

The Alkyona Quartet present fresh imaginative interpretations of both well-known and hidden gems of the string quartet repertoire. They are well known for their warm connection to audiences and vivacious performances, and are 'as vibrant and memorable as their 'Kingfisher' namesake'.

They are Tunnell Trust Award Holders 2020/21 and Making Music Selected Artists 2020-2021, and have performed in many leading UK venues including St Martin-in-the-Fields, St John Smith Square and the Royal Albert Hall. They were New Generation Artists at the Stiff International Music Festival 2019 and residents at Music at Brel the same year, as well as being featured at the Lake District Summer Music Festival 2020, and performing the closing concert for the Huygens Festival 2020 which was broadcast live on Dutch TV channel Midvliet.

The quartet look forward to continuing their residency at Leighton House Museum, a residency at Repton School and performing with Anglo-American band Quimantu in 2021. They released their debut album, 'Intimate Letters' in June 2020 in collaboration with Cegin Productions, which is available on all major streaming platforms.

Violinist and violist Emma Purslow was born in the Peak District, England and enjoys a freelance career based in London. In addition to her role as first violinist of the Alkyona String Quartet, she performs extensively throughout the UK with different ensembles including the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

She is passionate about music education and outreach, and tutors for the National Children's Orchestra, Royal College of Music Junior Department, Pro Corda and Musiko Musika, an organisation that celebrates diversity through music. She is a member of Anglo-Chilean band *Quimantu*, with whom she enjoys touring in South America and Europe, and led the Street Orchestra of London between 2016-2019.

Estonian violinist Marike Kruup is establishing herself as a vibrant young artist with a varied career reflecting her natural musicality and broad interests.

She is a member of the Alkyona string quartet, plays with a wide range of top orchestras in the United Kingdom and abroad and has a substantial class of young violin students. Maiastra chamber music courses, in collaboration with David Waterman (Endellion Quartet) and David Takeno, connected her with string quartet playing. As a solo player she has had the privilege to collaborate with artists such as Maxim Vengerov, Ivry Gitlis and Alina Ibragimova, among many, through the Royal College of Music.

She has been a member of the Estonian Festival Orchestra, conducted by Paavo Järvi, for the past 10 years and often joins orchestras such as Royal Scottish Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra as a freelance player.

Violist Raquel Lopez Bolivar was born in Madrid and started her musical studies at the age of 4 with her father.

After graduating from the Royal Conservatoire of Music of Madrid with honours in 2011 she moved to the U.K. to pursue a Master's degree with Krzysztof Chorzelski, former viola player of Belcea Quartet, at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Since she finished her studies she has performed and toured regularly in Asia, Europe, and America with orchestras like the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Furthermore, she has played for recordings with renowned conductors such as Esa-Pekka

Salonen, Vasily Petrenko, Paavo Jarvi, Sir Colin Davis, and Vladimir Ashkenazy. At present she is a Guest Principal Viola player of the RTE National Orchestra in Dublin and later this year she will be releasing her first chamber music solo album.

Dutch cellist Jobine Siekman, BBC Music Magazine 'Rising Star' artist, is quickly building her career as an exceptional chamber musician and soloist.

She was a prize winner at the Cellobiennale Amsterdam Competition 2016 and with ensembles like the Alkyona Quartet and the Chloé Trio. In 2019 she appeared as a soloist with the Simon Bolivar Orchestra in the Schumann concerto. She was awarded the 19/20 Mills Williams Junior Fellowship supported by the Royal College of Music, London.

After winning the Anna Shuttleworth 'Bach' Prize (RCM) in 2016 she performed at Wigmore Hall and recently she was featured in the 'In Focus' film playing Bach, on the Amati cello piccolo.

Jobine is passionate about chamber music and plays in several successful ensembles like the Volkmann Trio and StringWood Ensemble with whom she performs regularly in the UK and the Netherlands. Jobine plays a Lefèbvre cello which she has on loan from the National Instrument Foundation.