

Enluminures

*A composer in the spotlight
connects the orient with the
occident and folklore with
modernity.*



Presentation of our album

Debussy's string quartet op. 10 was considered perturbing at the time on the Parisian music scene and has since become an absolute staple of quartet repertoire. It sweeps us along the most unexpected harmonic pathways and takes inspiration from sound-worlds as diverse as jazz, gamelan ensembles and Spanish folk music. Rich in colour and exotic tonalities, this poetic masterpiece frees itself from traditional Western customs and stands as a unique bridge between different cultures. It was the famous Belgian violinist Eugène Ysaye's string quartet who commissioned the work. They later defended it from the many accusations of "too modern". With Opus 10's ties to Belgium, France and Armenia, The Akhtamar quartet immediately related to it and placed the piece at the heart of their repertoire. The Akhtamar quartet chose its name in reference to both the ancient Armenian myth and the Komitas Miniatures arranged by Aslamazyan, which they have played with passion since their formation.

In all areas of art, ancient works are visited by contemporary artists and adapted or transformed to speak to today's world. Judith Adler de Oliveira has taken secular, Armenian themes and expressed them through music in a variety of ways. At times, she "narrates" these themes in a direct manner and at others, we have a faint sense of the original material as her innovative approach draws us away from tradition. As some of the same themes figure in the Miniatures by Komitas/Aslamazyan, a pathway is created between Oliveira's work and the music which lies at the heart of Akhtamar's repertoire.

Program

*ADLER DE OLIVEIRA, Judith (1989-)
Enluminures, suite for string quartet 18' (commissioned by the Akhtamar Quartet)
creation: 2021*

*DEBUSSY, Claude (1862- 1918)
Quartet op.10 in g minor 27' (1893)*

Label

c4pres

Akhtamar Quartet's biography

"htamar, an Armenian legend. The name of the quartet is a reference to the Armenian Miniatures by Komitas/Aslamazyan, which the ensemble has performed with passion since its foundation. Formed in Brussels in 2014, the ensemble was one of the six quartets **selected for the "tremplins jeunes quatuors" of Paris' Philharmonie** in 2016 and in the same year won **the second prize in the Musiq'3 festival**. In 2021 the quartet was awarded the **third prize of the International Johannes Brahms Competition**.

The Akhtamar Quartet **performs in prestigious concert halls and festivals all around Europe**: Radio France Festival in Montpellier, the Concertgebouw in Bruges (Be), the MonteLeón Festival (Sp), as well as venues in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Baltic States... and of course in Armenia.

In 2020, the quartet released its first CD: légende arménienne. The label Cypres Records produced the recording of Komitas' miniatures and "un quatuor arménien" by Eugenie Alecian, dedicated to the Akhtamar Quartet. Regularly broadcast on national radios (Musiq'3, France Musique, SWR2 in Germany...), **légende arménienne has been rewarded with four stars by the prestigious BBC Music Magazine and Classica Magazine, four diapason**, and is one of the five nominees in the classical music category of the Octaves de la Musique 2021.

The quartet attaches great importance to bringing classical music everywhere and to everyone. They have **several sets which they perform in establishments like schools, hospitals, homes and psychiatric institutes**. This activity has also won recognition since The Dream Makers, a show for young audiences, is a **finalist in the YAM awards 2021 (Young Audiences Music)**. From this impulse were born **several solidarity projects that received important support**: Music 4 Armenia, a tour of twenty free concerts in Armenia after the war in the fall of 2020; Harmonies of Dreams, shows for patients in psychiatric hospitals.

The Akhtamar Quartet is supported by the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Wallonie Bruxelles International, the Concertgebouw Bruges, Le Dimore del Quartetto, the Boghossian Foundation, and the Centre National de Musique.



Judith Adler's biography

Judith Adler de Oliveira is a French / Portuguese composer and librettist. She is a **Global Connections Artist for Opera for Peace**.

She has completed two Master's degrees in History of Art and Musicology, as well as in Compared Literatures at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

Her research combines music and language, and deals more specifically with the music and poetry produced by communities that have endured war and exile. Her music often refers to the heritage of other cultures. Her recent compositions feature a rewriting of the Armenian and Georgian musical legacies. She has collaborated with visual and video artists and set her own texts to music. In the Confluence project that focuses on the themes of hospitality and the figure of Abraham, she contributed as librettist, and composed an overture to Qoutayba Neami's composition. **Her musical works were performed in Belgium, France, Italy, Canada, Germany**, and her next creation is to be held for the inaugural season of Namur Concert Hall.