

Chamber Music Concerts Presents the Award-Winning Leonkoro Quartet

Chamber Music Concerts presents the **Leonkoro Quartet** on Friday, March 21st at 7:30pm at the Southern Oregon University Music Recital Hall, 450 S Mountain Ave, Ashland, OR. The program features Caroline Shaw's *Entr'acte*; Paul Hindemith's String Quartet no. 2 in F Minor, Op. 10; and Ludwig van Beethoven's String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 132. Tickets are \$10 for SOU employees and just \$5 for students. For details, visit ChamberMusicConcerts.org or call 541-552-6154.

"The Leonkoro Quartet...has an enormous stage presence, glows for the music, takes full risks and amazes with its empathy for the respective sound of the pieces...." (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*). Founded in Berlin in 2019, the ensemble is framed by the brothers Jonathan and Lukas Schwarz on first violin and cello, with Amelie Wallner on second violin and Mayu Konoe on viola. In 2022, Leonkoro Quartet garnered a series of prestigious accolades, solidifying their place among the most celebrated ensembles of their generation. They were bestowed with the highly prestigious Jürgen Ponto Foundation Music Prize, a biennial award recognizing outstanding String Quartets. Subsequently, the quartet triumphed at the International String Quartet Competition held at London's Wigmore Hall, earning 1st prize and a collection of nine special awards, including interpretations, residencies, and concert prizes.

Continuing their triumphant journey, the quartet seized First Prize at the Concours International de Quatuor à Bordeaux. Their exceptional performances not only impressed the esteemed jury but also captivated the audience, resulting in the quartet receiving both the Audience Prize and the Young Audience Prize. Shortly thereafter, they were invited to join the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists program.



Photo credit: Peter Adamik

The quartet will tour North America for the first time this year, with concerts in New York City, Boston, Montreal, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, and for Chamber Music Concerts in Ashland, just to name a few.

Leonkoro ("Lionheart" in Esperanto) not coincidentally alludes to Astrid Lindgren's children's book about two brothers, with a story juxtaposing the grave reality of death with a heartfelt yearning for comfort and solace — a sentiment that string quartet repertoire often addresses.