



Ragazze Quartet with new cellist Nathalie Flintrop. Photo Pien Dütthmann

Programme proposals 2025–2026

Dear concert promotor,

We are pleased to present our programmes to you in this portfolio for the 2025-2026 season.

Memories of Trees focuses on the special woods of our treasured instruments in amongst others a new composition by Kate Moore with visual elements by Jurjen Alkema.

In the summer of 2025, another new chapter in our exciting series **They Have Waited Long Enough** will premiere at Wonderfeel, in which we will be sharing the stage with soprano Katharine Dain and other extraordinary musicians. We will play this programme throughout the season (in consultation).

In the spring of 2026 we will present a brand new Ragazze programme called **Dance of the Birds**. In it we delve into the rhythmic coming from three continents and play compositions by Ginastera and others.

For the somewhat more classically oriented venues, we complement our portfolio with **The Wrong Way**, a programme featuring string quartets by Shostakovich, Prokofiev and Gubaidulina.

We sincerely hope you are interested! If you would like to invite the Ragazze Quartet or if you have any questions, please **contact** Annette de Bock (annette@ragazzequartet.nl).

Warm regards,

Ragazze Quartet

Memories of Trees

In Memories of Trees, the Ragazze Quartet gives trees a musical voice. Memories of trees fill the room in a magical world of music, light, and projections.



The four members of the Ragazze Quartet play string instruments made by various violin makers. Some of the instruments are centuries old, others were built in this century. But is there more to discover besides age when examining the sometimes rare woods used in the instruments?

The Ragazze delved into the origins of their string instruments and became fascinated by the treasure trove of memories stored in the tree's annual rings. Annual rings are like a historical document: they tell us more about the tree's location, the climate, the influences of flora, humans, and so on. This information sometimes stretches back hundreds or even thousands of years. A fascination for the role of trees as silent witnesses to history and guardians of our

ecosystem was born. This fascination takes shape in Memories of Trees, an evening-long, visual concert for string quartet and electronics, central to the question: how do trees remember humans and their disruptive impact on the ecosystem?

At the request of Ragazze Quartet, Kate Moore composed a poetic piece in which music expresses the memories of trees. Parts of this work, titled Hy Brasil, are part of the performance Memories of Trees. Audiovisual artist Jurjen Alkema visualizes the memories of trees with his projections. This creates a wunderkammer of pulsating sap flows, communicating fungal threads, and crown shyness, with the wooden instruments as interpreters.

The performance premiered at the Oerol Festival 2025 with the outdoor version of Memories of Trees. Starting in September 2025, we will tour various concert halls with the stage version.



Repertoire: Kate Moore (parts) Hy Brasil (commissioned composition) plus work by Nathalie Flintrop, Garth Knox, Kaija Saariaho, Mees Vervuurt

Performers: Ragazze Quartet

Director: Mees Vervuurt

Decor en video projections: Jurjen Alkema

Costumes: Bart Hess

Sound Design: Koen Keevel

Playing Period: May 2025 to June 2026

Circuit: small and middle halls

They Have Waited Long Enough

Together with festival Wonderfeel, we have been building the song cycle [They Have Waited Long Enough](#) since 2021. It is a retelling of historical or mythological events seen through the eyes of women. Three female composers are commissioned to create a work for soprano, string quartet and non-western instruments. They give a voice to three mythical or historical women who now - finally - get to tell their stories.

In 2025 we focus on the theme of [witches](#) and the piece is dedicated to three women who have been unjustly persecuted and murdered: Maria San Juan de Garonda, Hecate and Mother Shipton. Composers Saskia Venegas, Amarante Nat and duo Diamanda Dramm / Katharine Dain, add three new songs to the cycle. The lyrics will be written by British writer and 'stand-up-classicist' Natalie Haynes.

De Volkskrant wrote the following about the cycle in 2021: "Equally memorable is the Dutch premiere of They Have Waited Long Enough, three cantatas for voice and string quartet about women from ancient Greece. The title is a quote from English writer and comedian Natalie Haynes, who retells myths from the female point of view."

*"There is no one men hate more
Than a woman who does not fear them."*

Click [here](#) for a video of one of the pieces of the first rendition of They Have Waited Long Enough, by composer After Darvishi.

Repertoire: new works by Katharine Dain/Diamanda Dramm, Saskia Venegas and Amarante Nat

Performers: Katharine Dain (soprano), Ragazze Quartet, Raphaella Danksagmuller (duduk), Marianna Soroka en Maria Martpay (txalaparte)

Playing period: premiere July 2025 (Wonderfeel), playing period Autumn 2026



Photo Nichon Glerum, 2022

Dance of the Birds

Under the title **Birds of Passage**, the Ragazze Quartet will delve into non-Western composers and artists in the coming years. The colourful programme **Dance of the Birds** specifically focuses on rhythms from other cultures. The quartet plays works by **Alberto Ginastera**, **Zakir Hussain**, **Kinan Azmeh**, **Fred Onovwerosuoke**, **Aleksandra Vrebalov** and a new commissioned work **Vernon Chatlein** en **Asmaa Hamzaoui**.

How does non-Western rhythm sound on a string quartet? Ragazze Quartet delves into the world of irregular time signatures, layered rhythms, destabilizing timing, traditions that are hundreds of years old and from cultures all over the world. They integrate these into one of the most deeply rooted chamber music forms of Western classical music: the string quartet. By opening up the quartet to Indian, Argentinian, Caribbean, Syrian, Moroccan, West African and Serbian traditional musical influences, Ragazze are making a case for the future of classical music: one without borders.



Sketch by composer Aleksandra Vrebalov

During the rehearsal process, Ragazze will follow workshops by specialists in Argentinian, Indian and African rhythms. These workshops will be open to both participants and the public. The quartet will also interview the composers and experts involved about the place and meaning that rhythm has for them. These interviews and the learning process will be recorded by Ragazze Quartet and shown during the concert.

For the context programming, Ragazze will collaborate with local Indian, Argentinian and African communities. Would you like to become a partner in this context programming as a venue? Please contact us.

Repertoire: Alberto Ginastera 'String Quartet No.1', Zakir Hussain 'Pallavi', Fred Onovwerosuoke 'String Quartet No.2', Aleksandra Vrebalov 'Pannonia Boundless', Kinan Azmeh 'Dabke on Martense Street', Vernon Chatlein 'New commission', Asmaa Hamzaoui 'New commission'.

Performers: Ragazze Quartet

Playing period: April 2026 through August 2026

Circuit: small and middle venues

The Wrong Way

That Dmitri Shostakovich encouraged Sofia Gubaidulina to follow "the wrong way" were words that kept her going during turbulent times. Even Shostakovich himself deliberately sought a dangerous route in his compositions by commenting on the regime.

The Ragazze Quartet performs Shostakovich's haunting third string quartet. This work tells the story of a war; the five movements were given the following subtitles for the premiere:

I Untroubled ignorance of the future catastrophe

II Rumbblings of unrest and anticipation

III Forces of war unleashed

IV In memory of the dead

V The eternal question: why? and for what?

The work is combined with Prokofiev's fiery first string quartet and Gubaidulina's abrasive second string quartet. Three highlights of 20th-century string quartet literature.

Repertoire: Prokofiev *String Quartet No.1*, Gubaidulina *String Quartet No.2*, Shostakovich *String Quartet No.3*

Performers: Ragazze Quartet

Playing period: April through December 2026

Circuit: small and middle venues



Photo Nienke de Groot 2024

Biography

The Ragazze Quartet plays both classical and modern string quartet repertoire: inspired and on the highest level. With attractive but unconventional programmes the quartet has come to be one of the most fresh and leading voices in the world of classical music. In innovative programmes it embarks on collaborations with the most original voices in theatre, dance and literature. With performances that speak to all senses they succeed in securing an audience for the rich classical music tradition. In this way they warm the hearts of both the die hard listener and the novice for the string quartet repertoire of the past and of our present day.

Ragazze is a permanent artist with CD label Channel Classics and has released no fewer than nine CDs with them already: *Vivere*, *Česko*, *FourFourThree*, *Spiegel* and *Bartók Bound vol.1 and 2*, *Winterreise*, *Open Spaces* and *But Not My Soul*. The CDs were commended by the (inter)national press. The Volkskrant wrote about *Česko*; "Together they put down chords, as if their hands and arms are controlled by one single brain". *FourFourThree* and *Bartók Bound vol.2* were awarded the 'Editor's Choice' in Gramophone. *Česko*, *FourFourThree*, *Spiegel* and *Bartók Bound* all four were given the highest mark in the magazine *Luister*.

The Ragazze Quartet plays an average of seventy concerts a year in concert halls like the Concertgebouw and the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam, but can also be seen in concert series all through the Netherlands and on festivals like Oerol on the island of Terschelling. Tours abroad brought them to England, Sweden, China, Japan, Indonesia and the United States of America, to name a few.

Ragazze likes to join forces with young musicians and theatre makers just as with leading organisations such as Netherlands Dans Theater (NDT), the Kronos Quartet, Orkater and the Holland Festival. In addition, the quartet has taken over artistic leadership of chamber music festival *September Me* in Amersfoort. *September Me* transforms Amersfoort into the epicentre of trendsetting classical music. Ragazze play themselves and invite the newest generation of top class artists that are not afraid of breaking with tradition.

The Ragazze Quartet was enrolled for the two-year full time course of the Dutch String Quartet Academy and graduated from it in 2011. In 2013 they won the *Kersjes Prijs*, a prize that is awarded on a yearly basis to extraordinary talent on the Dutch chamber music scene.

In 2017 the Ragazze Quartet won the Operadagen Rotterdam Award for "...their quirky music- theatrical approach, their social engagement and the ease with which they dare to think outside the borders of their traditional expertise".



Foto Pien Dütthmann

The Ragazze Quartet receives multiannual financial support from the Fonds Podiumkunsten and the Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst. The Nationaal Muziekinstrumenten Fonds put Jeanita's violin and Annemijn's bow at their disposal.

Furthermore the Ragazze own a set of classical bows made by Andreas Grütter through the support of the Stichting Eigen Muziekinstrument.

www.ragazzequartet.nl