

## **Badke Quartet – Biography**

Correct as of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009

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The Badke Quartet, formed in 2002, is widely recognised as one of Britain's finest string quartets. Winners of the 1st prize and audience prize at the 5th Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition in 2007, the Badke Quartet has received widespread acclaim for its energetic and vibrant performances.

The Quartet has worked with some of the world's greatest string quartets and all four musicians are graduates of London's Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music. They regularly study with Gabor Takács-Nagy at IMS Prussia Cove and during 2006-08 they travelled once a month for a period of intensive study at the Alban Berg Quartet's chamber music class in Cologne. From 2005 to 2009 the Quartet held the Senior Leverhulme Chamber Music Fellowship at the RAM.

The Badke Quartet regularly performs at festivals in the UK and abroad, including the Aldeburgh and Verbier Festivals, Belfast Festival at Queen's, Chichester Festivities and the London String Quartet Week. The Quartet has performed in some of the UK's most prestigious chamber music venues including the Wigmore Hall, St. George's Bristol, St. David's Hall Cardiff, Bridgewater Hall Manchester, St. John's Smith Square, and the Royal Festival Hall.

Last season, the Badke Quartet undertook a touring residency with Britten-Pears in Aldeburgh and returned to perform in the Verbier Festival, where the four musicians were also the main coaches in the Amateur Chamber Music Week. During the summer, the Quartet performed at many festivals including the Lichfield Festival and the West Cork Chamber Music Festival in Ireland.

In 2009 the Quartet made its Musikverein début in Vienna, performed with

Mark Padmore in France and returned to Ireland for a Music Network Tour. The Quartet also performed twice at the Wigmore Hall and at London's newest chamber music venue, Kings Place.

No strangers to the airwaves, the Badke Quartet has broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM, Lyric FM (Ireland), ABC Classic FM (Australia) and for the European Broadcasting Union. Later this year the Quartet will perform Mendelssohn's Octet with the Brodsky Quartet on BBC Radio 3.

Believing strongly in the importance of education work, in building new audiences and making chamber music much more accessible, the Quartet performs in schools across the UK, bringing chamber music to hundreds of children in conjunction with the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust.

The Badke Quartet is most grateful to the Hattori Foundation, Musicians' Benevolent Fund, Nicholas Boas Charitable Trust, Fidelio Charitable Trust, Tillett Trust and several private sponsors for their continued support.

The Quartet plays on a fine set of instruments on loan from the Royal Academy of Music's collection, including two Gagliano violins and the Segelman Stradivarius cello.