



Auner Quartett

Daniel Auner *violin*

Cristian Ruscior *violin*

Georg Wimmer *viola*

Konstantin Zelenin *violoncello*

PHOTO: DAMIÁN POSSE

- The quartet won **first prize at the Eugène Ysaÿe Competition in Liège in 2018** and was subsequently the first Austrian ensemble featured on the cover of the Performing Arts Yearbook of Europe. Since 2018 no ensemble has been awarded first prize again.
-
- In 2021 the Auner Quartett was appointed **Cultural Ambassador of Austria (NASOM)**, leading to invitations to perform worldwide.
-
- **Founded in Vienna in 2013**, the Auner Quartett quickly became one of the best known and most widely supported Viennese ensembles of its generation on the European chamber music stage, and today performs on historic instruments from the collection of the Austrian National Bank and from private foundations.
-
- Praised in countless television and radio appearances for its stylistic assurance and emotional depth, the quartet was awarded **“CD of the Year” 2022** by Austrian National Radio Ö1 for the production “Versinkende Sonne”, with works by Egon Wellesz, Alexander von Zemlinsky, Anton von Webern and Fritz Kreisler.
-
- The Auner Quartett is also strongly committed to social projects, among them “Rhapsody in School”, and to workshops and benefit concerts for organisations such as Apotheke ohne Grenzen and Diakonie Flüchtlingshilfe.

The Auner Quartett performs regularly in Vienna’s most distinguished concert halls, among them:

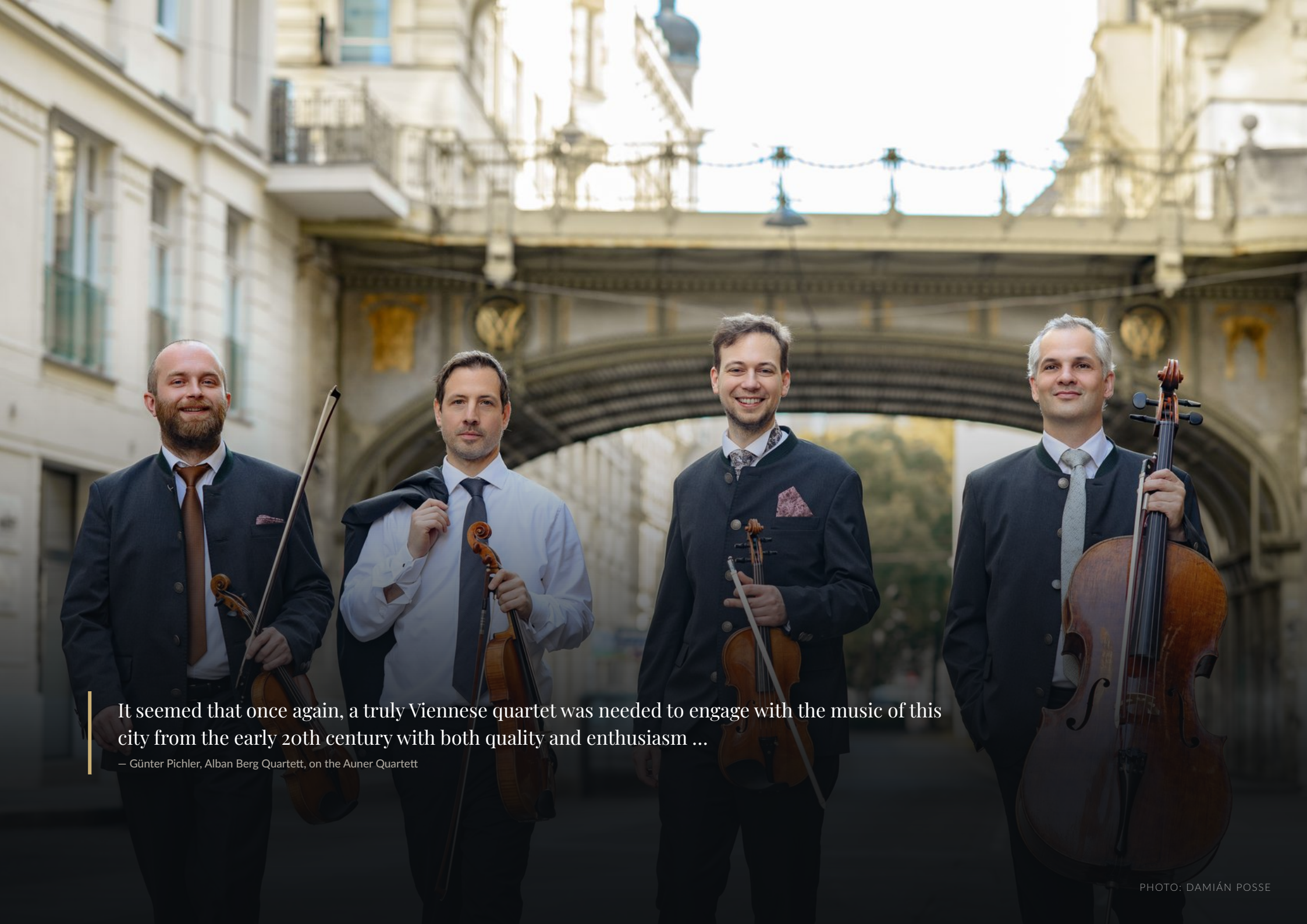
- **Brahms Hall** at the Wiener Musikverein
- **Mozart Hall** at the Wiener Konzerthaus
- **Muth** Concert Hall at the Augarten
- and the newly restored **Ehrbar Hall**

Since 2013 the quartet has presented and curated its own chamber music cycle – since 2020 in the Chapel of the Vienna Hofburg, and from the 2026/27 season in the halls of the **Wiener Musikverein**.

Engagements take the ensemble regularly to international festivals and concert series, among them:

- Ravenna Festival, Italy
- Cartagena Festival, Colombia
- Istanbul Music Festival, Turkey
- Schubertiade Sion, Switzerland
- Richard Strauss Festival, Germany

as well as concerts in cities such as Berlin, Paris, London, Brussels, Milan, Prague, Budapest, New York, San Francisco, Rio de Janeiro, Kuwait and Cartagena.



It seemed that once again, a truly Viennese quartet was needed to engage with the music of this city from the early 20th century with both quality and enthusiasm ...

— Günter Pichler, Alban Berg Quartett, on the Auner Quartett

PHOTO: DAMIÁN POSSE

Named after the Viennese violinist and composer Mary Dickenson-Auner, a relative of the ensemble's first violinist, and founded in 2013, the quartet has established itself as one of the most distinctive ensembles of its generation on the international chamber music scene. It has won several national and international competitions, among them the renowned Eugène Ysaÿe Competition in Liège in 2018. As the first Austrian ensemble to do so, it subsequently appeared on the cover of the Performing Arts Yearbook of Europe under the title "Auner Quartett – The award-winning string quartet: a perfect musical match".

In the 2020/21 season the Auner Quartett was appointed Cultural Ambassador of Austria by a panel of the Austrian Foreign Ministry (part of the funding programme "New Austrian Sound of Music"), and has since performed regularly at cultural forums and embassies across the globe. Taking the historic Viennese salon culture as its model, the four musicians founded their own chamber music cycle in 2016, which from the 2026/27 season will take place in the halls of the Wiener Musikverein.

In this concert series, entitled "Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien" (Beyond Dancing Vienna), with guests including Thomas Hampson and Wolfgang Böck, first violinist Daniel Auner introduces the programmes in person. The title refers to the Vienna beyond the dance music of the Strauss family – to those "serious" composers around Mary Dickenson-Auner who struggled for a place in the city's musical life, were persecuted under the National Socialist regime and in many cases driven into exile, and whose work Vienna recovered only gradually after 1945. In this way a varied repertoire is not merely presented, but brought to life through background and anecdote.

A further emphasis, alongside the music of Mary Dickenson-Auner and composers of her circle – among them Arnold Schönberg and Alban Berg – lies on new music, frequently written on commission from the quartet. The project "Cirque d'eau", eight compositions on Austrian lakes, is currently being completed with the Austrian composer Johanna Doderer and recorded at natural sites across Austria.

The Auner Quartett received its musical training in Vienna: the ensemble studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna with Johannes Meissl (Artis Quartett) among others, and was also a selected ensemble of the European Chamber Music Academy (ECMA), through which it developed its repertoire at several European music universities. The musicians received further artistic guidance in masterclasses with Hatto Beyerle and Günter Pichler (Alban Berg Quartett), Petr Prause (Talich Quartet), Alasdair Tait (Belcea Quartet), Patrick Jüdt and members of the St Lawrence String Quartet (USA).

Concert tours have taken the four musicians to distinguished festivals and concert series throughout the world. These international engagements – from Berlin to Brazil, from Kuwait by way of Kyiv to Colombia – underline the ensemble's worldwide concert activity. As committed music educators, the Auner Quartett actively seeks contact with the younger generation. Within "Rhapsody in School", the initiative founded by Lars Vogt, the quartet regularly visits school classes and gives children an open and unprejudiced first encounter with classical music. Through benefit concerts – in aid of the Ukraine relief work of "Apotheker ohne Grenzen Österreich", "Austrian Doctors" or Diakonie Flüchtlingshilfe – and through workshops for youth orchestras abroad, the ensemble also takes on social responsibility. Such projects, in part in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry, have already taken the musicians to Peru, Brazil, Mexico, Belize and South Africa.

The CD of clarinet quintets by Mozart, Reger and Leitner (Gramola 2018, with Simon Reitmeier) received excellent reviews, and the portrait album of the Austrian composer Johanna Doderer (Capriccio 2019) documented the quartet's versatility. In 2021 "Versinkende Sonne" (Gramola) appeared, with string quartets by Alexander von Zemlinsky, Egon Wellesz, Anton Webern and Fritz Kreisler; the recording, made on commission from the Austrian National Bank, was named "Ö1 CD of the Year 2022". A new CD, "Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien", will appear in 2026 and contains string quartets by Schönberg, Kreisler, Korngold and Strauss. In all, the Auner Quartett has released ten CDs to date.

Since its founding the Auner Quartett has been supported by the Viennese string manufacturer Thomastik-Infeld and, since 2025, by the clothing manufacturer Habsburg, which provides the musicians with particularly fine traditional Austrian attire. The musicians play on precious historic instruments: Daniel Auner performs on a violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, on permanent loan from the collection of valuable string instruments of the Austrian National Bank.

Der Herr von Schubert

Johann Strauss — Voices of Spring, waltz op. 410 (arr. Auner Quartett) c. 6'

Franz Schubert / Johanna Doderer* — Quartettsatz in C minor D 703 c. 25'

INTERVAL

Franz Schubert — String Quartet no. 14 in D minor D 810 "Death and the Maiden" c. 38'

Allegro · Andante con moto · Scherzo · Presto

** For the Schubert anniversary in 2028, Johanna Doderer is completing, on commission from the quartet, the second movement of the quartet that Schubert abandoned after the Viennese publisher Artaria declined it – and is adding a third movement.*

Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien I

Hugo Wolf — Italian Serenade in G major c. 7'

Mary Dickenson-Auner — String Quartet no. 4 c. 20'

Franz Schubert — Quartettsatz in C minor D 703 c. 9'

INTERVAL

Alban Berg — Lyric Suite c. 27'

Allegretto gioviale · Andante amoroso · Allegro misterioso · Adagio appassionato · Presto delirando · Largo desolato

Almost all of Mary Dickenson-Auner's string quartets survive only in manuscript and are currently being digitised by Dr Dima Khierbeck; the Auner Quartett is planning a CD production of these works for autumn 2026.

PROGRAMME PROPOSALS SEASON 2027 / 28

Wiener Melange

Anton von Webern — Langsamer Satz c. 9'

Konstantia Gourzi — Telestía op. 103* 9'45"

Joseph Haydn — String Quartet in D minor op. 76/2 "Fifths" c. 20'

INTERVAL

Fritz Kreisler — String Quartet in A minor "Bekenntnis zu Wien" c. 25'

Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien II

Johann Strauss — Voices of Spring op. 410 c. 6'

Rainer Bischof — Ritual* 8'26"

Johann Strauss — Vergnügungszug polka op. 281 c. 3'

Johanna Doderer — String Quartet "Mattsee" 10'40"

Johann Strauss — Emperor Waltz op. 437 c. 10'

INTERVAL

Alexander Zemlinsky — String Quartet in E minor c. 30'

* Written on commission from the Auner Quartett.

THE CYCLE · THE CONCEPT

Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien

Vienna dances. Since the nineteenth century the waltz of Johann Strauss has shaped the image of the city — popular, influential and so overwhelming that “serious” composers often found it hard to secure a place beside it. Yet beyond this dancing Vienna, generations of composers sought their own paths. This cycle tells their story.

First step · the nineteenth century: the struggling music beside the waltz

From Schubert to Schönberg, serious and searching art music sought its place in the shadow of an omnipresent dance culture. The classical inheritance — Schubert, Brahms — and the modernism of the Second Viennese School always stood beside a Vienna that above all wanted to dance.

Second step · the National Socialist era: the far side of the Atlantic

While National Socialist propaganda exploited the seemingly harmless music of Strauss — even falsifying the composer’s genealogy in order to do so — almost all the composers heard here were driven out, proscribed or forced into inner emigration: Zemlinsky, Schönberg and Kreisler to the USA, Wellesz to England, Dickenson-Auner forbidden to perform in her own Vienna.

Third step · the present: the afterlife itself

“Jenseits” means, finally, the continued resonance: how the waltz of Johann Strauss inspired the serious composers and lives on in their work — not as opposition, but as creative echo. That this exiled music sounds again in the Musikverein today is its late homecoming.

TWO AXES: ZEMLINSKY AND DICKENSON-AUNER

Two figures hold the programme together. **Alexander Zemlinsky (1871–1942)** forms the musical axis — a work of his is heard in each of the four concerts. Encouraged as a pupil and friend of Brahms, teacher and brother-in-law of Arnold Schönberg, dedicatee of Alban Berg's "Lyric Suite", he connects every generation represented in this programme; his path from the Vienna of the fin de siècle to American exile, where he died forgotten in 1942, embodies the fate of an entire musical culture.

Mary Dickenson-Auner (1880–1965), violinist, composer and the quartet's eponym, forms the dramaturgical centre — the knot at which the whole net of this Viennese musical history is drawn together.

Almost all of the composer's string quartets survive only in manuscript and are currently being digitised by Dr Dima Khierbeck so that they can be performed at all. The Auner Quartett is planning a CD production of these works for autumn 2026. At the Royal Academy of Music in London the violinist Erin Hennessey is writing a dissertation on her chamber music. The transfer of her estate to the Exilarte Centre of the mdw is being coordinated by Gerold Gruber.

What a bold and exciting project, in which the well-known Auner Quartett sets out — once again — to explore new ground and to draw a wide arc beyond the familiar Viennese clichés. From Schubert, Brahms, Johann Strauss and Hugo Wolf by way of Webern, Berg and Schönberg to Egon Wellesz and Fritz Kreisler. And at the centre of it all Alexander Zemlinsky, the central figure of the cycle and of Viennese modernism. [...] The rediscovery of a composer and significant figure of Viennese musical life unjustly fallen into oblivion, Mary Dickenson-Auner. And this at the Musikverein. The place that has made discoveries and rediscoveries of important works its task from the very beginning.

— Peter Marboe, Chairman of the Alexander Zemlinsky Fund at the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien

THE FOUR CONCERTS OF THE CYCLE

25 November 2026

8.00 P.M.

Gläserner Saal

Irene Suchy reads from "Mein Musikleben" by Mary Dickenson-Auner

Franz Schubert Quartettsatz in C minor D 703

Mary Dickenson-Auner String Quartet no. 4

Johannes Brahms Hungarian Dances nos. 5 & 6

Alexander Zemlinsky String Quartet no. 1 in A major op. 4

[Tickets & details](#)

17 February 2027

8.00 P.M.

Gläserner Saal

Wolfgang Böck reads reflections on Arthur Schnitzler's "Leutnant Gustl", written by Manfred Stimmler

Anton von Webern Langsamer Satz

Johann Strauss Emperor Waltz op. 437 (arr. Auner Quartett)

Alexander Zemlinsky String Quartet in E minor (1893)

Alban Berg Lyric Suite for string quartet

[Tickets & details](#)

17 March 2027

7.30 P.M.

Brahms-Saal

Thomas Hampson, baritone

Hugo Wolf Italian Serenade

Arnold Schönberg String Quartet in D major, op. posth.

Alexander Zemlinsky and others A bouquet of songs for baritone and string quartet (arr. Dima Khierbeck)

[Tickets & details](#)

22 May 2027

8.00 P.M.

Gläserner Saal

Christoph Wagner-Trenkwitz on Fritz Kreisler's Vienna

Johann Strauss Voices of Spring waltz op. 410 (arr. Daniel Auner)

Egon Wellesz String Quartet no. 5

Alexander Zemlinsky Two Movements for string quartet

Fritz Kreisler String Quartet in A minor "Bekenntnis zu Wien"

[Tickets & details](#)

Full information on the cycle is also available at www.aunerquartett.at/kammermusikzyklus

CONTACT

MARK STEPHAN BUHL ARTISTS MANAGEMENT

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Mark Stephan Buhl Artists Management
+43 1 524 7675
mark@msbuhl.com
www.msbuhl.com



BELGIUM · NETHERLANDS · LUXEMBOURG

Ivy Artists — Marjon Koenekoop
Groot Hertoginnelaan 217, 2517 ES The Hague
+31 6 28 48 98 53
marjon@ivyartists.com
www.ivyartists.com

ENSEMBLE

Constanza Ikei

Personal assistant
constanza@danielauner.com

www.aunerquartett.at
konzert@auberquartett.at
[Instagram](#) · [Facebook](#) · [YouTube](#)

The Auner Quartett has by now produced almost a dozen CDs; they can be heard on the usual streaming platforms. Video material is available on the website. A new CD with works by Fritz Kreisler, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Arnold Schönberg and Johann Strauss is in production, and a complete recording of all string quartets by Mary Dickenson-Auner is in preparation.

The Auner Quartett is supported by the OeNB Austrian National Bank, the clothing manufacturer Habsburg and the Viennese string manufacturer Thomastik-Infeld.