

## Gringolts String Quartet

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**Ilya Gringolts** violin • **Anahit Kurtikyan** violin • **Silvia Simionescu** viola •  
**Claudius Herrmann** cello

*A captivating listening experience and a first class performance thanks to the Gringolts Quartet's playing and Christian Poltéra as second cello: a full and at the same time deeply focused sound allows the listener to experience the pieces as if from the heart of the action – one feels completely cocooned in this strangely unfamiliar yet hugely appealing music.*

RONDO MAGAZIN, Michael Wersin, 06/02/2016



The Zurich-based Gringolts Quartet was founded in 2008, born from mutual friendships and chamber music partnerships that cross four countries: over the years, the Russian violinist Ilya Gringolts, the Romanian violist Silvia Simionescu and the Armenian violinist Anahit Kurtikyan frequently performed together in various chamber formations at distinguished festivals; the German cellist Claudius Herrmann played with Anahit Kurtikyan in the renowned Amati Quartet. What unites the four musicians is the immense joy they get from performing together and their passion for the high demands presented by the string quartet repertoire.

They have already had the opportunity to collaborate with eminent artists such as Leon Fleischer, Jörg Widmann, David Geringas, Malin Hartelius, Christian Poltéra and Eduard Brunner. Aside from the classical repertoire for string quartet, they are also dedicated performers of contemporary music, including string quartets by Marc-André Dalbavie, Jörg Widmann and Jens Joneleit.

Highlights from the past seasons include performances at the Salzburg Festival, Lucerne Festival, Gstaad Menuhin Festival, St Petersburg Philharmonia, L'Auditori Barcelona, Sociedad Filarmónica de Bilbao, Società di Concerti in Milan and the Kasseler Musiktage. In the current season the Gringolts Quartet will make its debuts at Wigmore Hall, Louisiana Museum Copenhagen, Lugano Musica and Stockholm Konserthuset. Concert tours will take them to Italy, Germany and Switzerland.

The Gringolts Quartet's debut recording with works by Robert Schumann was released in 2011. Together with David Geringas the Gringolts Quartet participated in the world premiere recording of Walter Braunfels' quintet in 2012, which was awarded a "Supersonic Award," as well as an ECHO Klassik award. In 2014 they garnered attention with their Brahms CD ("The interpretational concept reveals new ways of understanding the work." (Pizzicato.lu), while their latest CD with quintets by Glazunov and Taneyev with Christian Poltéra was released in Spring 2016 and awarded the Diapason d'Or.

The members of the Gringolts Quartet all play on rare Italian instruments. Ilya Gringolts plays a Giuseppe Guarneri "del Gesù" violin, Cremona 1742-43, on loan from a private collection. Anahit Kurtikyan plays a Camillo Camilli violin, Mantua 1733. Silvia Simionescu plays a Jacobus Januarius viola, Cremona 1660. Claudius Herrmann plays a Maggini cello, Brescia 1600. Prince Golizyn who was a great admirer of Beethoven, gave the first performances of the composer's last string quartets, which he commissioned, on this instrument.