



The Villiers Quartet

Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 7.45 pm

String Quartet No. 6, Op. 80

Allegro vivace assai

Allegro assai

Adagio

Finale: Allegro molto

F. MENDELSSOHN

(1809-1847)

String Quartet in G Major No. 3

Allegro

Andante

Allegro molto

Allegro moderato

C.H.H. PARRY

(1848-1918)

Interval of 20 minutes

String Quartet in A \flat Major, Op. 105

Adagio ma non troppo – Allegro appassionata

Molto vivace

Lento e molto cantabile

Finale: Allegro non tanto

A.L. DVOŘÁK

(1841-1904)

The Villiers Quartet

James Dickenson (Violin I) Tamaki Higashi (Violin II)

Carmen Flores (Viola) Nick Stringfellow (Cello)

Named after Villiers Street in London's colourful musical epicentre, the Villiers Quartet (VQ) encompasses the grand and iconic spirit of London's extraordinary music tradition.

Hailed as one of the most charismatic and "adventurous" quartets of the European chamber music scene (*The Strad*), the Villiers Quartet has developed an international reputation for its performances of British music. Championing music which reflects Britain's rich musical heritage, the VQ has performed works by Elgar, Britten, Delius, William Sterndale Bennett, Robert Saxton, Kuljit Bhamra, MBE, and Frank Bridge. The VQ has been praised for its "exquisite ensemble playing" (*Seen & Heard International*), and its performances have been hailed as "masterful." (*Classical Source*).

The VQ has been featured in numerous festivals including the North York Moors Chamber Music Festival, the Brit Jazz Fest, the Hungerford Arts Festival, and the British Music Society. Its internationally acclaimed VQ New Works Competition encourages audiences to interact with contemporary music performance online and supports the creation of new works for string quartet. The Competition ran in 2012, 2014 and 2016, with the winning compositions released on the VQ's own label imprint.

The Villiers Quartet is winner of the 2015 Radcliffe Chamber Music Competition and holds the position of *Quartet-in-Residence* at Oxford University's Faculty of Music, and feature in the University Faculty of Music Concert Season. In addition to their work at Oxford University, the VQ has presented masterclasses at Dartmouth College, the University of Nottingham, Syracuse University, Goshen College, and Indiana University South Bend. The VQ is also *Quartet-in-Residence* at Nottingham High School, where they direct an extensive chamber music programme for young students.

The Villiers Quartet's debut CD for Naxos, *The Complete Quartets of Robert Still*, was praised for its "sublimely articulate and concentrated readings," (*Gramophone*) and received 5-stars in *Classical Music Magazine*. The VQ was the featured quartet on the soundtrack to the BBC One film, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and they have been featured on BBC Radio both in live performance and on the classical music program *In Tune*.

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