



Opus13 (photo © Julia Wesely) - more publicity photos [here](#)

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

Norwegian/Swedish string quartet Opus13 continue their rapid rise with competition wins, major accolades, global touring, and a highly anticipated debut album release on Alpha Classics.

The past two years have marked an extraordinary chapter for the young string quartet Opus13, whose momentum continues to build with a series of major international achievements.

Opus13 consist of Norwegian violinists Sonoko Miriam Welde and Edvard Erdal, together with Swedish violist Albin Uusijärvi and cellist Daniel Thorell. The quartet's name derives from Felix Mendelssohn's *Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13*, which holds special significance for the quartet, as it was the first piece they learned together as teenagers in Oslo when they formed the eponymous quartet in 2014. Twelve years later, they had no choice but to include this work on their first recording. **Opus13's debut album (Mendelssohn's *String Quartet No. 2 Op. 13*, Grieg's *String Quartet No. 1, Op. 27* and *Solveig's Song*) will be released on September 18, on Alpha Classics.**

The quartet's recent accolades underscore their growing international reputation. In 2025, they were awarded **First Prize at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition** and the **First Prize at the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition**. In 2026, they were named **BBC New Generation Artists (2026–28)** and received both the prestigious **Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award** and Sweden's **Sixten Gemzés Music Award**.

Looking ahead, Opus13's 2026/27 season includes performances at leading venues and festivals such as **Wigmore Hall, Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Classique au Vert Festival in Paris, the Banff Music Festival, and Stockholm's Baltic Sea Festival**. The quartet will also undertake extensive touring across **Sweden, Norway, and the United Kingdom**, alongside return engagements in **South Korea** and a debut tour of **Japan** in the summer of 2026.

ABOUT OPUS13

"This was a performance of a profundity and kaleidoscopic colour that would have been astounding from any ensemble, let alone a young one still making itself known." - Charlotte Gardner, Gramophone

First Prize winners at both the 2025 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition and the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition, Opus13 are rapidly building a reputation on the international chamber music scene.

In 2026, Opus13 were named recipients of the prestigious Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award and the Sixten Gemzéus Music Award, and selected as BBC New Generation Artists 2026-28. Their debut album, featuring works by Mendelssohn and Grieg, will be released in September 2026 on Alpha Classics.

Upcoming debuts include performances at Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Wigmore Hall London, Laeiszhalle Hamburg, Essen Philharmonie, Rotterdam De Doelen and Stockholm Konserthus. They present a three-season concert residency at Leeds International Chamber Series as well as festival projects at the Baltic Sea, Bergen and Banff Festivals. Further expanding their presence in Asia, Opus13 return to South Korea for a series of performances and make their debut tour of Japan including performances in Osaka, Yokohama and Tokyo.

Named after Mendelssohn's youthful and passionate A Minor Quartet, Op. 13 - the first piece they ever played together - the quartet was formed in Oslo in 2014 by four teenagers eager to dive into the world of string quartets. Opus13 comprise Norwegian violinists Sonoko Miriam Welde and Edvard Erdal, violist Albin Uusijärvi and cellist Daniel Thorell, both from Sweden.

In addition to performing core string quartet repertoire by composers such as Mozart, Bartók, and Schubert, Opus13 are passionate ambassadors of Nordic classical and contemporary music, frequently programming works by Grieg, Stenhammar, Tarrodi, Byström, and Fagerlund. They also enjoy genre-crossing collaborations, having performed with Norwegian folk and popular music artists including Gjermund Larsen Trio, Sissel Kyrkjebø, and Sver.

Opus13 collaborate with leading musicians such as Janine Jansen, Leif Ove Andsnes, Tabea Zimmermann and Anne Sofie von Otter. Their musical development has been shaped by ongoing mentorships with Bjørg Lewis and Berit Cardas of the Vertavo Quartet and Tim Frederiksen. From 2025 the quartet have also studied with Prof. Oliver Wille (Kuss Quartett).

Opus13 are the founders and artistic directors of Vinterspill på Lillehammer, an annual chamber music festival in Lillehammer, Norway, since 2022. And in 2023, the quartet were awarded Equinor's Classical Music Award.

The quartet perform on an exceptional set of instruments:

- **Sonoko Miriam Welde, violin** – Antonio Stradivari (1736), on loan from Anders Sveaas' Charitable Fund.
- **Edvard Erdal, violin** – Giovanni Battista Guadagnini (1751), on loan from Dextra Musica.
- **Albin Uusijärvi, viola** – Christophe Landon (2008).
- **Daniel Thorell, cello** – Giuseppe & Antonio Gagliano (1772), on loan from the Järnåker Foundation.

TRAILER VIDEO

Get to know Opus13 in this trailer video for the upcoming album:

<https://youtu.be/YjovxEueEJs>

THE DEBUT ALBUM



Felix Mendelssohn

String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor, Op. 13

Edvard Grieg

String Quartet No. 1 in G Minor Op. 27

Solveig's Song

Opus13

Release Date: **18 September, 2026**

ALPHA1267, Alpha Classics

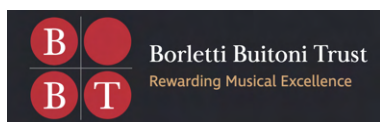
The booklet and audio are available on request.

THE RECENT DISTINCTIONS



Opus13: BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists 2026-28

The BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists Scheme helps to support young musicians on the threshold of an international career to reach the next stage of their development. It brings some of the world's most promising new talent to listeners across the UK through BBC Radio 3 broadcasts. The New Generation Artists come from a wide field and provide a representative cross-section of the most exciting British and international young artists. They are truly the stars of tomorrow.



Opus13: Borletti Buitoni Trust Artist Award 2026

BBT Artists funding helps outstanding young musicians to develop and sustain international careers, with a bespoke programme of tailor-made projects and wider support. Considering the value of a BBT award to be far greater than the direct

financial assistance it offers, the Trust aims to provide advice, guidance, contacts and PR in support of artists' BBT-funded projects.



Opus13: Recipient of the Sixten Gemz us Music Award 2026

The jury's motivation highlights Opus13's interplay and musicality: "With outstanding sensitivity, technical precision and artistic integrity, Opus13 demonstrates the power and relevance of chamber music in our time." The

scholarship was established in 2016 to recognize and reward young, highly gifted musical talents and abilities in various genres and who are considered to have a promising career both in Sweden and on foreign stages.

THE CONCERT DIARY

Japan (JP)

- 27 JUN – Phoenix Hall, Osaka
- 28 JUN – Dai-ichi Senmei Hall, Tokyo
- 29 JUN – Yokohama

United Kingdom (UK)

- 2 JUL – Kilrenny Church, Crail, Scotland
- 4 JUL – Crail Church, Crail, Scotland
- 7 JUL – Leeds Conservatoire, Leeds
- 9 JUL – Cheltenham
- 9 OCT – Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa
- 10 OCT – St Luke's, Battersea, London
- 11 OCT – Wigmore Hall, London
- 12 OCT – Portsmouth Guildhall, Portsmouth
- 15 OCT – Djanogly Recital Hall, Nottingham
- 16 OCT – Sussex Downs College, Lewes
- 17 OCT – Ship Theatre, Sevenoaks
- 18 OCT – Holywell Music Room, Oxford
- 20 OCT – Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham
- 23 OCT – Old Parish Church, Kelso
- 24 OCT – Upper Chapel, Sheffield
- 3 DEC – Aberdeen Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen
- 8 DEC – St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham

South Korea (KR)

- 29 JUL – Gangwon University Haslla Hall, Gangneung
- 30 JUL – Alpensia Concert Hall, Pyeongchang

Germany (DE)

- 1 AUG – St.-Johannis-Kirche, Hitzacker
- 5 NOV – Varel
- 6 NOV – Laeiszhalle, Hamburg
- 7 NOV – Wenningen
- 8 NOV – Northeim
- 10 NOV – Nuremberg
- 11 NOV – Kehl
- 13 NOV – Bochult
- 15 NOV – Herdecke
- 21 NOV – Europäisches Jugend-Musikfestival, Passau

Norway (NO)

- 8 AUG – Vinstra
- 14 AUG – Rosendal
- 18 AUG – Gamle Aker Church, Oslo
- 19 AUG – The Royal Chapel, Oslo (17:00)
- 19 AUG – The Royal Chapel, Oslo (21:00)

Greece (GR)

- 10 AUG – Samos

France (FR)

- 21 AUG – Wissembourg
- 22 AUG – Classique au Vert Festival, Paris
- 12 SEP – Fayence

Sweden (SE)

- 29 AUG – Stockholm
- 16 SEP – Stockholm Kammaren, Stockholm (16:15)
- 16 SEP – Stockholm Kammaren, Stockholm (19:45)
- 17 SEP – Stockholm Kammaren, Stockholm
- 27 SEP – Örebro
- 1 OCT – Västerås Concert Hall, Västerås

Canada (CA)

- 4 SEP – Rolston Recital Hall, Banff (10:30)
- 4 SEP – Rolston Recital Hall, Banff (14:30)
- 4 SEP – Jenny Belzberg Theatre, Banff
- 5 SEP – Jenny Belzberg Theatre, Banff
- 6 SEP – Rolston Recital Hall, Banff (14:30)
- 6 SEP – Rolston Recital Hall, Banff (19:30)

Italy (IT)

- 6 OCT – Ferrara
- 7 OCT – Bologna

The Netherlands (NL)

- 9 DEC – Concertgebouw, Amsterdam
- 13 DEC – Stadsgehoorzaal Leiden, Leiden

Belgium (BE)

- 12 DEC – Tournai

In 2027, following their debut at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Opus13 will embark on a major tour of the Netherlands, with performances at De Doelen (Rotterdam), TivoliVredenburg (Utrecht), Muziekgebouw Frits Philips (Eindhoven) and Philharmonie Haarlem. They will also perform across Scandinavia, appearing at Stockholm Konserthuset, as well as in Malmö, Oslo and at the Bergen International Festival. Opus13's Leeds residency will continue, alongside several UK dates to be announced.

For more information, please visit the calendar page on Opus13's website:

<https://www.opus13quartet.com/calendar>



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A NOTE FOR EDITORS

Press Kit with the album cover, biography, and publicity photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/kl7jvyljacre8ef4x0vvx/ABrsH-YreieUP0mmH29E0Uk?rlkey=541v4xt09xbff3u3974ny5vkd&st=8i7rfuxo&dl=0>

The booklet and audio of Opus13's debut album are available upon request.

For more information or interview requests, please reach out to:

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