

# antarija

## string quartet

Established in 2009 in Krakow, the ensemble for fifteen years of its activity has performed over 100 concerts, most of which promoted Polish chamber music at international festivals in, e.g. Austria, Germany, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Iran, the Netherlands and Denmark. In their repertoire, the artists, in addition to classical chamber music pieces, boldly reach for contemporary music. On a number of occasions, they have performed as world premieres of both Polish and foreign composers.

Until 2013, the ensemble studied under the direction of the DAFÔ String Quartet. In 2017, the quartet completed postgraduate studies in Chamber Music at the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna under the supervision of Prof. Johannes Meissl and Vida Vujić, MA. The Quartet improved their skills with these two distinguished individuals for 3 years. After winning the 1st prize at the 3rd Chamber Music Tournament in Bydgoszcz in 2016, the ensemble recorded their debut album featuring string quartets by Felix Mendelssohn and Krzysztof Penderecki. The next album was released in 2017, a recording of a concert held as part of the '40th Days of Macedonian Music Festival'. The next CD was released in 2020 – a live recording of a concert under the festival '7 Trends + 7 Premieres = 70 Years of the Polish Composers' Union' featuring Polish music under the theme 'Reduction.' The most recent one was released in 2023 with string quartets by a marriage of composers: Grażyna and Andrzej Krzanowski. The album is entitled KRZANOWSCY and includes world premieres. In 2021 the ensemble was awarded 1st prize at the 7th ODIN International Music Competition.

The ensemble has participated in masterclasses led by members of the Belcea Quartet, the Shanghai Quartet, the Apollon Musagète Quartet, the Melos Quartet, and the Quatuor Diotima, among others. In 2013, the quartet also worked under the direction of Prof. Krzysztof Penderecki, performing his String Quartet No. 3 'Leaves from an Unwritten Diary'. The Antarija Quartet has received support from the Adam Mickiewicz Institute three times under the 'Polish Culture Worldwide' programme; in 2021, it was awarded the 'Young Poland' scholarship of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. The ensemble was awarded and is participating in the 3-year international MERITA programme for outstanding European string quartets.

The quartet's name, an anagram of the Polish word "jantar", which means amber, is a nod to a mineral abundant in the Baltic Sea region. Amber, often referred to as "Polish gold," is associated with nature's artistry and mystical properties, evoking the image of a precious treasure.

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