

Long bio

Described as having “an enormous wealth of colors... and sparkling rhythms” (All News Press), Quartet Integra is quickly developing a reputation of international prestige. In 2022, the quartet won Second Prize and the coveted Audience Award at the 2022 ARD International Music Competition, First Prize at the 2021 Bartók World Competition, and First Prize along with the Beethoven Prize and the Grand Prix Award at the 2019 Akiyoshidai Music Competition. Additionally, Quartet Integra has received the Banca Monte dei Paschi Prize in the 2021 Accademia Musicale Chigiana, the Kirishima International Music Festival Prize and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi Music Director Prize in the 2021 Kirishima International Music Festival.

Recent and upcoming performances in North America include recitals at the Schneider Concert Series at the New School, Green Shoots Initiative at the Kennedy Center, Discovery Series at the La Jolla Music Society, Artist Series at the University of Boulder, ECHO Chamber Music Series, Nevada Chamber Music Festival, Santa Ynez Valley Series, and performances in Thayer and Zipper Halls at the Colburn School.

Appearances in Europe include the Alte Oper Frankfurt and many other venues in Bad Tölz, Wiesloch, Florence, Siena, and Naples. Having already performed in numerous venues in Japan, they also give recitals annually at Toppan Hall and Oji Hall. In May 2025, they will launch a six year Beethoven series at Dai-ichi Seimei Hall, Philia Hall, Munetsugu Hall, and Wakita Cordia Hall.

Quartet Integra has performed and worked with artists including Augustin Hadelich, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Kazuhide Isomura, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Inon Barnatan, Fabio Bidini, Shigeo Neriki, Orion Weiss, and the Calidore String Quartet. They have participated in coachings and master classes with Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Peter Oundjian, Milena Pajaro-Van de Stadt, Jean-Guihen Queyras, and the Jerusalem, Henschel, Atrium, Voce, and Shanghai String Quartets.

An active festival participant, Quartet Integra was invited by Günter Pichler (formerly of the Alban Berg Quartet) to attend the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena on a scholarship and have attended festivals such as Crans Montana Classics, Toyama Chamber Music Festival, and Kirishima International Music Festival. Since 2023, they have been regularly invited as artists to the Takefu International Music Festival.

Committed to contemporary works, Quartet Integra has commissioned many new works from Japanese composers and has given over a dozen world premieres.

Quartet Integra, consisting of first violinist Kyoka Misawa, second violinist Rintaro Kikuno, violist Itsuki Yamamoto, and cellist Ye Un Park, formed in 2015 and began their studies with Kazuhide Isomura and Nobuko Yamazaki at Toho Gakuen School of Music, continuing their academic work as a quartet as fellows at the Suntory Hall Chamber Music Academy. Currently serving as the Chamber Ensemble-in-Residence at the Colburn School, they study with Martin Beaver, Jonathan Brown, and Clive Greensmith.

Quartet Integra is supported by grant funding from the Matsuo Foundation and is on the roster of Japan Arts and Colburn Artists.

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Individual bios

Kyoka Misawa, violin

Japanese violinist Kyoka Misawa is pursuing her Professional Studies Certificate at the Colburn Conservatory of Music as the Chamber Ensemble-in-Residence, where she studies with Martin Beaver, Jonathan Brown, and Clive Greensmith. She is a prize winner of the Bartok World Competition (Hungary), Akiyoshidai Music Competition (Japan) as a string quartet, and the Czech Republic Music Competition (Japan) as a soloist. Recently, she won 2nd prize and Audience Award in the ARD International Competition (Munich) as a string quartet.

Kyoka has collaborated with artists including Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Kazuhide Isomura, Shigeo Neriki, Nobuko Yamazaki and the Jerusalem Quartet. She has also attended many music festivals such as Bad Leonfelden, Accademia Musicale Chigiana, Kirishima International festival, and Crans Montana Classics.

Previously, she studied with Koichiro Harada at the Toho Gakuen School of Music. She plays on a Alexander Gagliano (1728), specially loaned by Nippon Violin.

Rintaro Kikuno, violin

Japanese violinist Rintaro Kikuno is a member of Quartet Integra, pursuing his Artist Diploma as the Chamber Ensemble-in-Residence at the Colburn Conservatory of Music. He is currently studying with Martin Beaver, Jonathan Brown, and Clive Greensmith.

Rintaro has won numerous competitions in Japan, and has also performed with the Symphony Orchestra. Previously, he studied with Ms. Akiko Tatsumi at the Toho Gakuen University of Music, and graduated as the top of his class. Rintaro currently performs on a Cesare Candi made in 1938.

Itsuki Yamamoto, viola

Japanese violist Itsuki Yamamoto is a member of Quartet Integra. He studies with Martin Beaver, Jonathan Brown, Clive Greensmith, and Tatjana Masurenko at the Colburn Conservatory of

Music, where he is an Artist Diploma candidate in the Chamber Ensemble-in-Residence program. Itsuki won 2nd prize and the Audience Award at the 2022 ARD International Music Competition and 1st prize at the 2021 Bartok World Competition as Quartet Integra.

As a soloist, Itsuki has commissioned many pieces such as “Sonata for Solo Viola” by Masahiro Ishijima, “‘Tobira’ for Solo Viola” by Tadashi Hashimoto, and “‘White Territory’ for Solo Viola” by Yuki Hamajima. Also an enthusiastic composer, his works titled “‘When she talks’ for Solo Violin” (2024), “‘Slow Movement’ for Solo Viola” (2023), and “‘Short Short’ for Erhu and Viola” (2021) have been premiered.

Itsuki has the honor and responsibility of programming the quartet’s repertoire, with the objective of presenting everything from classical to contemporary era as a single stream through the quartet’s programs.

Ye Un Park, cello

Born in 2003, South Korean cellist Ye Un Park is a member of Quartet Integra. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music degree along with the Chamber Ensemble-in-Residence program at the Colburn Conservatory of Music, under the guidance of Martin Beaver, Jonathan Brown, and Clive Greensmith. Previously, she has attended the Colburn Music Academy and Yewon Arts School, where she studied with Ji Hyun Oh.

As an active chamber musician, Ye Un has collaborated with world-renowned artists including Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Orion Weiss, Ray Chen, Clive Greensmith, Nobuko Yamazaki, Jennifer Grim, Andy Akiho, and the Dover Quartet. She was also a founding member of Trio Azura which received the “Rotary Club Siena” prize at the 2023 Accademia Musicale Chigiana.

As a soloist, she made her debut through the Kumho Young Prodigy Series at the age of 12. Ye Un won many major competitions in South Korea, and also began to emerge in international competitions, such as the 2023 Paulo Competition and the 2022 Queen Elisabeth Competition, where she was the youngest candidate.