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Auner Quartett

Biography · Repertoire

Vienna Cycle at the Musikverein · "Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien"

Programme Proposals 2027 / 28

Auner Quartett

“It seemed that once again a truly ‘Viennese quartet’ was needed — one that engages with the music of this city from the early 20th century with the necessary quality and enthusiasm ...”

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

Daniel Auner *violin*

Cristian Ruscior *violin*

Georg Wimmer *viola*

Konstantin Zelenin *violoncello*

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



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In the 2020/21 season, the Auner Quartett was appointed Cultural Ambassador of Austria by a jury of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (as part of the “New Austrian Sound of Music” programme), and has since performed regularly at cultural forums and embassies around the globe. Inspired by the historical Viennese salon culture, the four musicians launched their own chamber music series in 2016, which from the 2026/27 season onward will take place in the halls of the Vienna Musikverein. In this exclusive concert series titled “Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien” (Beyond Dancing Vienna), which also features guests such as Thomas Hampson and Wolfgang Böck, primarius Daniel Auner guides the audience through the programme with personal commentary. The title alludes to the Vienna that lay beyond the dance music of the Strauss dynasty — to those “serious” composers in the circle around Mary Dickenson-Auner who struggled for a foothold in the city’s musical life, were persecuted under the National Socialist regime and often driven into exile, and whose work Vienna only gradually reclaimed after 1945. In this way, a wide-ranging repertoire is not only performed but brought to life through background information and anecdotes. Alongside the music of Mary Dickenson-Auner and composers of her circle — among them Arnold Schönberg and Alban Berg — a further focus lies on new music, often commissioned by the quartet. The project “Cirque d’eau,” eight compositions about Austrian lakes, is currently being completed together with the Austrian composer Johanna Doderer and recorded in various natural jewels of Austria.

The Auner Quartett received its musical training in Vienna: the ensemble studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna with, among others, Johannes Meissl (Artis Quartett), 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 gained further artistic impulses in masterclasses with, among others, 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 renowned festivals and concert series across the world. These international appearances — from Berlin to Brazil, from Kuwait via Kyiv to Colombia — underscore the ensemble's global concert activity. As committed music educators, the Auner Quartett actively seeks contact with the younger generation. Within the "Rhapsody in School" initiative founded by Lars Vogt, the quartet regularly visits school classes, giving children an open and unprejudiced first encounter with classical music. Through benefit concerts — for example in aid of the Ukraine relief efforts of "Apotheker ohne Grenzen Österreich," "Austrian Doctors," or Diakonie Flüchtlingshilfe — as well as workshops for youth orchestras abroad, the ensemble also takes on social responsibility. Such projects, partly in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 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 outstanding reviews, and the portrait album of the Austrian composer Johanna Doderer (Capriccio 2019) documented the quartet's versatility. In 2021, "Versinkende Sonne" (Gramola) was released, featuring string quartets by Alexander von Zemlinsky, Egon Wellesz, Anton Webern, and Fritz Kreisler; the recording, commissioned by the Austrian National Bank, was named "Ö1 CD of the Year 2022." The most recent album, "Ritus" (2025), presents a wide-ranging programme, including the first recording of the oldest surviving piece of music known to humankind, the "Hymn to Nikkal" (c. 1500 BC), as well as new works dedicated to the Auner Quartett by Konstantia Gourzi, Johanna Doderer, Rainer Bischof, and Ruben Zahra. In total, 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 perform on precious historical instruments: Daniel Auner plays a violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, on permanent loan from the Austrian National Bank's collection of valuable string instruments, complemented by a viola by G. B. Ceruti and private loans of instruments by G. P. Maggini and G. Grancino.

A further focus lies on new music — often commissioned by the Auner Quartett.

Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien



The Auner Quartett presents its own chamber music series — in collaboration with the Zemlinsky Fonds — in the halls of the Vienna Musikverein. Across four concerts, the ensemble illuminates the Viennese repertoire beyond the familiar “dancing Vienna.” Each concert pairs chamber music with a literary-narrative contribution by a prominent guest; primarius Daniel Auner introduces every programme in person. (“Jenseits vom tanzenden Wien” — Beyond Dancing Vienna.)

25 November 2026

8.00 P.M.

Musikverein • Gläserner Saal

Irene Suchy reads from “Mein Musikleben” by Mary Dickenson-Auner

Franz Schubert — Quartettsatz in C minor

Mary Dickenson-Auner — String Quartet No. 4

INTERVAL

Johannes Brahms — Hungarian Dances Nos. 5 and 6

Alexander Zemlinsky — String Quartet No. 1 in A minor

17 February 2027

8.00 P.M.

Musikverein • Gläserner Saal

Wolfgang Böck reads from “Leutnant Gustl” by Arthur Schnitzler

Anton von Webern — “Langsamer Satz”

Johann Strauss — Emperor Waltz (arr. Auner Quartett)

Alexander Zemlinsky — String Quartet in E minor

INTERVAL

Alban Berg — “Lyric Suite” for string quartet

17 March 2027

7.30 P.M.

Musikverein • Brahms-Saal

Hugo Wolf — “Italian Serenade”

Arnold Schönberg — String Quartet in D major (op. posth.)

INTERVAL

Thomas Hampson sings works by Alexander Zemlinsky and contemporaries in arrangements for baritone and string quartet

22 May 2027

8.00 P.M.

Musikverein • Gläserner Saal

Christoph Wagner-Trenkwitz on Fritz Kreisler's Vienna

Johann Strauss — Voices of Spring Waltz (arr. Daniel Auner)

Egon Wellesz — String Quartet No. 5

INTERVAL

Alexander Zemlinsky — Two Movements for String Quartet

Fritz Kreisler — String Quartet in A minor “A Tribute to Vienna”

Auner Quartett

VIENNA CYCLE • 04

Repertoire

Chronological by composer's year of birth. **Austrian composers** are highlighted; ♦ denotes works recorded on CD by the Auner Quartett.

Antonio Vivaldi 1678 — The Four Seasons (arr. Th. Auner)

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685 — The Art of Fugue ♦

Joseph Haydn 1732 — op. 1/4 Hob. III:4; op. 76/2 "Fifths" Hob. III:76; op. 33/3 "The Bird"; op. 76/3 "Emperor" Hob. III:77; "The Seven Last Words" Hob. XX/1B

Luigi Boccherini 1743 — "La musica notturna delle strade di Madrid"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756 — "Hunt" Quartet K. 458; "Dissonance" Quartet K. 465; K. 156; K. 157; 3 Divertimenti K. 136–138; "Eine kleine Nachtmusik" K. 525; Clarinet Quintet K. 581; Adagio and Fugue K. 546

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 — String Quartets op. 18 ♦; op. 59; op. 132; "Große Fuge" op. 133; "6 Bagatelles" (Hidalgo); "Rondo a capriccio" op. 129 (arr. Th. Auner)

Louis Spohr 1784 — Quartet-Concerto op. 131

Carl Maria von Weber 1786 — Clarinet Quintet op. 34

Carl Czerny 1791 — Variations op. 73 on "Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser"

Franz Schubert 1797 — D 810 "Death and the Maiden" ♦; D 804 "Rosamunde"; Quartettsatz in C minor D 703; String Quintet in C D 956; "Trout" Quintet D 667

Felix Mendelssohn 1809 — String Quartet op. 13 in A minor; 4 Pieces op. 81

Robert Schumann 1810 — Piano Quintet op. 44

Johann Strauss II 1825 — Voices of Spring op. 410; Emperor Waltz op. 437; Blue Danube op. 314; Tales from the Vienna Woods op. 325; Pizzicato Polka; Carnival in Venice (arr. Auner Quartett)

Alexander Borodin 1833 — String Quartet No. 2 in D major

Johannes Brahms 1833 — String Quartet No. 1; String Quintet op. 111; Piano Quintet op. 34

Piotr I. Tchaikovsky 1840 — String Quartet No. 1 op. 11

Antonín Dvořák 1841 — String Quartet op. 96 "American"; Piano Quintet op. 81; Cypresses

Edvard Grieg 1843 — String Quartet No. 1 in G minor

Gabriel Fauré 1845 — Piano Quintet No. 1 in D minor

Hugo Wolf 1860 — Italian Serenade in G major

Richard Strauss 1864 — String Quartet op. 2

Alexander Zemlinsky 1871 — Two Movements for String Quartet; String Quartet No. 1 op. 4; String Quartet in E minor

Max Reger 1873 — Clarinet Quintet op. 146

Fritz Kreisler 1875 — String Quartet in A minor "A Tribute to Vienna"; Syncopation (arr. D. Auner)

Mary Dickenson-Auner 1880 — String Quartets Nos. 1–4; Clarinet Quintet

John Foulds 1880 — String Quartet No. 8

Anton von Webern 1883 — "Langsamer Satz" ♦; 6 Bagatelles op. 9

Alban Berg 1885 — Lyric Suite

Egon Wellesz 1885 — String Quartet No. 5 op. 60 ♦; Clarinet Quintet

Heitor Villa-Lobos 1887 — String Quartet No. 5 ♦; String Quartet No. 1

Sergei Prokofiev 1891 — String Quartets Nos. 1 & 2

Aaron Copland 1900 — Sextet for Piano, Clarinet and String Quartet

Dmitri Shostakovich 1906 — String Quartet No. 8 op. 110; No. 4 op. 83; 2 Pieces

Leroy Anderson 1908 — Jazz Pizzicato; The Syncopated Clock

Samuel Barber 1910 — String Quartet op. 11; Dover Beach

Astor Piazzolla 1921 — Five Tango Sensations

György Ligeti 1923 — String Quartet No. 1 "Métamorphoses nocturnes"

Giya Kancheli 1935 — "Chiaroscuro" for string quartet

Ernst Ludwig Leitner 1943 — Clarinet Quintet in A major

Rainer Bischof 1947 — String Quartet "Ritual" ♦

Konstantia Gourzi 1962 — Teletía op. 103 ♦

Ruben Zahra * — Ritus ♦

Johanna Doderer 1969 — String Quartet "Mattsee" ♦; "Ritus" ♦; "Wutmarsch" ♦; "Heidekrautwalzer" ♦; "Tango" ♦; "Rosa Lacrimosa" ♦; "Achensee" for clarinet and string quartet

Aleksey Igudesman 1973 — String Quartet No. 1

Serkan Gürkan — 4 Pieces; String Quartet "Schrei"

A complete repertoire list is available on request. — ♦ Works released on CD can be requested from the agency; selected titles are also available on streaming platforms.

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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. 9'

INTERVAL

Franz Schubert — String Quartet No. 14 in D minor D 810 "Death and the Maiden" (Allegro · Andante con moto · Scherzo · Presto) c. 38'

** For the Schubert anniversary in 2028, Johanna Doderer completes — on commission from the quartet — the second movement of the quartet that Schubert had abandoned after the Viennese publisher Artaria declined it, and adds a third movement of her own.*

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 (Allegretto gioviale · Andante amoroso · Allegro misterioso · Adagio appassionato · Presto delirando · Largo desolato) c. 27'

Wiener Melange

Anton von Webern — Langsamer Satz c. 9'

Konstantia Gourzi — Teletía 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 "A Tribute to Vienna" 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'

* Commissioned by the Auner Quartett.

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