

Ilkley Concert Club Afternoon Concerts

Thursday 16 November 2023  
2.30 – 3.30 pm

Aestus String Quartet

Leda Mileto *violin* Christopher Karwacinski *violin*

Beth Willett *viola* Clara Hope Simpson *cello*

Jonathan Dove b. 1959

**Out of time**

*i. Quite fast*

*ii. Slow*

*iii. Stomping*

*iv. Lively*

*v. Fast*

*vi. Gently moving*

Franz Schubert 1797 – 1828

**String Quartet No 14 in D minor D810**

**'Death and the Maiden'**

*i. Allegro*

*ii. Andante con moto*

*iii. Scherzo: Allegro molto*

*iv. Presto*

*The Aestus Quartet appear by kind permission of the RNCM*

**Aestus String Quartet\***

Leda Mileto *violin*

Christopher Karwacinski *violin*

Beth Norris *viola*

Clara Hope Simpson *cello*

Since its formation at the Royal Northern College of Music in 2021, the Aestus Quartet have established themselves as a dynamic ensemble that is recognized for their warmth and sensitive musical approach. The name "Aestus" is Latin for sea tide and is inspired by the opening of one of the staples in their repertoire: Benjamin Britten's String Quartet No 2.

They are recipients of the RNCM Weil Prize, finalists in the RNCM Christopher Rowland Ensemble of the Year Prize among others, and participants of Chamber Studio UK's inaugural Hans Keller Forum in 2022-2023. They are grateful to have been mentored by international artists including Donald Grant (Elias Quartet), Petr Prause (Talich Quartet), Jeremy Young, Richard Ireland, John Myerscough (Doric Quartet) and Alasdair Beatson.

In 2023 the quartet both opened and closed the Lake District Summer Music Festival's Emerging Artist Series. Passionate about making classical music inclusive and accessible, in May 2023 they worked with the Festival's Artistic Director Stephen Threlfall to deliver a series of workshops in schools and community centres.

In the 2022-2023 season, the quartet additionally made appearances at Southwell Music Festival, BBC Philharmonic Young Artist series (Bridgewater Hall), and Buxton Opera House Coffee Concerts. As part of the Hans Keller Forum, the quartet also gave a final concert at the West Road Concert Hall, University of Cambridge and performed in a lecture recital: "Behind the Music: Pre-compositional thought in Benjamin Britten's Second String Quartet" presented by Nicky Swett.

The quartet also enjoyed a busy 2023 summer season, performing for Enys Chamber Music Festival and debuting internationally at the Festival Ravel Academy (Pays Basque), where they were coached by David Waterman and performed in the Jerusalem Quartet's public masterclass.

The Aestus are currently starting a new chapter having been appointed RNCM Studio Quartet 2023-2024 as well as Britten Pears Young Artists 2023-2024 for the "Chamber Futures" program (March 2024). Future appearances include Bury Parish Lunchtime Series, RNCM Thursday Lunchtime series (Studio Quartet & Friends) and Grantham Music Club.

**\*We very much appreciate the Aestus Quartet performing for us at short notice when the Talland Quartet were unable to take part**