusiasm, talent, versatility and dynamic presentation. The quartet collaborates with and performs alongside composers, musicians and artists working in a variety of disciplines and genres. While grounded firmly in the classical music tradition, the Ragazze Quartet is always in search of the ultimate cross-over, where the different disciplines are approached as equals, complementing and elevating one another.

In 2012 the Ragazze Quartet signed a contract with the renowned Channel Classics label. Their first two CDs *Vivere* and *Česko* have received high praise by the national and international press. Gramophone wrote: 'Their biggest strength is an added quota of spontaneity, which keeps you consistently engaged.' Their third CD *FourFourThree*, was released May 2016 en received the 'Editor's Choice' Award in Gramophone.

The quartet graduated from the Dutch String Quartet Academy (NSKA) where the Ragazze attended masterclasses given by leading musicians from the international string quartet world. In 2013, the Quartet was awarded the prestigious 'Kersjes Prize', a scholarship of €50.000 given every year to a Dutch chamber music ensemble. That year the Ragazze were part of the Academy at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland and toured through China. In 2014 tours to Japan and Indonesia followed.

The Ragazze Quartet continues to perform regularly at chamber music venues throughout The Netherlands (such as the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Vredenburg Utrecht and Philipszaal Eindhoven), abroad (for the next years tours are planned to Japan, USA, Sweden and the UK) and can be heard regularly on radio and television.

The violin played by Jeanita is kindly lent by the National Music Instruments Foundation. The quartet owns four classical bows, built by Andreas Grütter, financed by the 'Stichting Eigen Muziekinstrument.'

www.ragazzequartet.com