

Vogler Quartett

Tim Vogler, violin

Frank Reinecke, violin

Stefan Fehlandt, viola

Stephan Forck, violoncello

While the members of the Vogler Quartet have retained their youthful air, in 2010/11 they celebrate no less than 25 years of distinguished activity as an ensemble. Long recognised as one of the world's leading chamber groups, the Vogler is as notable for each member's prowess and personality as it is for the players' collaboration in bringing chamber music to the world's great stages.

Just a year after its foundation in 1985 in East Berlin the Vogler Quartet caused a sensation at the Evian International String Quartet Competition, winning first prize (the first East German quartet to do so), the critics' prize and a special prize for interpretation of a contemporary work. This marked the launch of an international career which has taken the ensemble to the world's most important musical centres, with appearances in the major chamber music series in Europe and America and tours of Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

The Vogler Quartet's repertoire is extensive, embracing 'standard' works from Haydn to Bartók and the Second Viennese School, lesser known pieces – such as the quartets of Karl Amadeus Hartmann and the huge Second Quartet by Morton Feldman, which lasts several hours – and music by living composers, such as Wolfgang Rihm, whose works for quartet were the subject of a collaboration with the Arditti Quartet. The Vogler has given world premieres of quartets by, among others, Frank Michael Beyer, Ian Wilson, Jörg Widmann, Mauricio Kagel and, in October 2009, Erhard Grosskopf.

The enterprising spirit of the members of Vogler Quartett is also evident in their partnerships with celebrated colleagues, for instance in quintets with piano, clarinet, viola or cello, and in octets. Characteristic of their questing approach is a recording of sextets by composers of the New Jewish School, made with clarinetist Chen Halevi and pianist Jascha Nemtsov, which joins CDs of Schubert and Mendelssohn in the catalogue of "Profil" Edition Günter Hänssler, the quartet's principal record label since 2005. The Vogler's discography also includes much-praised recordings for BMG/RCA, Nimbus, col legno and for cpo, which will release a complete cycle of the Dvorák quartets.

A series at the Berlin Konzerthaus is a regular feature of the Vogler Quartet's schedule, as is the annual festival founded in 2000 by the quartet in the Irish town of Sligo. In 2002 the Vogler assumed artistic directorship of the Homburg/Saar Kammermusiktage in western Germany, while its members have also been responsible since 2005 for the award-winning Nordhessische Kindermusiktage in Kassel, an annual festival of musical events for children.

The quartet's teaching commitments embrace work with children and, with professional quartets, masterclasses and workshops around Europe and the rest of the world, while in 2007 the players succeeded the Melos Quartet as Professors of Chamber Music at the Stuttgart Conservatory.

www.voglerquartet.com