

**QUATUOR DIOTIMA**, founded by graduates of the Paris and Lyon Conservatoires, was awarded first prize at the FNAPEC Competition, Paris in 1999, and the Contemporary Music Prize at the London String Quartet Competition in 2000, in which year, at the invitation of ProQuartet, they began a two-year residency at the Centre Européen de Musique de Chambre, Fontainebleau.

From the outset Diotima have been performing internationally; they have appeared at many of the major concert venues and music festivals across Europe including L'Auditorium du Louvre, Berlin Philharmonie, Konzerthaus Berlin, Festival ECLAT Stuttgart, Ars Musica Brussels, Huddersfield Festival, Archipel Geneva, Klangspuren Schwaz, MITO Settembre Musica, Villa Medici Rome, Casa da Musica Porto, CDMC Madrid and the Athens Festival. Concert tours have taken them further afield, to Japan, USA, Mexico, Central and South America, China and Korea.

Quatuor Diotima's repertoire ranges from Haydn to the composers of our time, with particular focus on the Classical period, French Romanticism, the early Twentieth Century, and a selection of major works from the last 50 years. An equally significant part of their activity is the performance and dissemination of newly commissioned works.

Diotima's first CD of works by Lachenmann and Nono received the Young Talents prize at the award ceremony 'Diapason d'or de l'année'. Their recent CD of Janacek (*Diapason d'or*, November 08) comprises the two quartets played from new critical editions and the première recording of the composer's viola d'amore version of *Intimate Letters*. Their discography also includes quartets by Lucien Durosoir ('Choc' from *Le Monde de la Musique*) and Schoenberg's virtuosic concerto (after Handel) for quartet and orchestra, to which they will soon add works by Alberto Posadas and Chaya Czernowin, and a 'Second Viennese School' portrait.

Highlights of their 2008/09 season and beyond include appearances at the Amphithéâtre Bastille Paris, Musica Strasbourg, Festival d'Automne Paris, Kasseler Musiktage, Ultraschall Berlin, L'Auditori Barcelona, La Casa Encendida Madrid, Mozarteum Salzburg, the Aldeburgh and Cheltenham and Helsinki festivals, Weimar Kunstfest, Palazzetto Bru-Zane Venice, Cité de la Musique Paris and Gulbenkian Foundation Lisbon.

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