

Terra Memoria

Our new Ragazze cellist Nathalie Flintrop brought her love of Scandinavian music to the quartet and put together this program.



In Terra Memoria, Ragazze Quartet brings together three Scandinavian worlds: the timeless power of folk music, the ethereal sounds of composer Saariaho and the introspective depth of Sibelius. Time, or timelessness, and inner emotional life are a common thread throughout the program.

That Scandinavia has a rich folk music tradition is evident from the enormous amount of beautiful, often melancholic pieces that have been passed down through oral traditions and collective memories. They tell stories about nature, the sea, and human emotions. The Ragazze play a selection of arrangements from 'the Ireland of the North'.

Saariaho's Terra Memoria explores memory in an abstract, almost physical way. Saariaho describes how we continue to remember those who are no longer with us: their lives are complete, but our feelings about them continue to change. Some memories fade, others remain crystal clear and can haunt us even after years. This idea is reflected in the music: certain elements are constantly transforming, while others remain virtually unchanged and reappear recognizably.

Sibelius' Voces Intimae offers an intimate conclusion to the program. This string quartet is imbued with lyricism and personal expression. Written well after Sibelius shifted his focus from chamber music to symphonic compositions, this intimate string quartet is unique. The work contains many references to the folk music tradition, which subtly resonate throughout the music. The subtitle, Voces Intimae, refers to both the recurring dialogue and the introspective nature of Sibelius' music. The work is a deeply human reflection on loss, longing and inner dialogue.

Repertoire: Selection of Northern European Folk Melodies, Kaija Saariaho – *Terra Memoria* for string quartet (2007), Jean Sibelius – String Quartet in d minor, Op. 56, *Voces Intimae* (1908)

Performers: Ragazze Quartet

Availability: from January 2026

The **Ragazze Quartet** plays both classical and modern string quartet repertoire: inspired and on the highest level. With attractive but unconventional programmes the quartet has come to be one of the most fresh and leading voices in the world of classical music. In innovative programmes it embarks on collaborations with the most original voices in theatre, dance and literature. With performances that speak to all senses they succeed in securing an audience for the rich classical music tradition. In this way they warm the hearts of both the die hard listener and the novice for the string quartet repertoire of the past and of our present day. www.ragazzequartet.nl

If you would like to invite the Ragazze Quartet or if you have any questions, you can contact Coline Vandenberghe (coline.la.musica.artists@gmail.com).