



BENNEWITZ QUARTET

Programme suggestions 2025/26

1) Music as comfort or Music as consolation

Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet in F, Op. 135
Victor Ullmann String Quartet No. 3

Franz Schubert String Quartet in G, D887

These are Viennese composers for whom composing or listening to quartet music was a consolation at the end of their lives. The last piece of music Schubert wished to hear (five days before his death) was Beethoven's String Quartet. Beethoven despaired because of his deteriorating health and the troublesome situation of his nephew clearly found consolation in composing and produced the surprisingly light quartet op. 135. Ullmann composed his last quartet in the Theresienstadt ghetto, not long before he was taken on the "artistic transport" to Auschwitz.

2) Longing for home

Béla Bartók String Quartet No. 6

Antonín Dvořák String Quartet in G, Op. 106

The second programme presents two composers who find themselves on the other side of the Atlantic in completely different circumstances, both coping with homesickness. Here, Dvořák sketches his climactic Op. 106 and rejoices in his return home, while Bartók, on the other hand, nostalgically recalls his roots and harshly comments on the darkness of war.



SUDBRACKMUSIK

| Joachim Nerger e. K. |

3) On the Threshold of Eternity

Bedrich Smetana String Quartet No. 2

Benjamin Britten String Quartet No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn String Quartet in F minor, Op. 80

The third programme brings together three pieces composed in a situation of great physical or psychological difficulty, which clearly no longer has a way out. Smetana composes his second string quartet deaf and suffering from frequent hallucinations, Britten is exhausted by illness and dies the evening before the premiere of his quartet, and Mendelssohn, struck by the news of the untimely death of his beloved sister Fanny, composes his quartet Op.80, but on his first visit to his sister's grave he has a mental breakdown and dies five weeks later.

4) Creative power

Joseph Haydn String Quartet in F major, Op. 77/2

Leoš Janáček String Quartet No. 2 'Intimate Letters'

Antonín Dvořák String Quartet in A flat, Op.105

The fourth programme brings together compositions which, on the other hand, positively benefit from the maturity of their composers and are therefore in many respects the pinnacle of their output, at least in the field of chamber music.