

delian::quartett

mail@delian-quartett.com

+49 178 7766055

www.delian-quartett.com

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Classical meets jazz: with the **delian::quartett** teaming up with jazz pianist Julia Hülsmann, this is by no means a harmless crossover blend.

Parallels is a moving and deeply human journey around that singular work by Joseph Haydn which he himself considered one of his best. The idea behind the project innovatively continues a centuries-old tradition that Haydn established at the time with the world premiere of his composition...

In this richly connected concert format by the **delian::quartett** together with jazz pianist Julia Hülsmann, classical music and jazz join hands. The audience experiences a dialogue between two worlds in their purest form. Unexpectedly seamlessly, the two merge into one another – an extraordinary experience for the listener...

The starting point for the concept is Haydn's "The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross". According to tradition, this benchmark-setting work was premiered with spoken reflections on each of the seven biblical words preceding the corresponding music. And even today, "The Seven Last Words" is still often accompanied by meditative readings between the musical movements.

What if the **delian::quartett** dispensed with spoken word altogether? What if it reversed the traditional order and let new, young music meditate on Haydn's wordlessly moving musical rhetoric instead? The idea of bringing the past into dialogue with the one, personal moment of the concert was immediately fascinating.

The richly colored reflections of the jazz piano on "The Seven Last Words" underscore the **delian::quartett's** personal interpretive approach, one that releases this great, ancient composition from its ecclesiastical Passion context. Haydn's music, often presented as all too lofty and sacred, gains in emotional depth and becomes human – does it not speak of things that all of us find in our own lives: fear and forgiveness, pain, abandonment and redemption, love and death, and the hope of paradise?

Parallels is unique, illuminating, moving. We recommend it as a memorable experience lasting 85 to 90 minutes without intermission.

::programme

Haydn "The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross" for String Quartet Hob. XX: 1

L'Introduzione. Maestoso ed Adagio

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Sonata I. Largo

Improvisation

"Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Sonata II. Grave e Cantabile

Improvisation

"Woman, behold thy son!"

Sonata III. Grave

Improvisation

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Sonata IV. Largo

Improvisation

"I thirst."

Sonata V. Adagio

Improvisation

"It is finished."

Sonata VI. Lento

Improvisation

"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Sonata VII. Largo

Improvisation

Terremoto. Presto con tutta la forza

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Julia Hülsmann | jazzpiano

Adrian Pinzaru | violin

Andreas Moscho | violin

Lara Albesano | viola

Hendrik Blumenroth | violoncello

Julia Hülsmann

"Radical because unexcited, imposing because without affectation, lyrical because without airs. Every note has its meaning; what is unnecessary remains unplayed. Julia Hülsmann proves that she doesn't need to prove anything to anyone. Reverently effortless, engagingly melodious, casually virtuosic: three hundredweight of grand piano, feather-light." Thomas Wessel



© Peter Hundert

DIE ZEIT called pianist Julia Hülsmann the "poet of jazz". She began classical piano at the age of eleven. Five years later, Julia Hülsmann formed her first band.

In 1991 she began her jazzpiano studies at the Berlin University of the Arts with Walter Norris, Aki Takase, Sigi Busch, David Friedman, Jerry Granelli, and Kirk Nurock. Shortly afterward she was accepted into the concert lineup of the German Federal Youth Jazz Orchestra. In workshops she worked with musicians such as Bill Dobbins, Mathias Rüegg, John Taylor, and Anthony Cox. A scholarship from the Berlin Senate allowed Julia Hülsmann to study in New York with Richie Beirach, Maria Schneider, Gil Goldstein, and Jane Ira Bloom. As a Dorothea Erxleben scholarship holder, she spent two years working at the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media.

Still during this period, Julia Hülsmann founded the Julia Hülsmann Trio together with Marc Muellbauer and Heinrich Köbberling, a group that continues to give trailblazing impulses to jazz in Europe to this day. Her trio's debut CD was released by BIT-Verlag through JazzHaus distribution. Since then, Julia Hülsmann has been internationally sought after as a pianist and composer.

For the ACT label, the Julia Hülsmann Trio recorded together with guest artists such as Anna Lauvergnac and Roger Cicero. The album "Julia Hülsmann Trio with Rebekka Bakken: Scattering Poems" won the German Jazz Award in 2003. In 2008 her ensemble moved to Manfred Eicher's legendary label ECM, which has since released seven albums under her name. In 2019, saxophonist Uli Kendorff expanded the Julia Hülsmann Trio into the Julia Hülsmann

Quartet. For the recording "Not Far From Here," the quartet was awarded the German Jazz Prize for Best National Instrumental Album in 2021.

In 2020, the Julia Hülsmann Trio was honored with the Trier Jazz Prize. As a solo artist, too, Julia Hülsmann has received numerous awards: she served as First Chairwoman of the Union of German Jazz Musicians, was Artist in Residence at the Elbjazz Festival and Improviser in Residence at the Moers Festival, and received the SWR Jazz Prize and the WDR Honorary Prize for cultural-political work. In 2022 she also received the GEMA Music Authors' Prize.

After teaching engagements in songwriting and composition at the Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media and at the University of Osnabrück, Julia Hülsmann was appointed Professor of Jazzpiano at the Berlin University of the Arts in 2020.

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"Original and brimming with esprit, dramaturgically daring and thrilling in its content: even longtime regulars of the concert series will find little in their memories to match an evening in which all these qualities were woven together as artfully and convincingly as in the performance of the Delian Quartet. [...] If proof were ever

needed of the ensemble's extraordinary class — in these breathless seconds it flared up with the force of a supernova. [...] Thanks for opening a new door into the world of music." (Süddeutsche Zeitung)



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The **delian::quartett**'s namesake is the Greek god Apollo, worshipped as the god of the fine arts and of the Muses — especially of music — and also called "Delian" after his birthplace, the island of Delos.

Since its founding in 2007, the **delian::quartett** has given performances acclaimed equally by audiences and press throughout Europe, in China, and — as a cultural ambassador of the Goethe-Institut — as far afield as Africa. Its 2009 debut at the Berlin Philharmonie was met with a standing ovation already after the opening piece. Since then, the ensemble has been a celebrated guest in venues such as the Konzerthaus Berlin, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Prinzregententheater Munich, Unione Musicale Turin, Konzerthaus and Musikverein Vienna, Tonhalle Zurich, Beethovenfest Bonn, Kissinger Sommer, Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele, südtirol festival meran, Rheingau Musik Festival, Salzburg Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Schubertiade Roskilde, and many more. Its unconventional and richly allusive programming has long made the **delian::quartett**'s concert projects distinctive and a hallmark of the ensemble.

The quartet maintains an active collaboration with broadcasters such as SWR, HR, WDR, Catalunya Música, Radio France, Danmarks Radio, BR, NDR, SR, ORF, and Deutschlandfunk. The ensemble's CD recordings for the label OehmsClassics reached top positions on the classical charts, were presented as the editor's choice by various broadcasters, and were chosen multiple times for Lufthansa's Album Selection. Its second CD, featuring the music of Joseph Haydn, received an ECHO Klassik award nomination in 2010. The acclaimed performance of Chausson's Concerto for Violin, Piano, and String Quartet, Op. 21, with the **delian::quartett**, Liza Ferschtman, and Benjamin Moser, was included as a live recording in the anniversary

edition of the Piano Festival Ruhr in 2018. The same year saw the release of the double CD "Cantai", featuring Bach's "The Art of Fugue" alongside Stefano Pierini's work "Cantai un tempo...", written for the **delian::quartett**. That recording received, among other honors, the maximum five stars from the Italian magazine ARCHI and a nomination for the OPUS KLASSIK 2019.

A major commitment of the **delian::quartett** is the expansion of the repertoire. It has given world premieres of works by living composers Alberto Colla, Per Arne Glorvigen, Gabriel Iranyi, Christian Jost, Stefano Pierini, and Uljas Pulkkis; most of these compositions are inscribed to it. In 2019, Aribert Reimann dedicated his last completed work – his adaptation of Schumann's song cycle "Frauenliebe und Leben" (A Woman's Love and Life) – to the **delian::quartett** and soprano Claudia Barainsky, who premiered it together at the Berlin Philharmonie. In 2024, the legendary label ECM Records released the album "Im wachen Traume", featuring, among other things, the world premiere recording of this work. Described as an *"original recording of rare beauty"* (nikonland.it), "Im wachen Traume" has been a classical music recommendation, must-listen, Choix Musical, or Sélection Disques for various European broadcasters and print media, and was included on the longlist for the German Record Critics' Award (Deutscher Schallplattenpreis). In the Süddeutsche Zeitung, critic Wolfgang Schreiber named the album the most beautiful CD of the summer, and the magazine Fono Forum awarded it the coveted "Star of the Month", with maximum ratings in every category.

With "Let's Get Classical!", the Delian format for young people and the young at heart, the ensemble also wins over concert newcomers to classical music. The **delian::quartett** has regularly performed and continues to perform alongside artists and ensembles including Gilles Apap, Fabio Bidini, Measha Brueggengosman, Gérard Caussé, the Deutsche Kammerakademie Neuss, Stella Doufexis, Andreas Frölich, Pavel Gililov, Bernd Glemser, Per Arne Glorvigen, Jens Harzer, the Henschel Quartet, Julia Hülsmann, Ralph Manno, Sergei Nakariakov, Ulrich Noethen, PiedraMudaLAB, Menahem Pressler, Dora Schwarzberg, Peter Shub, Peter Simonischek, Ulrich Tukur, Anatol Ugorski, and Angela Winkler. With the great actor Bruno Ganz, the Delians shared ten years of their artistic career until his death in 2019, in various acclaimed spoken-word reading projects.

Since 2017, the members of the **delian::quartett** have been united as Pirastro Artists in a partnership with the renowned string manufacturer. Adrian Pinzaru plays a violin by Giovanni Battista Rogeri, 1699, generously passed on by Christine Anderson; Andreas Moscho's violin is the Giovanni Battista Rogeri "Christmas", circa 1690. Lara Albesano's viola by Alfonso Della Corte, 1884, is on permanent private loan.