

# Clarinet and String Quartet

David Bruce's *Gumboot* is a vibrant and evocative piece partly inspired by the South African gumboot dance, a tradition born from resilience and creativity in the face of adversity. The work unfolds in five lively and rhythmic movements followed by a poignant, lyrical finale, blending folk-inspired melodies with modern harmonic language to create an engaging and uplifting experience.

In contrast, Mozart's *Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in A Major, K. 581* is a masterpiece of the Classical era, renowned for its elegance and profound beauty. Often referred to as the "Stadler Quintet," this work was written for Mozart's friend and virtuoso clarinetist Anton Stadler. Its graceful interplay between the clarinet and strings, coupled with moments of playful charm and heartfelt lyricism, make it one of the most beloved chamber works in the repertoire. Together, these pieces showcase the clarinet's versatility and its ability to bridge diverse musical styles and traditions. Julian performs the Mozart Quintet on the Bassett Clarinet as originally intended

Quartet piece to be chosen by the quartet  
Bruce- Gumboots  
—  
Mozart- Quintet

This programme highlights the expressive and dramatic possibilities of chamber music, featuring works by three masters of the genre. Beethoven's *String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 95 "Serioso"* opens with intensity and boldness, showcasing his revolutionary approach to the quartet form. Compact and concentrated, the *Serioso* explores a wide range of emotions within its short duration, combining stormy drama with moments of poignant lyricism and an unexpectedly optimistic conclusion.

Carl Maria von Weber's *Clarinet Quintet in B-flat Major, Op. 34* follows, a virtuosic showpiece written for the celebrated clarinetist Heinrich Baermann. This work blends the elegance of the Classical tradition with Weber's signature Romantic flair, giving the clarinet a starring role with its dazzling runs, lyrical melodies, and playful exchanges with the strings.

The program concludes with Brahms' *Clarinet Quintet in B minor*. This is a deeply expressive and richly textured work, blending lyrical beauty with introspective depth, and is often considered one of the composer's most emotionally resonant chamber pieces

Beethoven- String Quartet Op.95 Serioso  
C.M von Weber- Clarinet Quintet  
—  
Brahms- Quintet

# Clarinet and String Quartet

continued

This programme begins with Thomas Adès' *Alchymia*, a captivating and dynamic work that explores the transformative power of music, blending intricate rhythms, shimmering textures, and bold harmonic shifts to create a sense of alchemical transformation. The piece is both cerebral and emotionally evocative, showcasing Adès' innovative approach to orchestration and form.

The second work, Carl Maria von Weber's *Clarinet Quintet in B-flat Major, Op. 34*, is a quintessential Romantic chamber piece, highlighting the clarinet's lyrical beauty and virtuosic potential. Its interplay between the clarinet and strings offers moments of lighthearted charm, deep introspection, and expressive lyricism, making it a beloved work in the clarinet repertoire

The programme concludes with either the Brahms or Mozart Quintet

Adès- *Alchymia*  
Weber- *Quintet*

—  
Brahms OR Mozart *Quintet*

This performance opens with Osvaldo Golijov's *Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, a deeply evocative work that merges Jewish liturgical traditions with contemporary elements. The piece is rich in rhythmic intensity, haunting melodies, and dramatic contrasts, reflecting the inner visions and prayers of a mystic.

Following is Brahms' *Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op. 115*, a work filled with lyrical beauty and emotional depth. Written in the later years of Brahms' life, it is a rich and intimate piece that explores the clarinet's expressive range, weaving together warmth, melancholy, and moments of jubilant energy.

Golijov- *Dreams and Prayers of Issac the Blind*

—  
Brahms- *Quintet*

Other popular repertoire includes;

Coleridge-Taylor- *Clarinet Quintet*  
Bliss- *Quintet*  
Herrmann- *Souvenirs de Voyage*  
Widmann- *Quintet*

[www.Julianbliss.com](http://www.Julianbliss.com)

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C.M von Weber- *Clarinet Quintet*  
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Brahms- *Quintet*

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**Adès- Alchymia  
Weber- Quintet**

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**Brahms OR Mozart Quintet**

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**Golijov- Dreams and Prayers of Issac the Blind**

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**Brahms- Quintet**