

Gémeaux Quartett

Anne Schoenholtz	Violin I
Manuel Oswald	Violin II
Sylvia Zucker	Viola
Uli Witteler	Violoncello

Their passion for string quartet first brought the four young musicians together:

Anne Schoenholtz (violin), Manuel Oswald (violin), Sylvia Zucker (viola), and Uli Witteler (violoncello) founded the Gémeaux Quartett at the Musik-Akademie Basel in 2003. Since then, the awards they have won at various chamber music competitions, most notably the city of Lucerne's Mozart prize, the 1st prize at the Basler Orchestergesellschaft (BOG) competition in 2006, 1st prize at the Migros cultural society's 2007 chamber music competition and their recent success the 3rd prize and the prize of the public at the 57th. ARD music competition 2008, confirm that this quartet has attracted a remarkable amount of attention from both national and international circles.

The four musicians, of German and Swiss nationality, enhanced their experience as a quartet at the Musikakademie Basel, attending the chambermusic classes of Walter Levin (LaSalle Quartett) and Sebastian Hamann (Amati Quartett, Professor at the Musikhochschule Lucerne). In addition, they received further inspiration directly from renowned performing artists such as the Artemis Quartett, Eberhard Feltz, Hariolf Schlichtig and András Schiff.

Through participation in the «Programme de Formation Professionnelle ProQuartet-CEMC Paris», they work regularly with Rainer Schmidt of the Hagen Quartett.

Their chambermusic partners include Jens Peter Maintz, Christian Poltera, Bruno Giuranna, Petr Holman (Zemlinsky Quartet) and Stewart Eaton (Auryn Quartett).

Since its' formation in 2003, the Gémeaux Quartett, which is based in Basel and Lucerne, has performed at engagements throughout Switzerland and Europe – at the KKL in Lucerne, the Società del Quartetto in Milan, in conjunction with a Beethoven cycle, and together with Walter Levin as part of a lecture recital at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin, to name but a few.

This young ensemble is winning the hearts of audiences with their energetic and daring interpretations, aimed at exposing the core of the music they play.

The Gémeaux Quartett has also made guest appearances at acclaimed festivals, performing at the Lucerne Festival, the Schubertiade Schwarzenberg, the Mozartfest Würzburg as well as the Osnabrücker Kammermusiktage. The musicians have also been invited to participate regularly in numerous radio and TV recording sessions, such as DRS 2, RTSI (Switzerland), Radio Berlin Brandenburg, Hessischer Rundfunk, Bayerischer Rundfunk, WDR and SWR (Germany).

The Quartett has received generous assistance in the form of financial scholarships from the Dienemann Foundation Lucerne and the Walter Levin Chair (Musikakademie Basel).

The musicians are currently refining their skills and knowledge at the University Mozarteum in Salzburg as part of a post-graduate programme for string quartets led by the Hagen Quartett. To coincide with this experience, the Quartett will be recording its first album in 2008/9.

2009 the Gémeaux Quartett will receive the Swiss Ambassador's Award in London, which includes their Debut in the famous Wigmore Hall.