

# CHILIARTQUARTET

**ChiliArtQuartet** are four young, talented professional musicians – Špela Kržan (flute), Barbara Upelj (violin), Špela Pirnat (viola) in Samir Azzeh (cello). The formation derives from a classical string quartet, however they get a unique sound by substituting one violin with flute. Their repertoire is wide, they play original music as well as arrangements of classical, modern, rock, pop and jazz music. That is why ChiliArtQuartet is definitely a chamber group worth hearing.

Members of ChiliArtQuartet work as concert musicians and teachers, which is a great advantage as they are in contact with the youngest generation and the music it accepts and makes. They are not limited by musical style – one can find members of ChiliArtQuartet in many classical and non-classical projects. Duo Fla-Via, rock band Avven, Digital Classic project of Alafetish group are just a few of them.



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**MAG. ART. ŠPELA KRŽAN (flute)** graduated with honour at University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where she studied with prof. Hansgeorg Schmeiser. As an exchange student she also studied at „Conservatoire national superieur de musique et de danse de Paris“ with Vincent Lucas, Sophie Cherrier and Philippe Bernold. In Dec. 2011 and Jan. 2012 she was a soloist with Israel Chamber orchestra, where she performed Bach Suite for orchestra No. 2 in b-minor. In September 2009 she competed and won first place at „Haifa International Flute Competition 2009“ in Israel. She also competed successfully at many other competitions - ARD competition in Munich, Jeunesse Musicales in Romania, Böhm competition in Munich, Domenico Cimarosa in Italy. She attended many festivals and took lessons from distinguished professors like Philippe Boucly, Hevre Hotier, Luisa Sello, Aurelle Nicolet, Davide Formisano, Jan Ostry, Karl Heinz Schütz, Natalie Rozat, Aleš Kacjan, Gaspar Hoyos in others. Špela Kržan

continues her concert career as a soloist and member of many chamber groups - Musica Calamus (flute - organ), Duo Fla-Via (flute - violin), ChiliArtQuartet, Flute quartet Flautistica and a flute – harp duo. Occasionally she cooperates with Wiener Volksoper, with which she toured Japan in December 2010 and January 2011. In February 2008 she attended a tour in Bombay with Wiener Jeunesse Orchester and she also worked with Symphony Orchestra of India and Mondo Musicale Orchestra. During her studies she was a regular member of Webern Orchestra. She is currently employed at Conservatorium for Music and Ballet Maribor. In August 2009 she held a summer masterclass for flute in Radlje ob Dravi.

**BARBARA UPELJ, M.M. (violin)**, graduated from Academy for Music in Ljubljana in 2006, where she studied with professor Rok Klopčič. In 2006 she was accepted to a postgraduate program at The University of Texas at Austin, Texas, where she studied with Dr. Eugene Grativich. She completed her studies with honors in May 2008. Barbara competed in several national and international competitions and achieved high rankings. She attended music festivals in Europe (Saint Petersburg, Russia; Burgos, Spain; Viana do Castelo, Portugal) and the USA (Austin, Texas), where she also had solo recitals. In 2008 she was honored by the University of Texas at Austin for an outstanding master's recital. She was one of the first members of Austin Pops, the leading Austin orchestra for popular music. During her time at the UT at Austin she was also a member of String Project, an organization for educating children in string instruments. She was also Dr. Eugene Grativich's teaching assistant. She is currently employed as violin teacher at the Private music school in the monastery of Saint Peter and Paul in Ptuj and is also active as a solo and chamber musician and is a member of a rock group Avven. In the summer of 2009 she organized the festival Glasba v Kloštru, which had a great response and has been an important part of Ptuj's cultural life ever since. She is a co-founder of Duo Fla-Via and ChiliArtQuartet, her musical engagements also include Terrafolk, the A la Fetish project and many other classical and non-classical projects.



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**ŠPELA PIRNAT (viola)** graduated from Academy of Music in Ljubljana in 2010, where she studied with professor Mile Kosi. She also attended masterclasses and took lessons with Svava Bernhardsdottir (Piran in music 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005), Jürgen Kussmaul, Helfried Fister in Cristian Rossi (Festival Bled 2004), Barbara Westphal (Vienna 2008) in Wolfram Christ (Maribor 2010). In 2003 she won a silver award at Slovenian national competition (TEMSIG). She performed as a soloist with Academy of Music Symphony orchestra (concert season 2009/2010) and Domžale-Kamnik Orchestra.

Špela was a member of Allegria string quartet (with which she performed for Musical Youth of Ljubljana in October 2009) and InQuartet string quartet. She is currently working with two chamber groups – ChiliArtQuartet and Kopač-Pirnat violin duo. As a substitute she cooperates with Slovenian Radio and Television Orchestra, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra and SNG Opera and Balet Orchestra

Ljubljana. She also works with Musidora and Festine orchestras (led by Živa Ploj-Peršuh), HKC orchestra and Slovenian Composer's Society Chamber Orchestra. In previous years she played in orchestras like YMSO, SFK (led by Geza and Csaba Szilvay) and MIO. Špela also cooperated and recorded for many projects and groups (Academia Ars Musicae - Austria, Kombo Zlatka Kaučiča, Avven, Jan Plestenjak, Neisha...). As a teacher she now works at Franc Šturm Music School in Ljubljana, where she teaches violin and viola.

**SAMIR AZZEH (cello)** Graduated with honours from Academy of Music in Ljubljana, where he studied with Ciril and Igor Škerjanec. He attended several competitions, where he achieved high rankings. He performs as a soloist, in chamber groups and with orchestras. He took lessons and attended masterclasses with many distinguished professors like Zdenka Kristl Marinič, Ciril Škerjanec, Susane Basler, Andrej Petrač and Gustavo Neiva Tavares. He is currently working as a teacher at Murska Sobota Music School, Ljutomer Music School and with ChiliArtQuartet.



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If you would like to find out more about us, our projects and upcoming engagements, please visit our website [www.chiliartquartet.com](http://www.chiliartquartet.com) or our Facebook profile [www.facebook.com/ChiliArtQuartet](http://www.facebook.com/ChiliArtQuartet).

## CONTACT:

Barbara Upelj, M.M.

Tel.: +386 31 209 592

e-mail: [barbara.upelj@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.upelj@gmail.com)

[chiliartquartet@gmail.com](mailto:chiliartquartet@gmail.com)

