



PARALLEL 40
BELINFANTE QUARTET

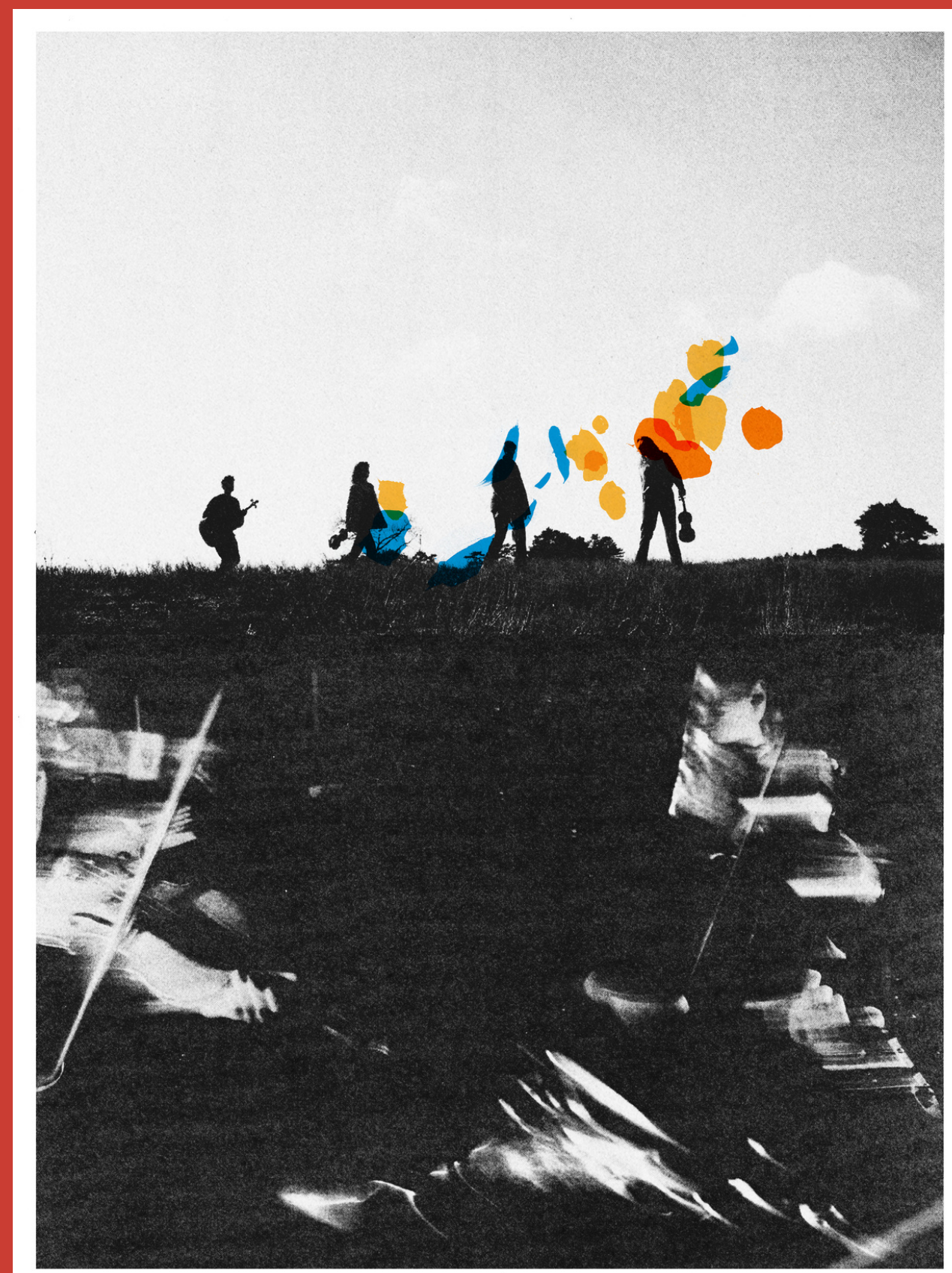
Parallel 40 is an ode to discovery and connection, collecting and arranging music from many different countries and regions found along the 40th Parallel North. Starting in Menorca and heading east, for a full turn around the globe, we will discover music from Menorca, Italy, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, North Korea, China, Japan, the USA, Portugal and Spain.



The programme features arrangements of traditional music from several places on the Parallel, as well as many original compositions for String Quartet. The aim of Parallel 40 is to create new repertoire for String Quartet and simultaneously discover music from all over the globe. By doing so, we wish to connect people and different cultures and inspire people through our vivid, musical storytelling.

Our programme includes works by contemporary Uzbek composer, Polina Medyulanova, our own arrangement of music by Azerbaijan's first recognised female composer, Shafiga Akhundova, Italian composer Alessandro Scarlatti, whose Sonate a Quattro serve as the earliest example of string quartet writing, and music by the little-known Greek composer Nikos Skalkottas, who resigned himself to living and writing music behind closed doors for the majority of his adult life. Terry Riley and Tan Dun are among the more famous composers on this program.

We have also made our own arrangements of traditional music from Menorca, Spain, Sardinia, North Korea, Azerbaijan and Portugal.



The Programme

Menorca

Pau Marques i Oleo - *Menorcan folk melodies*

Sardinia

Sardinian folk melodies, arr. Belinfante Quartet

Italy

Alessandro Scarlatti - *Sonata a Quattro no. 3*

Albania

Ioannis Koukouzelis - *Aineite ton Kyrion*

Greece

Nikos Skalkottas - *Five Greek Dances*

Turkey

Ahmet Adnan Saygun - *String Quartet No. 1*

Armenia

Komitas Verdapet - *Fourteen Pieces on Themes of Armenian Folk Songs*

Azerbaijan

Shafiga Akhundova - *Maiden Rock*, arr. Belinfante Quartet

Turkmenistan

Bayram Hudaynazarov - *Yylgaylar halk sazyna konsertino*

Nury Halmamedov - *The Song of the Girls* arr. Belinfante Quartet

Uzbekistan

Polina Medyulyanova - *Initiation for String Quartet*

Kyrgyzstan

Atai Ogonbaev - *Mash Botoy*, arr. Belinfante Quartet

China

Tan Dun - *Eight Colors for String Quartet*

North Korea

Korean folk melody - *Arirang*, arr. Belinfante Quartet

Japan

Joe Hisaishi - *String Quartet No. 1*

USA

Terry Riley - *Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector*

Portugal

Carlos Paredes - *Verdes Anos*, arr. Belinfante Quartet

Spain

Franciso Tárrega - *Recuerdos de la Alhambra*, arr. Belinfante Quartet

Belinfante Quartet

"Glowing ensemble playing and experimental spirit" NRC

The Belinfante Quartet is quickly becoming recognised as one of the most exciting string quartets of its generation, heralded for their engaging and innovative performances. Formed in the Netherlands in 2016, the quartet members come from The Netherlands, England, Scotland and Spain. They are well-known for their inventive programming, pairing well-known quartets with hidden gems and with amazing contemporary quartets. From Sally Beamish to Caroline Shaw, they have also worked with composers such as Mathilde Wantenaar, Marion von Tilzer and Arthur Klaassens. The quartet has performed at festivals throughout Europe including: the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam; International Chamber Music Festival Utrecht; Zeistermuziekdagen; Wonderfeel; Trondheim Chamber Music Festival and Stift International Festival. Recent engagements have included performances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Doelen in Rotterdam and TivoliVredenburg Utrecht.

The quartet performs live on European radio stations such as NPO Radio 4 and BBC Radio 3 and their recent Debut CD release *Ellipse* with the Dutch label 7 Mountain Records has received international acclaim, including a nomination for the Edison Klassiek Newcomer Award 2023. They are the recipients of several prizes, most recently receiving the Ensemble Of The Year 2022 award from Le Dimore del Quartetto.



In addition to these activities, the quartet enjoys the opportunity to collaborate with other artists including internationally renowned pianist Nino Gvetadze, Urban Dance Group Static and visual artist Jordi Cárdenas, together with whom they won the 2019 Delft Chamber Music Festival Award. They recently featured in a Channel 4 documentary about the life of Frieda Belinfante, which was presented by world-renowned actor Stephen Fry.

In 2023 they are delighted to be a part of the Kronos Quartet's '50 for the Future' project, performing a selection from 50 quartet commissions for the Kronos Quartet in a festival hosted by the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam in the Muziekgebouw.

The Belinfante Quartet studied at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover with Professor Oliver Wille and The Netherlands String Quartet Academy in Amsterdam (NSKA). They were one of the quartets in residence at the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam Residency 2021 - 2022 and were recently selected to take part in the MERITA String Quartet Project. The quartet has performed in masterclasses with Eberhard Feltz, Isabel Charisius and the Jerusalem, Casals, Signum, Ebene and Danel Quartets.



The Belinfante Quartet

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Members

Olivia Scheepers (violin)

Fiona Robertson (violin)

Henrietta Hill (viola)

Pau Marques Oleo (cello)

Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/belinfantequartet/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@belinfantequartet1710>

Instagram: @thebelinfantes

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/7vcyElXsPiqVuo z29sWtZc>

