



The Albion Quartet

Musical friendships

4–6 March 2022 (M1 266)

3 days • From £880

Speaker: Richard Wigmore

Hear great classical music performed by outstanding musicians of international repute.

Listen to pre-concert talks by critic and musicologist, Richard Wigmore.

Mingle with the musicians as well as like-minded fellow music lovers.

Stay in The Castle Hotel, an award-winning, family-run hotel in Taunton.

Martin Randall Festival staff are in attendance to help these events run smoothly and enjoyably.

The Albion Quartet brings together four of the UK's exceptional young string players: Tamsin Waley-Cohen and Emma Parker (violin), Ann Beilby (viola), and Nathaniel Boyd (cello).

Since forming in 2016, the Albion Quartet has enjoyed numerous competition successes including awards from the Borletti-Buitoni Trust and ECHO Rising Stars. Recent debuts have included the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Auditorium du Louvre in Paris, and London's Wigmore Hall. The Quartet's thirst for exploring the repertoire of the chamber string quartet genre expresses itself through innovative and eclectic programming.

The programme is based largely around the theme of friendships. It is well-known that Mozart and Haydn admired each other's work (Mozart dedicated a number of works to Haydn), and that Haydn was one of Beethoven's most influential teachers. Beethoven's work was in turn greatly admired by Schubert even though it is unknown whether the two ever met. Brahms was an early champion of Dvořák's early work, and was instrumental in the younger composer's success. All of the above are represented. On Sunday morning, we also hear a short contemporary work by Freya Waley-Cohen – sister of violinist Tamsin.

A central highlight will be a performance of Schubert's String Quintet, performed on Saturday evening, for which the Quartet will be joined by cellist Hannah Roberts.



The Programme

Rooms are available for occupancy from 3.00pm.

Friday 4th March 2022, 5.30pm

Talk at 5.00pm

Mozart, String Quartet No. 18 in A, K.464
Dvořák, String Quartet No.13 in G, Op.106

Saturday 5th March 2022, 11.00am

Talk at 10.30am

Beethoven, String Quartet No.16 in F, Op.135
Haydn, String Quartet in D, Op.20 No.4, *The Sun*

Saturday 5th March 2022, 5.30pm

Talk at 5.00pm

Jāzeps Vītols, *Intermezzo*
Schubert, String Quintet in C, D956
with Hannah Roberts (cello)

Sunday 6th March 2022, 11.00am

Talk at 10.30am

Freya Waley-Cohen, *Snap Dragon*
Haydn, String Quartet in F minor, Op.20 No.5
Brahms, String Quartet No.3 in B flat, Op.67

The final concert ends at c. 12.30pm.

Speaker

Richard Wigmore. Music writer, lecturer and broadcaster for BBC Radio 3. He writes for *BBC Music Magazine* and *Gramophone* and has taught classes in Lieder history and interpretation at the Guildhall, Trinity College of Music and Birkbeck College. He read French and German at Cambridge and later studied Music at the Guildhall. His publications include *Schubert: The Complete Song Texts* and *Pocket Guide to Haydn*.

The Castle Hotel

The Castle is renowned for its excellent service, for comforts traditional and modern, and for its superb catering. It has been owned and run by the Chapman family for over 60 years. Chamber music events have been held here since 1977, and Martin Randall Travel took over the running of them in 2003.

The hotel's bedrooms are individually and charmingly decorated. Doubles and twins are mainly of a good size, and the largest – the Garden Rooms – overlook the garden. There is no single-occupancy supplement for the rooms with single beds. The majority of rooms have a bath with a shower fitment.

Photo: The Albion Quartet ©Steve Gullick.

The Albion Quartet
continued

The hotel has a lift, though some bedrooms are then accessed via stairs. The Music Room is on a mezzanine level, up a flight of stairs from the lobby.

Taunton lies on the doorstep of Exmoor and the Quantocks, areas with some of the loveliest countryside in England.

www.the-castle-hotel.com

Practicalities

Prices

Rooms for two sharing, per person:

Double or twin room: £880

Garden or Castle Room: £1,070

Single occupancy:

Single-bedded: £880

Double for sole use: £990

Included: four concerts and pre-concert talks, accommodation for two nights, breakfasts, two afternoon teas, two dinners, interval drinks, programme, tips for hotel staff.

Extra nights: please contact us for a quote to book nights immediately before or at the end of the weekend.

Maximum resident participants: 68.

Tickets to individual concerts. These are available to purchase for £25 (mornings) and £30 (evenings) directly from The Castle Hotel. Please visit www.the-castle-hotel.com/diary to book these or call their Events team on 01823 273 671. *Due to the ongoing situation with covid-19, we have limited capacity for 'non-residents' to 15 per concert. For future weekends, we may be able to increase this.*