short bio

These four young musicians from Munich possess charismatic and authentic stage presence and set audiences aflame with their spark-throwing enthusiasm and burning passion for this rare form of chamber music.

In their highly professional, exact interpretations, Arcis Saxophone Quartet explores the relationship between individual expressivity and interwoven ensemble performance. In doing so, they captivate listeners with their joy of playing and expressive depth. Their eagerness to communicate with each other gives a sense that they are performing with one unified musical voice. The resulting effect is far-reaching sonically and musically, with the saxophone's entire spectrum of color coming to light.

Arcis Saxophone Quartet has won several awards and competitions, including the First Prizes at the Musikwettbewerb des Kulturkreises Gasteig e.V. (Munich); at the International Music Competition Concorso Argento (Italy); and at the First Classical Music International Internet-Festival “Chance Music” (Russia). They also won third prize at the 13th Chieri International Competition (Italy), as well as second prize at the Chamber Music Competition of the Alice Samter Foundation Berlin. In 2015 they won First Prize at the Fourth International Contest – Festival of Chamber Ensemble Performance named after T.A. Gaidamovich in Magnitogorsk (Russia), and in 2016 they won First Prize at the First Rising Stars Grand Prix International Music Competition in Berlin.

The ensemble was founded in 2009 at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich, and studied chamber music under the Artemis Quartet, with additional instruction from Koryun Asatryan and Prof. Berger in Munich. March of 2013 saw the release of their first CD on Ambient Audio, Arcis Saxophon Quartett spielt Enjott Schneider. The quartet has been a member of the European Chamber Music Academy since 2014.

After their international debut in the Tchaikovsky Conservatory Moscow’s Great Hall and a concert in Wigmore Hall, the Quartet marked a new milestone in their career with an invitation to perform at the Berlin Philharmonie.

Arcis Saxophone Quartet is Claus Hierluksch (soprano saxophone); Ricarda Fuss (alto saxophone); Edoardo Zotti (tenor saxophone); and Jure Knez (baritone saxophone).

press

“The audience was highly impressed by the precision in their playing and the exact performance of difficult chords and by the lightness and the stage presence of the musicians.”

-O-Netz

“Ligeti’s Six Bagatelles marked the highlight of the evening...which was performed in absolute perfection. Tremendously well done!”

-Südwest Presse

“No audience should ever miss out on this young ensemble with such joy in their playing – with perfect instrumental skills: If you heard them once, you will come back...A wild explosion of rhythm and colors....Their gripping musicality is what makes them outstanding and unique.”

-tz München
WITHOUT LIMITS

The saxophone crosses many musical borders: famous in Jazz, Rock, and Pop, it was originally invented by the Belgian instrument maker Adolphe Sax in 1846 to conquer the stages of the classical music world.

As much as the saxophone is at home in many styles, Arcis feels that there are no boundaries for their unique genre. In this program the Quartet combines music from different centuries and genres which was first written for other instruments.

From Bach’s enchanting Italian Concerto written for harpsichord now split into four instrumental lines, to Haydn’s String Quartet Op. 20 No. 5, to Ligeti’s tricky and cheeky Six Bagatelles, Arcis takes classical music to new heights. They will bring a whole Hungarian orchestra sound on stage with dances by Bartók and Farka. And why not bringing a opera to life on top of it all? Anything is possible with four saxophones!

Works to be performed on the “Without Limits” program include:

- Johann Sebastian Bach, *Italian Concerto* (Arr. ASQ)
- Joseph Haydn, *String Quartet Op.20 No. 5 in F Minor*
- Béla Bartók, *Romanian Folk Dances*
- György Ligeti, *Six Bagatelles*
- Ferenc Farkas, *Old Hungarian Dances*
- George Gershwin, *Porgy and Bess Suite* (Arr. Sylvain Dedenon)

AMERICAN DREAMS

Endless fascinating prairie landscapes; the exciting pulse of the city that never sleeps; the swinging life of the Southern states; stories full of dreams, hopes, and love: in *American Dreams* the Quartet presents a broad musical range of the American way of life.

*American Dreams* is offered in two formats: the Arcis Saxophone Quartet alone, or with a guest violinist. They’ve teamed up with violinist Vineta Sareika from the Artemis Quartet or Martin Funda from the Armida Quartet to take their audience on a unique musical journey through America.

Works to be performed on the “American Dreams” program include:

**Quartet Version**

- Steve Reich, *New York Counterpoint*
- Antonín Dvořák, *String Quartet No. 12, American*
- Leonard Bernstein, *West Side Story Suite*
- Samuel Barber, *Adagio*
- George Gershwin, *Porgy and Bess Suite* (Arr. Sylvain Dedenon)

**Version with Violin**

- Steve Reich, *New York Counterpoint*
- Antonín Dvořák, *String Quartet No. 12, American*
- George Gershwin, *Porgy and Bess Suite* (Arr. Sylvain Dedenon)
- Marc Marder, *I Came With Shoes* for violin and saxophone quartet
- Leonard Bernstein, *West Side Story Suite* for saxophone quartet and violin
program offerings (cont.)

ARCIS WITH CHOIR
Arcis Saxophone Quartet pairs with choirs to perform music from the 1500s to today, showcasing the unique timbres of four saxophones and voice. Meditations, a mass, motets, and love songs round out this thoughtful and insightful program.

Works to be performed on the “Arcis with Choir” program include:
- Erkki-Sven Tüür, Meditatio for saxophone quartet and choir
- Gija Kantscheli, Amao Omi Meditatio for saxophone quartet and choir
- Eric Whitacre, Five Hebrew Love Songs for saxophone quartet and choir (Arr. ASQ)
- Orlando di Lasso, Missa “Bell’ Amfitrit’ altera” (Arr. ASQ)
- Johann Sebastian Bach, Motets for double choir
- Johann Sebastian Bach, Singet dem Herrn BWV 225
- Johann Sebastian Bach, Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf BWV 226

ARCIS WITH ORCHESTRA
Arcis is constantly pushing the traditional boundaries and concepts of the saxophone as a classical music instrument. They commissioned British composer Luke Bedford to write a concerto for saxophone quartet and orchestra which received its premiere in 2017 by the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin at the Philharmonie Berlin. The Phillip Glass Concerto for Saxophone Quartet and Orchestra has become a staple of saxophone quartets, and each of the four movements showcases the different timbres and tones of each saxophone.

Works to be performed on the “Arcis with Orchestra” program include:
- Luke Bedford, Concerto for Saxophone Quartet and Orchestra (Commissioned by ASQ in 2017 with Deutsche Symphonieorchester; Philharmonie Berlin)
- Philip Glass, Concerto for Saxophone Quartet and Orchestra

PHOTO BY HARALD HOFFMANN
additional offerings

ARCIS.EDUCATION

“Where is your conductor?” “Why do you need so many keys,” and “Why do you have such strange paper on your teeth?”

The thirst for knowledge of the next generation is enormous and knows no limit or category. In Arcis Saxophone Quartet’s workshop for children and teenagers, they present the instruments and saxophone music in a relaxed environment and transport the joy of music and of their own music making.

Own music making? Right! What could eliminate lingering reservations better than tooting a saxophone on your own, playing a little melody, or being the conductor?

It’s a wonderful way to hear different music and experience music-making firsthand.