

delian::quartett

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Hello??, you might be thinking. How on earth is that supposed to work: a clown at a string quartet concert. Even if he's as famous as Peter Shub.

Perhaps you're curious to find out just how much fun this cheerful, family-friendly, taboo-breaking project by the **delian::quartett** is? Why *Sidekick* is a real fountain of youth, always leaving a crowd of boisterous children of all ages in the hall? Why, after a concert, they often receive messages such as: "Thank you for two hours of bliss"?

Well then: step right up, and let the show begin!



A clown at a classical concert...?? And desecrating the hallowed halls – these temples of music – with laughter? Is that even allowed?

Of course, before launching its innovative **Sidekick** project, the **delian::quartett** made sure it was on solid ground in this regard. When it met Mozart for coffee in May 2020, it first asked him for his opinion. With a smile, he recommended his own works – and not just his “Musical Joke” K. 522. Haydn, whom the Delians rang a few days later, said he was astonished by the request, given that they had performed his String Quartet Op. 33 No. 2 (“The Joke”) so often and always to the same audience reaction. After speaking to various other composers, the ensemble’s violist finally approached Hindemith, who then sent her the score of his “Overture to ‘The Flying Dutchman’, as sight-read by a third-rate spa orchestra at 7 a.m. by the fountain”.

To cut a long story short: yes, you may. Music history is evidently rich in laughter in the concert hall, and much of it was even intentional.

The **delian::quartett** and the great clown Peter Shub have taken this idea to heart. In their interdisciplinary concert project, with genuine affection for one another’s craft, they combine music with comedy and comedy with music in an intelligent and empathetic way. The programme will begin with a string quartet performed in its entirety – a truly respectable opening. Following this virtually trouble-free performance, the audience will not only discover just how much fun classical music is across the ages, but also how varied the sounds of wit and laughter can be.

Sidekick is particularly well-suited to a young concert audience. If we were doctors and pharmacists, we’d recommend it to all children aged 4 to 100. 101 would still work, too.



::programme

- Haydn String Quartet in F Major op. 50 No. 5 Hob. III: 48 "The Dream"
Allegro moderato – Poco Adagio – Tempo di Menuet allegretto – Vivace
- Telemann Le réveil de Quixotte from Don Quichotte–Suite TWV 55: G10,
arr. for String Quartet and Bell
- Son attaque des moulins à vent from Don Quichotte–Suite TWV 55: G10,
arr. for String Quartet and Bell
- Haydn Presto from String Quartet in E flat Major op. 33 No. 2 Hob. III: 38 "The Joke"
- Shostakovich Gavotte from "The Human Comedy" op. 37
- Schnittke Polka, arr. for String Quartet by Sergei Dreznin
- Elgar Salut d'Amour, arr. for String Quartet by Abolin
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- Bartók Jack-in-the-Box, Mikrokosmos BB 105 Vol. 5 Nr. 139, arr. for String Quartet
- Strawinsky No. 2 (Excentrique) from Three Pieces for String Quartet
- Bach from Prélude from Suite Nr. 1 in G Major BWV 1007 for Violoncello solo
- Bach Air from Suite No. 3 in D Major BWV 1068, version for String Quartet
- Weill Green up time, arr. for String Quartet by Stefano Pierini
- Beethoven Cavatina. Adagio molto espressivo from String Quartet in B Major op. 130
- Balakrishnan Skylife
- Shostakovich Waltz No. 2 from Suite for Variété–Orchestra, arr. for String Quartet

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Peter Shub | clown

Adrian Pinzaru | violin
Andreas Moscho | violin
Lara Albesano | viola
Hendrik Blumenroth | violoncello



Peter Shub

Anyone who brings the story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to the stage with the great Roman Polanski in Paris might not expect to one day be one of the all-stars of clown history. Peter Shub of Philadelphia has made it. The lovable pain in the ass with the imaginary dog on a real-life leash is known up and down the coun-



© Moritz Küstner

try, and has been for almost thirty years. The sociology graduate with a penchant for the performing arts packed his suitcase and went to Paris. On stage, on the street, where he tested his first ideas on a live audience. Without the interaction with the audience, all the "Shub-idu" would only be half as funny. Peter Shub, unmistakable with his trench coat, hat and scuffed suitcase, is one of the protagonists of modern clowning. The mime won first prize at the Mime and Clown Festival in West Virginia and later ZDF decorated him with the International Artist Award. The Cannes Theater Festival honored him with the Comedy Award for his solo "Nice Night for an Evening." Two silver medals at the renowned circus festivals in Paris and Monte Carlo have long since officially given the academic a license to annoy. His saucy little episodes often get their final punch line from fellow performers, both voluntary and involuntary, Peter Shub throws himself and them fully into the risk. His professionalism and spontaneity have made Peter Shub the star guest of many shows from RTL's Saturday Night Comedy to Montreal's "Just for Laughs" to the Philadelphia Opera Company. In several intervals he also enriched the programs of Circus Roncalli in the past decades. He has long used his experience as a director, working with many leading international organizations. He gives workshops all over Europe and is also successful as an actor and director.



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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 Brueggergosman, 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.

