

## **ATOOUT - the Chamber Music Group**

From quintet to nonet: ATOOUT is dedicated to chamber music for strings in large ensembles. The group delights audiences with its full, almost orchestral sound, the vitality typical of its chamber music and its immense love of making music.

The Austrian ensemble was founded in 2010 by violinist Roland Herret and has since performed in renowned venues such as the Wiener Musikverein, Wiener Konzerthaus, Schönberg Center Vienna, Radio Kulturhaus Vienna, Wiener Kammeroper and Remise Bludenz.

ATOOUT has played over 150 concerts in Austria, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Hungary and Slovenia. In 2017/18, the ensemble successfully toured through Austria as a partner of Jeunesse. As Artist in Residence ATOOUT can be heard several times a year at the "Klosterneuburg Chamber Concerts."

Since its foundation, the ensemble has been engaged in an intensive artistic exchange with Prof. Johannes Meissl (Artis Quartet) at the Vienna University of Music. Further impulses have come from Hatto Beyerle (Alban Berg Quartet), Miguel da Silva (Quatuor Ysaye) and Shmuel Ashkenasi (Vermeer Quartet). In 2012, ATOOUT was awarded both the "Ignaz Pleyel Prize" and the "Josef Windisch Chamber Music Prize" and in 2014, ATOOUT was selected for the NASOM programme (New Austrian Sound of Music).

The members of ATOOUT are top-class musicians who have all been trained in the tradition of the Viennese sound style, the *Wiener Klangstil*. Having performed as soloists and chamber musicians in major venues around the world (e.g. Vienna Musikverein, Carnegie Hall New York, Philharmonie Berlin), they are internationally successful in a wide variety of chamber music ensembles and give guest performances in first-class orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna or Concertgebouw Orchestra.

## **About Atout...**

*"I have heard many chamber groups, the international standard has never been as high as it is today. Yet, very often I find young players sacrificing musical expression to technical perfection. So, it was a wonderful relief to me to hear ATOUT in concert: finally an ensemble that takes a risk for the sake of music! Strong temperament, wonderful phrasing and beautiful glissandi they don't seem to produce with their fingers, but with their hearts..."*

**Shmuel Ashkenasi** (Vermeer Quartet)

*"Atout's music is first-class."*

**Johannes Meissl** (Artis Quartet)

*"I have never heard the Sextett version of the Transfigured Night played so beautifully."*

**Univ. Prof. Dr. Peter Kislinger** (University of Vienna, Ö1 Radio)

*"I am fascinated by this ensemble, it has no weak points at all... Supreme perfection!"*

**Rudolf Leopold** (Vienna String Sextet)

*"The stage presence of these young musicians is astonishing. We will still be hearing a lot more from them..."*

**Wolfgang Herzer** (Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra)