

Manesse Quartett

The four musicians met for the first time in 1998. The title of a well-known collection of medieval German songs, the Codex Manesse, which is kept in the Heidelberg University Library, was chosen as the ensemble's name because, at the time, three of the players resided in Heidelberg. Since then the Quartett has met two to three times per year in varying locations for rehearsal sessions and concerts.

The Artists:

Kirsten Rothmann-Cosic received her first violin lessons in Lüdenscheid. Later, she enjoyed playing chamber music in Regensburg, Paris and Heidelberg, where she pursued studies in biochemistry and molecular biology. She completed a doctoral degree in 1998 and has since been working as a research scientist with companies in Cologne and Berlin.

Christiane Neukirch grew up in Regensburg, where she met Kirsten in the University Orchestra in 1989. The two have been playing together ever since: six years sharing an orchestra stand and as members of different chamber music ensembles. Christiane earned a graduate degree in Slavic languages and literature. Since 1998 she has been working as a radio and TV programme writer for the Bavarian Broadcasting Station in Munich.

Irene Schubert took her first lessons on the violin at the public music school of Leimen at age seven. When she found out that the violin was too small a string instrument for her at age 19, she switched to the viola; a decision which, in retrospect, has to be deemed highly fortunate. Irene earned a graduate degree in Romance and English studies from the University of Heidelberg and teaches Spanish and English at a grammar-school in Heidelberg.

Stefan Klonner, a native of Schwäbisch Gmünd, started to play the cello at age eleven and it took another fifteen years before he became an active chamber musician. In between he trained as a bank clerk and pursued studies in economics and statistics in Heidelberg and Salt Lake City. Since the completion of a doctoral degree in Heidelberg in 2001 he has held academic positions at Yale and Cornell Universities. Since 2007 Stefan has been a faculty member at Frankfurt's Goethe University.