



Quatuor Molinari

Olga Ranzenhofer - violin, artistic director

Antoine Bareil - violin

Frédéric Lambert - viola

Pierre-Alain Bouvrette - cello

Internationally acclaimed by the public and the critics since its foundation in 1997, the Molinari Quartet has given itself the mandate to perform works from the 20th and 21st centuries repertoire for string quartet, to commission new works and to initiate discussions between musicians, artists, and the public.

Recipient of nineteen Opus Prizes awarded by the Quebec Music Council to underline musical excellence on the Quebec concert stage, the Molinari Quartet has been described by the critics as an "essential" and "prodigious" ensemble, even "Canada's answer to the Kronos or Arditti Quartet". The Molinari Quartet has established itself as one of Canada's leading string quartets.

In addition to many Canadian works, including the 13 quartets by R. Murray Schafer, the Molinari Quartet's repertoire includes among others, quartets by Bartók, Berg, Britten, Corigliano, Debussy, Dutilleul, Dun, Glass, Gubaidulina, Kancheli, Kurtág, Ligeti, Lutoslawski, Martinu, Penderecki, Prokofiev, Ravel, Rihm, Schnittke, Schoenberg, Shostakovich and Webern.

The Molinari Quartet was heard twice as soloist with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under Charles Dutoit and was invited to perform in numerous concert series and festivals including IJsbreker (Amsterdam), Présences (Radio-France, Paris), Festival Octobre en Normandie (France), Les détours de Babel festival (Grenoble, France), IXth International Festival of contemporary music Musica Nueva (Mexico), Brand-New Music in Katowice (Poland), Akademia Muzyczna Karola Szymanowsky (Poland), Musiques au présent (Québec), Festival Vancouver, Vancouver New Music, Banff Centre, Music Toronto, New Music Concerts (Toronto), Toronto Summer Music Festival and Academy, Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, National Arts centre of Ottawa, New Music Edmonton, Tonus Vivus (Edmonton), Networks Calgary, Orford Festival, Montréal / Nouvelles Musiques, Musimars (Montréal), Festival Domaine Forget, Festival international de Lanaudière, GroundSwell (Winnipeg), Arte Musica series (Montréal), Five-Penny concert series (Sudbury), Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society, etc. In November 2013, the Molinari Quartet performed a 7 concert tour in China including concerts in Shanghai and Beijing and in November 2016, it toured Poland and Armenia. For its 20th anniversary, it will premiere the Concerto for string quartet and orchestra by Samy Moussa with the Orchestre Métropolitain of Montréal.

The Molinari Quartet has commissioned Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer's 7th and 12th quartets and has also premiered his 8th, 10th, and 13th Quartets, written also for the Molinari. The Quartet has commissioned and premiered several works from Canadian composers such as Otto Joachim, Nicolas Gilbert, Michel Gonneville, Marc Hyland, Éric Champagne, Michael Matthews, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Pat Carrabre, John Rea, Denis Gougeon, Laurie Radford and Ana Sokolovic as well as giving North-American premieres of many works.

The Molinari Quartet is the only quartet to have all of R. Murray Schafer's thirteen string quartets in its repertoire. Its recordings on the ATMA Classique label (complete quartets by Schafer, Schnittke, Kurtág, Gubaidulina) have received international critical acclaim including two Editors' Choices by Gramophone magazine and rave reviews from, among others, The Strad, Fanfare, Diapason, etc. The recording of the complete Kurtág quartets has received a Diapason d'Or in December 2016 and the Echo Klassik award for 20th and 21st century chamber music in July 2017.

Launched in October 2001, the Molinari Quartet International Competition for Composition has had an enormous success. Over its six editions, it has received over 750 new quartet scores from 65 countries.

« The Quatuor Molinari plays Kurtag with admirable authority and nuance... »
American Record Guide, January 3 2017

« Technically, their playing is superb... »
Andrew Clements, The Guardian, October 19 2016

« The Quatuor Molinari's playing is sharply focused and ensemble is flawless. They've obviously lived and breathed these works for some time, and they deliver confident and committed readings. »
Stephen Greenbank , MusicWeb International, December 22, 2016

« I enjoyed a previous recording of all the [Gubaidulina] quartets by the Stamitz Quartet The present group is even better in musical phrasing and is recorded with more clarity and resonance, making this the best account of these works that I have heard.»
D. Moore - American Record Guide, May 2015

« That any group could play this music better than the Montreal-based Quatuor Molinari is inconceivable. »
Philip Clark, Gramophone, June 2013

...« these are exceptionally fine performances, captured in warm faithful sound. »
David Kettle, The Strad, September 2015

