

QUATUOR ADASTRA



NATURE IN RESONANCE

A dialogue between three works by three French female composers: one of Franco-Spanish origin and a rising star of composition; one Chinese, with an internationally acclaimed career; and a tribute to a great Finnish lady of music who left us in 2023, leaving behind a magnificent legacy.

The new string quartet *Vers le Vide parfait* (Toward the Perfect Void) by composer Xu Yi, written for the Adastra Quartet in 2024 (State commission), will be performed alongside *Murs et Racines* (Walls and Roots) by Clara Olivares (co-commissioned by the Adastra Quartet and the Musica Festival, 2021) and Kaija Saariaho's second string quartet, *Terra Memoria*.

A meeting of generations, origins, and contrasting aesthetics, united in their contemplation of nature, humanity, and the deep connections and interactions between them.

Inspired by Taoist philosophy, Xu Yi composed her second string quartet — dedicated to the Adastra Quartet — from the *Classic of the Perfect Void* by Lie Zi, the third great Taoist thinker after Lao Zi and Zhuang Zi. Written in the 5th century BCE, the text beautifully embodies Chinese reflections on the unfolding of human and cosmic life: the void inherent in all things, impermanence, the immortality of the spirit, and the journey of souls.

Composer Clara Olivares, meanwhile, plays with materials, textures, colors, and sensations, creating a sound world where each instrument takes on a role and identity that mirror and respond to one another in her work *Murs et Racines*.

PROGRAM

Contemporary

Xu Yi

String Quartet – *Vers le Vide parfait*
composed for the Adastra Quartet
(State commission, 2024)

Clara Olivares

String Quartet – *Murs et Racines*
(Co-commission by Musica Festival
and Adastra Quartet, 2021)

Kaija Saariaho

String Quartet No. 2 – *Terra Memoria* (2006)

Time : 50 min



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