



LEONKORO QUARTET PAYS TRIBUTE TO ITS MENTORS

DEBUT RECORDING ON ALPHA CLASSICS

Berg · Webern · Schulhoff

ALPHA1196 Release date: 30 January 2026

“We are humbled and excited to share and carry forward the spirit, wisdom, and inspiration our mentors entrusted to us.”

At the heart of the Leonkoro Quartet’s debut album for Alpha Classics is Alban Berg’s *Lyric Suite*, very special to these young players because it was the first piece they chose to work on after their formation in 2019. Their intensive study was undertaken with their mentors, members of the Alban Berg Quartet and Artemis Quartet, who also cherish it as one of the 20th century’s most important works for string quartet. On the disc alongside it are Erwin Schulhoff’s *Five Pieces for String Quartet*, WV68 and Anton Webern’s *Five Movements for String Quartet*, Op.5 and *Langsamer Satz*.

Out of Vienna sees the Leonkoro Quartet delve into the works of three composers of the Second Viennese School who greatly influenced the musical landscape of the early 20th century.

Born in Vienna, Alban Berg completed his *Lyric Suite* in 1926; combining theatricality and rigorous architecture, free atonality and dodecaphonism, the music expresses the composer’s passionate love for Hanna Fuchs at that time. Although publicly dedicated to the conductor and composer, Alexander von Zemlinsky, a secret dedication of the work to her was discovered some fifty years later.

Erwin Schulhoff, born in Prague in 1894, was discovered by Dvořák at the age of seven, studied in Vienna from the age of 12, and with Debussy in Paris around 1913. *Five Pieces for String Quartet*, dedicated to Darius Milhaud, surveys the Baroque genre through a surrealist lens and also parodies various traditions, including the Viennese waltz.

Both of Webern’s pieces featured on this disc are inspired by profound love and emotion; *Langsamer Satz* was written in 1905 when he was passionately in love with Wilhelmina Mört, who would eventually become his wife. Webern composed *Five Movements for String Quartet* in 1909, still mourning the death of his mother three years earlier; its fragmentation of musical discourse and broad palette of dynamics introduced a completely new sound world and heralded the coming of a new freedom of musical form.

This recording is supported by the Leonkoro Quartet’s 2024 Borletti-Buitoni Trust (BBT) Award and is the first of several with Alpha Classics.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

OUT OF VIENNA

Alban Berg Lyric Suite

Erwin Schulhoff Five Pieces for String Quartet, WV 68

Anton Webern Five Movements for String Quartet, Op.5 & Langsamer Satz

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LEONKORO QUARTET

leonkoroquartet.com

Jonathan Schwarz violin · Amalie Wallner violin

Mayu Konoe viola · Lukas Schwarz cello

Praised for its “extraordinary stage presence, glowing musicality, and profound sensitivity to the unique sonority of each piece” (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 2022), the Leonkoro Quartet was founded in Berlin in 2019 and has quickly established itself among the leading ensembles of its generation.

In 2022, the Quartet received the prestigious Jürgen Ponto Foundation Music Prize, followed by a triumph at the International String Quartet Competition at Wigmore Hall, winning first prize along with nine special awards; 1st prize, Audience Prize and Young Audience Prize at the International Quartet Competition in Bordeaux; the MERITO String Quartet Award; and joined the roster of the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists program for 2022–2024. In 2024 they added the Young Talent Award of the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust award to their portfolio, followed by the LOTTO-Förderpreis of the Rheingau Musik Festival and the Ensemble Prize of the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Summer 2025.

As well as members of the Alban Berg and Artemis quartets their mentors include the late Alfred Brendel.

Jonathan Schwarz plays a violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini on generous loan through a trust. Amalie Wallner also performs on a Guadagnini violin, while Lukas Schwarz plays a Carlo Tononi cello, both generously loaned by the Beare's International Violin Society. Mayu Konoe plays a viola by Lorenzo Storioni, kindly provided by a private sponsor.