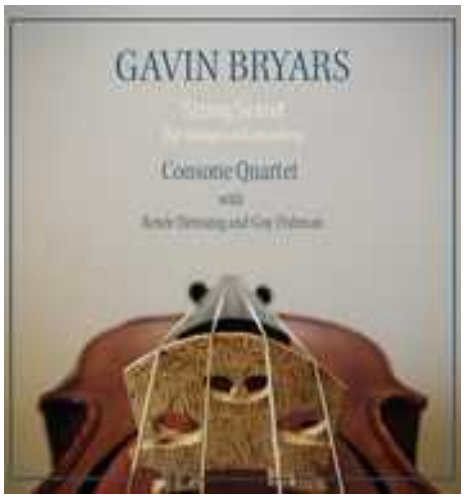
Press Release from **BBT**: 10 November 2026



THE BRIDGES OF KÖNIGSBERG

String Sextet

Consone Quartet

Renée Hemsing *viola* **Guy Fishman** *cello*

GB Records BCGBCD37 Release date: 27 November 2026

As well as being inspired by the famous mathematical puzzle of the seven bridges of Königsberg, the city home of renowned philosopher Immanuel Kant,* this new work for string sextet by Gavin Bryars is a meditation on the nature of chamber music itself; how two 'outsiders', American baroque musicians Renée Hemsing and Guy Fishman, are gradually incorporated into the established social and musical framework of an existing string quartet, the Consone Quartet. Following the premiere performance and UK tour in August 2023, it is now released on Bryars' own label later this month.

The commission to extend the repertoire of the string sextet into the 21st century, but with period instruments, was irresistible to Bryars whose aim was to achieve a richness of ensemble, but with an equal distribution of solo parts, step by step, and with diplomacy and discretion; "*The piece opens with the quartet playing a slow static, harmonic passage as a self-contained ensemble, with the two 'outsiders' as a quasi-independent twosome, feeling their way – like diffident guests at a cocktail party – into this perhaps intimidating environment. Little by little, the various pairing of instruments brings them into the ensemble until they are fully integrated, and the sextet becomes as natural an ensemble as the historically solid quartet*."

The Consone Quartet comments: "*This record came about as a beautiful string of gifts and friendships – being introduced to Gavin Bryars and our collaborators Renée Hemsing and Guy Fishman, through [music philanthropists] Penny Wright and Andrew Neubauer, who brought us all together, sparking the first conversations and ultimately helping to realise this whole project. With the recording, we can now share this music with an even bigger audience and take them on a touching musical journey through Gavin's poetic score.* " The couple not only opened their Gloucestershire home at Syde Manor for rehearsals, the premiere performance, and recording sessions in the tithe barn, but also co-commissioned *The Bridges of Königsberg* along with the Consone Quartet (with the support of its 2022 BBT Fellowship for both commission and recording) and BBC Radio 3.

*The famous mathematical “Seven Bridges” problem was how to devise a route through the City of Königsberg that would cross each of its seven bridges once only. *The Bridges of Königsberg* is also seen by Bryars as another ‘satellite’ work for future incorporation into an opera based on the life of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) that he has had in mind to write for some time. The famous philosopher was born in Königsberg where he lived until his death, a lifetime that spanned musical periods from baroque to classical.

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Notes to Editors

Gavin Bryars *The Bridges of Königsberg* String Sextet
Consone Quartet, **Renée Hemsing**, viola **Guy Fishman** cello
GB Records BCGBCD37 release date 27 November 2026
Recorded at Syde Manor, Gloucestershire on 23 August 2025
Recorded, mixed, edited and mastered by Isa Kahn and produced with Gavin Bryars
Total running time 25.10

1. Opening
2. Piu mosso
3. Meno mosso
4. Piu mosso
5. A tempo
6. A tempo
7. Adagio

CONSONE QUARTET BBT Fellowship 2022

http://www.consonequartet.com
Agata Daraškaitė violin **Magdalena Loth-Hill** violin **Elitsa Bogdanova** viola **George Ross** cello

Formed 2015 at the Royal College of Music in London.
Prizes and awards include 2015 York Early Music International Young Artists Competition, including the EUBO Development Trust Prize and a place on the EEEmerging Scheme in France. 2016 Royal Over-Seas League Ensemble Prize, BBC New Generation Artists and 2022 Borletti-Buitoni Trust (BBT) Fellowship Award.
Venues where the Quartet perform include London’s Wigmore Hall, King’s Place, St John’s Smith Square and St Martin-in-the-Fields, and at the Edinburgh, Lammermuir, Cheltenham, Brighton, and Buxton Festivals. The English Haydn Festival and Brighton and York Early Music Festivals have been loyal supporters and are also regular hosts. They are artists-in-Residence at Paxton House (2023-25) and at Saxon Shore Early Music Kenardington (2024-27). Overseas engagements include Heidelberg String Quartet Festival, the Concertgebouw Brugge, AMUZ and de Bijloke in Belgium, Schwetzingen Festival and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival in Germany, Amici della Musica Padova, Witold Lutoslawski Studio in Warsaw, MA Festival, Brugge, Canada’s Early Music Vancouver and Salle Bougie Montreal, and Library of Congress in Washington DC.
Collaboration partners include Justin Taylor, Steven Devine, Alexander Gadjiev, Anneke Scott, Mary Bevan, Colin Lawson, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Nicola Boud, Helen Charlston and the Chiaroscuro Quartet.
Music Education The Quartet has worked with students at the Royal College of Music, Chetham’s School of Music and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and Guildhall School of Music and Drama, as Hans Keller fellows for 2020-2022. They are ‘Visiting Quartet' for Music in the Round, Sheffield, working regularly with the South Yorkshire community.
Recordings include music by Haydn and Mendelssohn on the Ambronay label, and Mendelssohn’s complete string quartets with Linn Records, the third volume of which will be released in April 2027. Forthcoming recording projects include those with Kate Bennett Wadsorth for the Deux Elles label and Schumann and Mendelssohn Lieder with Helen Charlston for BIS Records.