

## Biography

### **Esmé Quartet**

*Wonhee Bae, Violin I*

*Yuna Ha, Violin II*

*Jiwon Kim, Viola*

*Ye-Eun Heo, Cello*

<http://www.esmequartet.com/>



*„...it was the Esmé’s monumental Schubert Quartet in G D887 that was the Michelin-starred meal.“*

(Strings Magazine, UK, May 2018)

The Esmé Quartet was formed in 2016 at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne, Germany by four Korean musicians that were long ago acquainted with each other as friends. They shared common interests and passions in music, the arts, and life. The quartet has rapidly gained a reputation as a chamber ensemble of exceptional achievement and promise. In spring 2018 the quartet won first prize and four special prizes at the prestigious Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition in London, and in autumn 2018 it became HSBC Laureate of the Académie du Festival d’Aix. This recognition followed prizes at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition, Irene-Steels Wilsing String Quartet Competition and the Chamber Music Competition at Cologne’s Hochschule für Musik und Tanz.

The quartet’s members attended university in Korea and later on went on to study at the Paris Conservatoire, in Cologne or Düsseldorf, where they live today. Currently the quartet’s members are studying at the Musikhochschule Lübeck under the tutelage of Heime Müller. Each of the players has credentials as a soloist, so the Esmé Quartet brings together four strong musical personalities with a shared background who now form a cohesive, close-knit unit that is passionately dedicated to the string quartet repertoire. The ensemble takes its name from an Old French word meaning ‘loved’ or ‘esteemed’.

The Esmé Quartet has appeared at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Flagey Musiq3 Festival in Brussels, and as a resident quartet at the 2018 Aix-en-Provence festival, the 2018 McGill International String Quartet Academy in Montreal and Classic Esterházy in Eisenstadt. The quartet has participated in the ProQuartet Academy in Roussillon (France) in 2017 and in the 2017 Jeunesses Musicales International Chamber Music Campus in Weikersheim, where it was awarded a special prize in the form of a residency at the 2019 Heidelberger Streichquartettfest.

As winner of the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition, the Esmé Quartet will appear at Wigmore Hall and make a tour of the UK in 2019, take up residencies at the Banff Centre (Canada) and Avaloch Farm Music Institute (USA), and go into the studio for the British CD label Champs Hills Records. Engagements in 2018-19 also include a debut at the Lotte Hall Seoul and at the Lucerne Festival 2019, a tour of Italy, and performances at the Festival d’Aix-

en-Provence, at the Brahms Festival in the city of Lübeck, at the Esterházy Festival Eisenstadt (Austria) and at the Montreal International String Academy 2018.

The Korean-German quartet has been mentored in masterclasses by Andraś Keller, by Günter Pichler and Gerhard Schulz of the Alban Berg quartet, Christoph Poppen of the Cherubini Quartet, by Jonathan Brown of Cuarteto Casals as well as by Eberhard Feltz of Berlin's Hanns Eisler Hochschule.

**2018/2019**

**This biography is to be reproduced without any changes, omissions or additions, unless expressly authorised by artist management.**