

Since the **BENDA QUARTET** began performing in 2012 they have achieved a wide variety of musical successes. A significant landmark was the chamber concert they performed at the 60th Jubilee of the Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra (JPO) in Ostrava in April 2014. This concert was recorded by Czech Radio and garnered huge audience acclaim. In the autumn of that year the Benda Quartet also took part in a major project entitled Czech Music, hosted by the Janacek's May Agency. The quartet performed several recitals in castles in northern Moravia and Silesia which were filmed for TV.

2015 was a year of major artistic success for the quartet, as demonstrated by their participation in several international festivals including the IMF Janacek's Hukvaldy, Mahler Jihlava Music Festival, and St. Wenceslas Music Festival. They also increased their range of musical activities by branching out into studio recording, mainly for Czech Radio studio in Ostrava. Their projects included a recording of Leos Janacek's String Quartet No. 1 "Kreutzer Sonata" in November 2015. This recording collaboration has continued successfully up to the present day.

One of the highest pinnacles of 2016 was the quartet's participation in the 41st International Festival of Janacek's May, where they performed Mendelssohn's Octet op. 20 alongside the excellent Vogler Quartet, a renowned ensemble from Berlin.

The Benda Quartet is also focused on performing the work of contemporary composers. They have participated several times in Janacek's May Agency's project "Generation" and have also collaborated with Creative Centre of Contemporary Music in Ostrava on the Hudebni Soucanost festival where Jan Grossmann's String Quartet was performed at the premiere in November 2015. The Benda Quartet successfully performed at this festival once again in 2016. Their musical career is further enriched by the specialist workshops they deliver for both children and teens.

In 2016 the quartet was invited to perform in several JPO educational projects with the Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra from Ostrava, and in June 2017 they performed in the opening concert of the Beethoven's Hradec International Festival and Competition, where they not only performed their traditional repertoire, but also played Mendelssohn's Octet in collaboration with Jiri Vodicka, Martina Bacova and other Czech artists of a highest level. In Autumn 2017, the quartet were the residential ensemble in a concert series held by Janacek's May Agency to celebrate for the 750th anniversary of the founding of the city of Ostrava. They performed compositions by the city's foremost composers in premises of Ostrava-Vitkovice Castle. In January 2018 are members of Benda Quartet going to fulfil their debut at the CSKH (Czech Philharmonics Chamber Music cycle) in the Bohuslav Martinu concert hall in Prague. In May 2018 they will appear in a series of chamber concerts held by JPO, where they will perform works by Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Drizga and Dvorak. In Spring 2018 the quartet will also perform at Forfest Festival and in Poland.