

The Amazone Quartet was established in 2017 and consists of mezzo-soprano Nana Bugge Rasmussen, flutist Sofia Kayaya, cellist Josefine Opsahl and pianist Cæcilie Tagmose. An unusual combination of instruments that originates from Ravel's blazing Chansons Madécasses and continues to serve as a drive toward creating repertoire, thinking new and developing in every way.

The quartet has thus immersed itself in the rich sound worlds of the French impressionism as well as in collaborating with contemporary composers, most recently at Klang Copenhagen Avantgarde Music Festival 2019, where they performed a virtuose program of brand new music from the Middle East and their own arrangements of traditional Arab songs.

The four musicians have traveled the world; Europe, USA, China and Argentina – and of course their home country Denmark. They wish to communicate music to a wide audience, nationally as well as internationally, and to an audience not necessarily familiar with contemporary classical music, and classical music in general.

For the time being, the quartet is working on a project that involves world premieres of music by middle eastern and nordic composers, contemporary poetry as well as visual arts. At the same time, they perform concerts with a French program, consisting of original compositions by Ravel, Debussy and Saariaho as well as their own arrangements.

After having studied philosophy at the University of Copenhagen, mezzo-soprano **Nana Bugge Rasmussen** got her vocal training at Universität der Künste, Berlin and at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, Copenhagen. She has won awards at several international competitions, and she is recipient of the grant 'The Young Elite' from the Danish Arts Foundation.

In 2014 she made her debut as Dido in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas in Bry-sûr-Marne in France with Le Capriccio Francais under the baton of Philippe Le Fèvre.

She has appeared several times at the Copenhagen Opera Festival, e.g. as Rosette in Manon by Massenet, alongside Patricia Petibon as Manon, and most recently in 2019 in Myth of Darkness by We like We. Nana Bugge Rasmussen has a vast concert-repertoire and has performed with renowned orchestras such as Kammerorchester Basel and Accademia Bizantina, conducted by Andreas Scholl.

She has performed in venues like Frankfurt Alte Oper, Théâtre de Champs-Élysées, Paris, Grand Théâtre de Provence, Aix-en-Provence, The Royal Danish Opera, the Angelika-Kauffmann-Saal in Schwarzenberg and at festivals like Festival d'Opéra de Beaune (FR), Festival de Froville (FR), Vadstena Akademin (SE), Ålborg Opera Festival (DK) and Klang Festival (DK).

Cellist **Josefine Opsahl** unites her classical music-roots with a liberating openness to her instrument, sounds, genre and the use of electronics. As an icon of a conscious, contemporary musician she writes, curates, improvises and performs equally and extends her musical worlds through collaborations with other artists, curators, festivals and spaces beyond the grid of genres and expressions. This has resulted in commissions for museums, galleries, festivals such as the Danish Golden Age Exhibition at the National Gallery of Denmark, the UTZON100 celebration, 'Time is Local' a 12-hour multichannel installational performance for Thorvaldsens Museum and an opera in collaboration with We like We, Nordic Opera and Cph Opera Festival.

Josefine's works reflect her own artistic search towards understanding the role of art in our society and the tension between tradition and renewal, expertise and intuition. Her works have been performed throughout Europa, in China, Argentina and Brazil and her album releases have received rave reviews and awards, recently the Round Glass Music Award 2018 (US) and the Danish Radio P2's Listeners Prize. Josefine Opsahl has given lectures at The Royal Danish Academy of Music and KADK, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. She studied classical and contemporary cello playing at the Royal Danish Academy of Music (DK) and Northwestern University (IL, USA) and is a two times receiver of The Danish Arts Foundation's 'The Young Artistic Elite' Scholarship.

Flutist **Sofia Kayaya** was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and studied with Petri Alanko at the Sibelius Academy, Finland. She graduated as a master from the Royal Danish Academy of Music, and holds an Advanced Postgraduate Soloist Degree from the Danish National Academy of Music, studying with Rune Most.

Sofia Kayaya has a broad repertoire of lyrical and poetic music, from barock to impressionism. She is active as a soloist and with various ensembles and musicians, and has performed in concerts and festivals in Denmark, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Scotland, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China and Taiwan.

As an orchestra musician she has played with a number of Danish symphony and opera orchestras, and has as well held a chair in Campos do Jordao Festival Orchestra, Sao Paolo. The communication of classical music plays an important part in Sofia Kayayas life and work.

Through staged concerts and international cooperations with young composers, she communicates contemporary music for children and adults, among others in her own theatre production, playing in the Aveny-T theatre, Copenhagen in 2012. Besides classical music, she is always interested in mixing genres and does occasionally play with jazz, pop and world musicians.

Pianist **Cæcilie Tagmose** obtained her diploma from The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen and undertook further studies in Berlin.

Teachers that have profoundly influenced Cæcilie include Jens Elvekjær (Trio con Brio), Niklas Sivelöv, Martin Lysholm Jepsen and Laurent Boullet. She has taken part in masterclasses with Boris Berman, Malcolm Bilson, Andrzej Jasinski, Kevin Kenner, Eugen Indjic and Yonty Solomon. Cæcilie has won prizes in several piano competitions including the Music Without Limits competition in Lithuania and The Danish Steinway Festival 2006, at which she was awarded the first prize.

She has received grants from the Betty and Valdemar van Hauen Foundation, The Toyota Foundation and The Augustinus Foundation ao. Cæcilie has given concerts of chamber music as well as solo-repertoire in both the Nordic countries and in China. She is currently based in Copenhagen, performing all over Denmark and abroad.

Cæcilie is co-founder and artistic director of the UTZON Music Society (Musikforeningen Utzon) based in architect Jørn Utzon's church in Bagsværd, Denmark.