

Duo Viennese

Monika Hager-Zalejski and her husband Pawel Zalejski founded the Duo Viennese in 2005, which has since won multiple awards. They won first prize and the Mozart Prize at the International Chamber Music Competition 'Concorso Argento' (Gioia del Colle / Bari) in June 2006; first prize and the Grand Prize ('Golden Leaf') at the International Chamber Music Competition 'Premio Rovere d'Oro' (Genoa, 2006); in 2007 they came first at the Residence Competition in Vienna. Duo Viennese was one of the selected ensemble members of the 'Live Music Now' foundation founded by Yehudi Menuhin. The violin duo follows the Viennese classical tradition and specialises in the performance practice of the Viennese classical period, with the support of top-class experts such as Gerhard Schulz (Alban Berg Quartet), Thomas Christian, Jan Pospichal (first concertmaster of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra) as well as Johannes Meissl (Joseph Haydn Institute for Chamber Music Vienna, Artistic Director International Summer Academy Prague-Vienna-Budapest, ECMA/Vienna, Artis Quartet). Duo Viennese has already performed with great success at the Vienna Musikverein, the Philharmonie in Warsaw, the Teatro 'La Fenice' in Venice, the Vienna Hofburg, at chamber music festivals such as the Mozart-Fest Würzburg, the International Summer Academy Prague-Vienna-Budapest, the International Ignaz-Pleyel Society Vienna, the Cultural Centre Trenta (Slovenia), the concert series 'Young Elite' in Lindau, the Mozartiade Augsburg, the Music Festival Goslar-Harz, as well as performing with orchestras at home and abroad. In 2018 they released their first CD featuring works by the Polish composer Roman Palester.

Monika Hager-Zalejski

comes from an Austrian family of musicians, and grew up in Lindau. She studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, in the class of Professor Günter Pichler (Alban Berg Quartet). After further studies with Professor Jan Pospichal (First concertmaster of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra) and with Professor Eszter Haffner (University of Music and Performing Arts Graz), she graduated in Vienna in 2009 with honours under Professor Jan Pospichal. She was also granted a scholarship at the School of Music, Indiana University Bloomington, USA, in the violin class of Federico Agostini, and at the Scuola di Monteverdi in Cremona in the master class of Salvatore Accardo. She also attended several master classes with Igor Oistrach, Pavel Vernikov, Franco Gulli, Giuliano Carmignola, Thomas Brandis, Boris Kuschnir, Daniel Gaede and Hagai Shaham. She has performed in chamber music concerts at renowned festivals in Europe with: Mario Brunello, Giuliano Carmignola, Anthony Pay, Reinhard Latzko, Eszter Haffner, Christian Altenburger, Elke and Inge Hager, Nora Schwarzberg, as well as with her 'Duo Viennese' violin partner, Pawel Zalejski. She was granted a scholarship with the Carl-Michael-Ziehrer Foundation in Vienna; the Karl-Klingler Foundation Munich, the PE-Förderkreis für Musik e.V. in Mannheim, which generously sponsored her with the purchase of an Italian violin, and the Swiss Foundation Dr. Robert and Lina Thyll-Dürr. In 2006 she was awarded the Artist Promotion Prize by the city of Friedrichshafen, and she won the 'Soloist Prize' of the University of Music in Vienna in 2008. Since 2010 Monika has been a member of the Staatsphilharmonie Nürnberg and teaches at her own Hager Music Studio.

Pawel Zalejski

is the leader of the Apollon Musagete Quartet. The 'AMQ' won first prize after only two years of existence and three special awards at the 57th ARD International Music Competition in Munich. The AMQ is now a firmly established name on the European music scene and they have captivated audiences, as well as the press, with their stirring and moving interpretations. Amongst the highlights of the 2018/19 season are repeat invitations to the Auditori Barcelona, the Bozar Brussels, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Gewandhaus Leipzig, the Louvre Paris and the Tonhalle Zurich, as well as a debut performance at the Frauenkirche Dresden. At the Schubertiade in summer 2019 the Apollon Musagète Quartet gave the prelude to the great Schubert Circuit which continues into the autumn and the subsequent seasons. A tour through Japan is planned to bring the musicians to Nagoya, Tokyo and Yokohama, among other places. Pawel Zalejski has won prizes at international competitions such as the J. Brahms Competition in Pörtschach, the Bronislaw Huberman Concert Cycle of the Austrian Institute in Warsaw, the International Tadeusz Wronski Solo Violin Competition in Warsaw (2004), the Stefanie-Hohl Violin Competition in Vienna in 2006, as well as the Grand Prix at the International Competition for Modern Music of the 'Accademia di Concordi Roma' in Gioia del Colle in 2004, and several chamber music prizes with G. Krawiec on guitar. He has studied at the F. Chopin Music Academy Warsaw with Professor K. Jakowicz, at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna in the class of Gerhard Schulz (Alban Berg Quartet), and he graduated with honours at the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold in the class of Thomas Christian. He has been a guest concertmaster for the South West German Chamber Orchestra, the Kurpfälzisches Chamber Orchestra Mannheim 'Mannheim School' (W. Christ), and the Polish Chamber Orchestra 'Sinfonia Varsovia' under the direction of K. Penderecki. Pawel Zalejski is also the first concertmaster for the Symphony Orchestra Vorarlberg, and for the Ensemble Kontrastes in Nuremberg.