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THREE TRIBUTES Bushra El-Turk

NMC Recordings NMC DL3063

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and streaming on NMC Extended Play

"Without losing sight of our rich string quartet tradition, we always search for new formats and new perspectives"

Dudok Quartet Amsterdam

BBT was proud to support Dudok Quartet Amsterdam in the commissioning of a new string quartet, *Three Tributes* by London-born Lebanese composer Bushra El-Turk, and is now delighted that it has been recorded for release on the new NMC Extended Play digital series launched earlier this year to champion outstanding young composers presenting bold new music shaped by our turbulent times.

The works of London-born composer Bushra El-Turk are defined by the integration of music and musicians from different cultural traditions and imaginative fusions of artistic genres and improvisation, an approach that prompts an unusual style of string quartet playing. Her Lebanese roots are especially inspirational in *Three Tributes* which takes the form of three portraits of Levantine female singers who lived during the Nahda period, a cultural renaissance in the Arabic-speaking world that took place between the mid-19th and early 20th centuries.

"Bushra asks us to interact with written expressive microtonal polyphony while adding our own inspirations as we develop the performance," comments Dudok cellist David Faber. "The results take shape as three biographical tributes which unravel in unpredictable ways - but always eloquently, energetically and passionately."

Always loyal to their dictum "the music we play is never old or new, but always relevant and present" there are no limits to the breadth of repertoire the Dudoks continue to explore. Their artistry and boldness is evident in a fast-growing portfolio of critically acclaimed recordings, from concept albums to single composer collections.

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DUDOK QUARTET AMSTERDAM

www.dudokquartet.com

Judith van Driel violin • Marleen Wester violin • Marie-Louise de Jong viola • David Faber cello

Inception First met as members of the Ricciotti Ensemble, a Dutch street symphony orchestra.

Name the Quartet is named after celebrated Dutch architect Willem Marinus Dudok (1884-1974) who was from a musical family and also composed in his spare time; *"I feel deeply the common core of music and architecture: after all, they both derive their value from the right proportions."*

Repertoire ranges from Ligeti, Shostakovich and Weinberg to Mendelssohn, Mozart, Brahms and Beethoven. The Quartet constantly explores new pathways and connections in music. They regularly perform their own arrangements of pieces including Gesualdo, des Prez, Brahms and Shostakovich.

Collaborations recent partners have included Hilary Summers, Pieter Wispelwey, Lilli Maijala, Olga Paschenko, Hannes Minnaar, Erik Bosgraaf and James Oesi.

Performances major European venues and festivals including Vienna Konzerthaus, Beethoven Haus Bonn, De Doelen, Gergiev Festival, West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Festival Jeunes Talents, Festival Quatuors à Bordeaux and the Amsterdam String Quartet Biennale, as well as appearing regularly at Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw. The Quartet made its US debut in 2018 at the Northwestern University Winter Chamber Music Festival, with other recent highlights including a New York debut at the Park Avenue Armory and digital concerts for the Washington Library of Congress and Fontana Chamber Arts Kalamazoo. Other highlights include engagements in Milan, Mantova, Utrecht, Rotterdam and Heidelberg String Quartet Festival.

Recordings first recording was *Métamorphoses* in 2015 on Resonus Classics, exploring themes of musical innovation through works by Ligeti, Haydn and Brahms. It was awarded Editor's Choice in Gramophone, with the Quartet praised by The Guardian for its *'lithe, lively sound and alert sense of structure and detail'*. Second highly acclaimed release, *Labyrinth*, explored the use of counterpoint in works by Mozart, Ligeti and Bach. The third, *Solitude*, (2018) featured works by Mendelssohn, Weinberg and Shostakovich curated around the theme of loss and loneliness - *'an intense listening experience that will have you on the edge of your seat'* (The Strad). For the 2-volume recording of *Haydn's Opus 20 Quartets*, the Dudoks researched instrumental set-up and commissioned classical bows. Its 2021 label debut with Rubicon Classics featured the complete *Brahms Quartets* played on gut strings and was critically acclaimed across the board with The Daily Telegraph describing the album as *'a marvel, revealing the intricate detail of these pieces with lovely clarity.'* Also on Rubicon: *Reflections* with quartets by Shostakovich and Bacewicz; *What Remains*, with works by Roukens, Pérotin, Gesualdo, de Machaut, Reich & Messiaen *'For a string quartet to branch beyond mainstream repertoire requires thought and daring. The Dudok Quartet Amsterdam have both'* (The Observer); two volumes of *Tchaikovsky complete string quartets* played on gut strings; and *Terra Memoria* featuring quartets by Saariaho and Shostakovich, *"an hour's worth of music-making that will hold you in its thrall for the duration."* (Gramophone). A new collaboration with Hilary Summers, Mike Fenton and Maarten Ornstein resulted in *Circus Dinogad* (Zefir Records 2023), a fusion of musical genres including baroque, renaissance, traditional and improvisation: *"what a fine and innovative instrumental ensemble this is ... They move seamlessly through the ages, masters of every musical language they perform .. each piece layered with an improvisatory twist. Above all, they know how to have fun."* BBC Music Magazine. *Three Tributes*, composed for the Dudoks by Bushra El-Turk, was recorded on NMC Extended Play (April 2026), a new series championing young composers whose work is shaped by today's turbulent times.

Commissions The Quartet is also committed to commissioning new works and has collaborated with composers including Joey Roukens, Peter Vigh, Theo Loevendie and Bushra El-Turk.

Projects include world premiere of Kaija Saariaho's opera *Only the Sound Remains* with Philippe Jaroussky and Dutch National Opera and a collaboration with director Rosabel Hugué re-imagining Beethoven's Op 132 String Quartet for children. Entitled *"Quartet! A card game with Beethoven"* the Quartet takes the project to venues including the Vienna Konzerthaus, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Flagey and De Doelen as part of its ongoing commitment to education and outreach work. In 2024 the Dudoks launch their own chamber music festival in the Netherlands <https://dudokmuziekdagen.nl>

Training Studied at Hochschule für Musik in Cologne with the Alban Berg Quartet and later at the Dutch String Quartet Academy with Marc Danel of the Danel Quartet. Other important mentors include Eberhard Feltz, Peter Cropper (Lindsay Quartet), Luc-Marie Aguera (Quatuor Ysaÿe), Stefan Metz and, more recently, conductor Reinbert de Leeuw and violinist/conductor Shunske Sato.

Awards 2018 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award, Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition, Joseph Joachim International Chamber Music Competition Weimar and the prestigious Dutch Kersjes Prize (2014).

Instruments generously on loan from the Dutch Musical Instrument Foundation (NMF); violins by Francesco Goffriller (1725) and Vincenzo Panormo (1810), viola by Jean Baptiste Lefèvre (1760) and cello by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume (1850). Classical and baroque bows, made by Luis Emilio Rodríguez Carrington, were commissioned with the help of a private sponsor, Stichting Eigen Muziekinstrument, Kersjes Foundation and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust.

Reinvention is at the heart of the Dudok Quartet's quest to make all music relevant in contemporary society. It is committed to crafting unique and eclectic live and recorded programmes in order to engage with its audiences in adventurous and imaginative ways and reveal new connections in music. These include its own arrangements of music way off the beaten track and not originally intended for string quartet.