

SABIÁ quartet



ensemble

Your own wings are your true nest

The Sabiá Quartet, named after a Brazilian songbird and inspired by the symbolism of the quote above, has strived since its conception in 1998 to detach itself from traditional music conventions. It aims to freely express itself within the spheres of diverse music cultures and genres.

Leading the way toward this path was, among other influences, a personal encounter with the Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla. The four international artists have set their roots in the symbiosis of large, brilliant classical works, the melancholic magic of Tango, the sensuous, rhythmic sounds of Brazil and other ethnic influences, and the unadorned poetry of chansons.

The quartet's sensitive, self-arranged works distinguish themselves through their authenticity and haunting beauty. The quartet's members from Germany, Austria, Brazil and England meet in Porto for rehearsals and find inspiration through a nuanced collaboration of diverse sounds and influences. They carry their audiences off to a world of multi-faceted instrumental and vocal music.

The quartet with its first-rate members - Birgit Laude (1st Violin), Andrea Moreira (2nd Violin, Voice), Francisco Moreira (Viola, Guitar and Arrangements) and Miranda Phythian-Adams (Cello) - are beloved among insiders and international concert series because of their authenticity, impulsivity and subtle dynamics.

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BIRGIT LAUDE 1st violin



Birgit Laude was born in Frankfurt am Main. She studied violin at the Musikhochschule in Vienna and later at the International Cello Centre in London and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. She earned a performance diploma with honors as a concert violinist and received a national award of recognition from the Austrian government.

With the renowned Camerata Academica Salzburg and as a violinist with the Young Piano Trio of Salzburg she toured internationally to South America, Iran, Egypt, Syria and throughout Europe.

She performed as a violinist with the Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg and the Bavarian Radio Orchestra before becoming a member of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra (1982-85) under the direction of Sergio Celibidache.

From 1985-1991 she performed as the first violinist with the Aton Quartet based in northern Germany. After spending a year in the U.S., she returned to Europe to make her home in Central Franconia (near Nuremberg), where her main focus is chamber music, especially piano trios.

She is a violin instructor at area music schools and has been the first violinist of the Sabiá Quartet since 1998, with international performances. She made many CD- and Broadcast Recordings.

SABIÁ q u a r t e t



ANDREA MOREIRA 2nd violin, vocals

Andrea Moreira was born and grew up in Salzburg, Austria. She completed the Violin and Professional Music Teaching Course at the 'Mozarteum' University of Music and Arts in Salzburg where she began to dedicate herself predominantly to chamber music, the enlargement of her vocal repertoire and to teaching the violin.

Her interest in foreign languages and different musical cultures and styles gives her great versatility and a large and varied vocal repertoire. She sings in nine different languages with various different style chamber groups, from duo to larger ensembles.

Her repertoire reaches from classical Kurt Weill/ Bert Brecht songs and French Chansons to Jazz, Bossa Nova, Forro, Tango, Kletzmer and to Romanian and Russian Gypsy Folk songs.

She is a member and founder of various Chamber Music Ensembles. In 1998 she founded the Sabiá Quartet and continues to be the 2nd violinist and singer with this group. With the Sabiá Quartet she has enjoyed an intense international concert schedule and made many CD recordings.

She has been living in Porto, Portugal since 1994 and teaches the violin at Porto's Conservatory of Music.

SABIÁ q u a r t e t



FRANCISCO MOREIRA viola, acoustic guitar

Born in Goiânia, Brazil, Francisco Moreira began his musical studies at the Conservatory of the Federal University of Goiás, and finished at the University of Music and Arts Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria.

He won two prizes in the Young Instrumental Competition in São Paulo, and was a member of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Rio de Janeiro, the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Latin American "Jeunesse Musicales" Montevideo Uruguay, the Youth Symphony Orchestra World-wide "Jeunesse Musicales" Warsaw, Poland, the Mozarteum Orchestra, the Salzburg Chamber Soloists and the "Salzburger Kammerphilharmonie".

He has participated in master classes with Max Rostal, Bruno Giuranna as well as other professors in Austria, Spain, Brazil and Germany. He has also performed in several concerts and recordings with soloists Mischa Maisky, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Boris Belkin, among others.

He has been a member of the Porto Synphony Orquestra Casa da Música and viola professor in the Conservatory of Music of Coimbra since 1994. Since 1998 member of the Sabiá Quartet.

SABIÁ quartet



MIRANDA PHYTHIAN-ADAMS cello

Miranda was born in Oxford, UK and grew up in Leicester, where she played Principal Cello in the Leicestershire schools Symphony Orchestra. After leaving school in 1984, she went to study cello with Derek Simpson at The Royal Academy of Music where she received LRAMs for teaching in both cello and piano, The Professional Certificate (Hons) and The Advanced Certificate for post graduate study. She also received a Principal's Discretionary Award for work she developed with children with disabilities.

On leaving The Royal Academy of Music, she started to work as a freelancer with various British Orchestras including The Halle and BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra. In 1989 she obtained a position in the Royal Scottish National Orchestra where she remained for ten years, being promoted to assistant principal cellist (number 3) after five years. She was also involved with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's educational programme, mainly working with children.

While in Glasgow, she gave regular recitals and played in the Allander Ensemble, a chamber group made up of principal members of the orchestra, and in the Paragon Ensemble which was dedicated to playing Contemporary Music. She played as soloist with various amateur and semi professional orchestras.

In 1999 Miranda moved to Portugal. She played regularly with Portuguese orchestras, in particular the Orquestra Nacional do Porto and the Remix Ensemble. She maintained a busy chamber music schedule particularly with the Jacob Quartet. With this string quartet she organised and participated in a cycle of concerts at the Rivoli Teatro Municipal do Porto dedicated to chamber music. She performed regularly with this group all over Portugal, notably at the Casa da Música. Apart from her work with the Jacob Quartet she performed with popular Portuguese jazz and fado artists such as Pedro Abrunhosa, Misia and Andre Sahbib and worked with various groups and ensembles as a freelancer.

She is a member of the Sábia String Quartet which has a successful following both in Portugal and also in Austria, where the quartet enjoys an annual concert tour. Alongside performance, she has always enjoyed helping children and organised and participated in various educational projects for children in different Porto hospitals and with children with disabilities in their special school.

She had an intense cello and piano teaching schedule formally at Porto's German school and later at the music school Bando dos Gambozinos, at Oporto British School and at the new Escola de Rock da Academia de Artes "Jahas".

SABIÁ q u a r t e t



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