

Restoring the important role of patrons of the arts, responding to the formative needs of young string quartets, and celebrating the cultural heritage of Italy



















"For me, no instrumental ensemble has been penetrated by musical thought as deeply as the string quartet. Through the quartet, the ship of music sounds the depths of the deepest seas." – Luciano Berio

Le Dimore del Quartetto | Via San Vittore, 40 | 20123 Milano, Italia | info@ledimoredelquartetto.eu

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PREMISE

More than other instrumental ensembles, a string quartet requires long periods of rehearsal and study. It is a meeting of four voices, where rhythm, breath, silence and sensation must be shared and synergetic. This exceptionally difficult process requires intense study and also shared experiences of life. But often the four musicians come from different cities or regions, sometimes very far apart. In their early years together, the most difficult time at the beginning of a musical career, the young musicians find themselves facing a task that requires more effort than it offers reward. Their energy is wasted on logistical issues, instead of focused on their artistic needs.

PROJECT

"Le Dimore del Quartetto" addresses the formative needs of young string quartets while celebrating and enriching the legacy of historic homes.

In collaboration with ADSI Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane, we have created a network of important historical residences to host the young musicians for a period of study in preparation for important artistic engagements, in exchange for a final concert. The quartets are selected for the project by Artistic Director Simone Gramaglia, violist of the Quartetto di Cremona.

RESULTS

The project creates a circular economy, in which the spacious and secluded historic houses are transformed into a concrete resource for the young ensembles. Repaying the hospitality in music in turn brings value to the home, which returns to life at zero cost as a cultural center for the community, restoring the important role of patrons of the arts. Through Le Dimore del Quartetto new experiences are found in unexpected places, bringing new life to underused spaces and bringing a new audience to chamber music. The network also aims to offer logistical support to concert societies presenting young ensembles, for the creation of a new sustainable culture.

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OBJECTIVES REACHED

29 Quartets, 76 Residences in 12 Regions and 38 Provinces, 80 concerts in one year, circa 4,800 audience members, 6250 members in the Facebook group "Le Dimore del Quartetto", 2 scholarships of 5,000 euros awarded to quartets in 2016.

The consolidation of relationships with our partners and the arrival of new collaborators has strengthened the project and made it ready for development across Europe. Le Dimore del Quartetto is already a point of reference for young musicians.

LOCATIONS

The historic residences that make up the network of Le Dimore Del Quartetto are distributed all over Italy in the following locations (region, province, locality):

- Valle d'Aosta: Aosta: Gressoney St. Jean
- Piemonte: Alessandria: Piovera; Spinetta Marengo; Asti: Belveglio; Cuneo: Busca;
 Novara: Boca; Torino: Piossasco, Collegno
- Lombardia: Bergamo: Lurano; Como: Albavilla, Cremia, Parravicino d'Erba; Cremona: Casalbuttano; Lecco: Calolziocorte, Merate, Valmadrera; Lodi; Cornegliano Laudense; Milano; Varese: Caidate, Taino
- Veneto: Padova: Este; Venezia; Vicenza: Castelgomberto
- Friuli Venezia Giulia: Udine: Ruda
- Toscana: Arezzo: Lucignano, Sargiano; Firenze: Fiesole, Montespertoli, Pontassieve; Livorno: Nugola; Pisa: Guardistallo; Ghizzano di Peccioli; Pistoia: Quarrata; Siena: Castellina in Chianti, Castelnuovo Berardenga, Monteroni d'Arbia, Pienza, San Giovanni d'Asso, San Quirico d'Orcia, Trequanda
- Emilia Romagna: Bologna: Ozzano dell'Emilia; Piacenza; Reggio Emilia: Albinea
- Lazio: Rieti: Labro; Roma: Cerveteri, Gallicano; Viterbo: Proceno
- Umbria: Perugia: Castiglione del Lago, Gubbio, Spoleto
- Campania: Benevento: Campolattaro; Napoli: Vico Equense; Salerno
- Puglia: Lecce: Casamassella
- Sicilia: Catania; Palermo; Messina; Siracusa: Noto

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THE QUARTETS

Current participants in the project: Quartetto Adorno, Quatuor Akilone, Alauda Quartet, Quartet Altimira, Behn Quartet, Quartetto Calypso, Cesar Franck String Quartet, Cuarteto nel Cuore, Quartetto Daidalos, Quartetto Echos, Quartetto Elsa, Entheos String Quartet, Quartetto Eos, Quartetto Epos, Quartetto Fauves, Quartetto Guadagnini, Heath Quartet, Quartetto Indaco, Quartetto Lyskamm, Quartetto Maurice, Maxwell Quartet, Quartetto Mitja, Quartetto Noûs, Trio Hegel, Trio Quodlibet, Quartetto Sincronie, VenEthos Ensemble, zArt Quartett.

NEXT PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Consolidate the network in Italy through a more active collaboration with the players within the chamber music system (concert societies, festivals, academies, agencies, prizes' organizers) and the ADSI
- Begin the development of a network of residences across Europe, in collaboration with the European Historic Houses Association
- Select new European quartets
- Broadcast and share a series of video portraits, already filmed, giving voice to the project on television and social media, showing the relevance and value of Le Dimore del Quartetto and demonstrating the quality and dedication of the musicians (in collaboration with Sky Arte and Sky Classica)
- Create unconventional tours, bonding residences' activities and historic-cultural heritage to our quartets' concerts

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WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT US

"The historic houses of Italy are opened up for music, and in return the music lends a hand to the landmarks. [...] It could be called an economy of direct exchange, and it works miracles."

Sette, Il Corriere della Sera | July 2015

"Le Dimore del Quartetto has, in any event, already become one of the most interesting things to come down the internet grapevine during this hot summer."

Il Giornale | August 2015

"I think that the idea underpinning the project is really brilliant, because it gives back to the participants much more than the modest resources invested for its realization."

Selma Mandelli Maggioni, Villa Gariboldi Vittadini | April 2016

"The experience of the Dimore del Quartetto is, for us, the possibility to bring string quartet in a very intimate dimension. The possibility of benefiting from residences allows us to work peacefully, and landlords to discover the "behind the scenes" of preparing a concert. In this way, and by spending days together, sensations, emotions and rehearsals become a precious experience for all the people involved, and give new energy to historic houses."

Francesca Turcato, Viola del Quartetto Indaco | Luglio 2017

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