

Ostinato

8th International Chamber Music Festival Omiš



4.8 / 6.8. / 8.8. / 11.8. / 14.8.

FRANJEVAČKI SAMOSTAN, Put Skalica 16 / 21.00



ART DIRECTOR

Lovre Marusic

“The world is full of quick-fingered young pianists. But among them stand out those like Marušić, whose thoughts and artistic imagination move faster than their fingers.”

Branimir Pofuk, *Večernji list*

LOVRE MARUŠIĆ solidified his international reputation by winning the silver medal and the special Robert Schumann Award at the prestigious International Telekom Beethoven Piano Competition 2023 in Bonn, Germany, as well as earning the silver medal at the 2021 Cleveland International Piano Competition in Cleveland, USA.

He is the recipient of numerous significant prizes from renowned piano competitions. Highlights include first prize at the 20th International Santa Cecilia Competition in Porto (2018), first prize at the IMFu International Competition in Paris (2018), and first prize—with both the jury and audience awards—at the Isidor Bajić International Piano Competition in Novi Sad (2016).

He received his first piano instruction from Rozarija Samodol in his hometown of Omiš. In 2006, invited by the famed Russian pianist Natalija Trull, he moved to Moscow to attend the Central Music School affiliated with the Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, graduating successfully in 2011. He began his studies at the Zagreb Academy of Music under Ruben Dalibaltayan and completed his degree in Ljubomir Gašparović's class. He continued his postgraduate studies under Grigory Gruzman at the Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar.

Lovre Marušić has performed with esteemed orchestras and top chamber ensembles such as The Cleveland Orchestra, Beethovenorchester

Bonn, Zagreb Philharmonic, Croatian Radiotelevision Symphony Orchestra, Vojvodina Symphony, Belgrade Symphony, Irkutsk Philharmonic, Split Croatian National Theatre Symphony, the Escher String Quartet (New York), Beethoven Trio Bonn, Zagrebački Solisti, and Splitski Solisti. He was honored with both the Rector's and Dean's Awards from the University of Zagreb for his outstanding academic achievements during his studies.

As both a soloist and chamber musician, he has performed at various festivals and concert series across Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Austria, Germany, Portugal, Liechtenstein, Russia, France, and the USA. He currently holds a position as Associate Professor of Piano at the Gustav Mahler Privatuniversität für Musik in Klagenfurt and serves as the artistic director of the international chamber music festival "Ostinato" in Omiš.

In the 2023–2024 season, he embarks on tours in China, will perform with the Slovak Philharmonic under Maestro Daniel Raiskin, and give recitals and concerts in Italy, Austria, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and throughout Croatia at prestigious festivals, with leading orchestras, and in major concert halls.

In the 2024–2025 season, he will undertake two tours in China with violinists Simon Zhu and Yuri Revich, perform a series of recitals throughout Croatia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Portugal, and Italy, and will appear with the Zagreb Philharmonic as well as with chamber ensembles across Europe.

Lovre Marušić is represented exclusively by the agency CristoforiumArt.



ART DIRECTOR

Latica Anic

Latica Anic (1994) was seven years of age when she started taking cello lessons with Mihovil Karuza. She regularly attended seminars with Valter Dešpalj organized by the “Musik & Jugend” foundation in Liechtenstein and has been an active participant in masterclasses given by internationally renowned cellists such as Miklós Perényi, Jérôme Pernoo, László Fenyő, Jens Peter Maintz, Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt, Gary Hoffman and others. From 2010, Latica Anic studied in Valter Dešpalj’s class at the Music Academy in Zagreb and the International Music Academy in Liechtenstein. In 2014/2015 she was in László Fenyő’s class at the “Hochschule für Musik” in Karlsruhe. She has spent the past year in the class of Raphaël Merlin, from the famous “Quatuor Ebène”, at the regional conservatory Boulogne-Billancourt in Paris, and since September 2017 she has been attending the class of the famous French pedagogue, Michel Strauss. She has also received a scholarship from the Villa Musica Rheinland-Pfalz since 2017. She played on an instrument built by JeanBaptiste Vuillaume from 1860, lent to her by the “Landessammlung Rheinland-Pfalz” from Germany.

She is a laureate of several national and international competitions, and most recently won first prizes at the “International Cello Competition” in Liezen (Austria) and “Boris Papandopulo” competition in Croatia. She was a prize-winner of the “Samobor City Award” at the “Ferdo Livadic” international music competition in Croatia in 2015, for her performance of a piece by a Croatian composer (B. Papandopulo: Rapsodia concertante), and in 2017 she was the winner of the 50th “Darko Lukic” competition in Croatia.

Latica Anic has played recitals and appeared as a soloist with orchestras such as the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, the Pleven Philharmonic

Orchestra, the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, the HRT Symphony Orchestra, the Zagreb Soloists and the Split Chamber Orchestra. Her chamber music partners have included members of quartets such as “Quatuor Ebène” and the Kuss Quartet, clarinettist Shirley Brill and pianists such as Matthias Kirschnereit, Shani Diluka and Jonathan Aner. She has appeared in recitals in Austria, Germany, France, Portugal, Liechtenstein and Switzerland and has played at international music festivals such as Festival “Next Generation” in Switzerland, “Sommerliche Musiktage Hitzacker” in Germany, “Villa Musica Rheinland-Pfalz” in Germany, and the International “Katya Popova” Music Festival in Bulgaria.



PROMOTER

Petar Buljević

Petar Buljević was born 1969 in Omiš, Croatia. He finished elementary school in Omiš and high school in Split. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in Zadar even though his studying was briefly interrupted by the Croatian War of Independence. After the war he worked as a teacher of Croatian language and literature in Jure Kaštelan high school and Josip Pupačić primary school in Omiš. Later he enrolled in the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, department of Information Science. He won the annual state award “Ivan Filipović”, granted by the Croatian Parliament and the Ministry of Science, for his outstanding efforts in promoting Croatian culture and improving teaching theory and practice. He also won the award granted by the city of Omiš for his achievements in the field of culture and the award granted by the Split - Dalmatia County for promoting the cultural activities in 2017 and 2019.

He started various literary and poetry evenings, such as the international festival, “Good morning sea” involving students from all over the world. He is one of the founders of the Anđelko Novaković award granted by the National and University Library in Zagreb. He funded the acting company Anđelo, the semi-professional theatre company Mali Princ and the children’s theatre company Harlekin. He participated in the World book day project, and was involved in creating an interactive world story. He launched an international literary contest in the Week of Josip Pupačić. Currently he is the director of Omiš Cultural centre. He founded the professional theatre company in 2020. and the art gallery AZ in 2023.

PROGRAM

4.8. / 21.00

Performers:

Elitsa Desseva - piano

Mikhail Timoshenko - baritone

Program:

Maurice Ravel – Don Quichotte à Dulcinée 7:00

“Chanson romanesque”

“Chanson épique”

“Chanson à boire”

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Son (The Dream) – op. 38 no. 5 3:00

Ona kak polden khorosha (She Is as Beautiful as the Noon) –
op. 14 no. 9 2:30

Ne poy, krasavitsa, pri mne (Sing Not, O Lovely One, to Me) –
op. 4 no. 4 3:00

Modest Mussorgsky – Songs and Dances of Death

Trepak (Trepak) 5:00

Serenada (Serenade) 5:00

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Net, tolko tot, kto znal (None but the Lonely Heart) – op. 6
no. 6 3:30

Blagoslovlyayu vas, lesa (I Bless You, Forests) – op. 47 no. 5 5:00

Serenada Don Zhuana (Don Juan's Serenade) – op. 38 no. 1 2:45

Blagoje Bersa – Bio bih rekao, op. 13

Blagoje Bersa – Duhaj vjetre, op. 43

Francis Poulenc – **Banalités, FP 107 5:00**

Hotel

Voyage à Paris

Jacques Ibert – **Chansons de Don Quichotte 11:00**

“Chanson du départ”

“Chanson à Dulcinée”

“Chanson du duc”

“Chanson de la mort”

6.8. / 21.00

Performers:

Ruslan Talas

Marin Maras

Dagmar Korbar

Kian Soltani

Latica Anić

Program:

Anton Arensky: String Quartet No.2, Op.35

I. Moderator

II. Variations sur un theme de P.Tschaikovsky

III. Finale. Andante sostenuto

Ruslan Talas, violin

Dagmar Korbar, viola

Latica Anić, cello

Kian Soltani, cello

Franz Schubert: String Quintet in C major, D.956

I. Allegro ma non troppo

II. Adagio

III. Scherzo.Presto-Trio. Andante sostenuto

IV. Allegretto

Ruslan Talas, violin
Marin Maras, violin
Dagmar Korbar, viola
Kian Soltani, cello
Latica Anić, cello

8.8. / 21.00

Performers:

Ruslan Talas

Simon Zhu

Karolina Errera Pavon

Latica Anić

Roman Kosyakov

Program:

Bohuslav Martinu: Serenade No. 2

I. Allegro

II. Poco andante

III. Allegro con brio

Ruslan Talas, violin

Simon Zhu, violin

Carolina Herrera Pavon, viola

Antonin Dvorak: Terzetto in C, Op.74

I. Introduzione. Allegro ma non troppo

II. Larghetto

III. Scherzo. Vivace -Trio. Poco meno mosso

IV. Tema von variazioni. Poco Adagio-Molto

Ruslan Talas, violin
Simon Zhu, violin
Karolina Errera Pavon, viola

Cesar Franck: Piano Quintet

- I. Molto moderato quasi lento- Allegro
- II. Lento con molto sentimento
- III. Allegro non troppo ma con fuoco

Ruslan Talas, violin
Simon Zhu, violin
Karolina Herrera Pavon, viola
Latica Anić, cello
Roman Kosyakov, piano

11.8. / 21.00

Performers:

Simon Zhu

Isidora Timotijević

Latica Anić

Roman Kosyakov

Program:

Ivo Maček: Romantični trio

Allegro assai - Allegro con brio - Meno mosso-Molto sostenuto

Simon Zhu, violin

Latica Anić, cello

Roman Kosyakov, piano

Erno Dohnanyi: Serenade for string trio in C major, Op. 10

I. Marcia: Allegro

II. Romanza: Adagio non troppo

III. Scherzo: Vivace

IV. Tema von variazioni: Andante con moto

V. Rondo(Finale): Allegro vivace

Simon Zhu, violin

Isidora Timotijević, viola

Latica Anić, cello

Johannes Brahms: Piano Quartet No. 3 on C minor, Op. 60

- I. Allegro non troppo
- II. Scherzo: Allegro
- III. Andante
- IV. Finale: Allegro comodo

Simon Zhu, violin

Isidora Timotijević, viola

Latica Anić, cello

Roman Kosyakov, piano

14.8. / 21.00

Performers:

Trio "Narmi"

Lovre Marušić- Piano

Nikita Geller - Violin

Aram Amatuni- Cello



Program:

J. Brahms

Klavirski trio u c molu - Op. 101

Allegro energico
Presto non assai
Andante grazioso
Allegro molto

S. Rachmaninov : Klavirski trio br. 1 u g molu- " elegični "

Dora Pejačević

Klavirski trio br. 2 u C- duru, op. 29

Allegro con moto
Scherzo- Allegro
Lento- Allegretto
Finale- Allegro risoluto



Elitsa Desseva

Bulgarian pianist Elitsa Desseva is recognized as a leading song pianist of her generation, performing with singers such as Angelika Kirchschrager and Thomas Hampson. Praised by critics for the “ecstatic creative power” of her performance (Online Merker), Elitsa regularly appears at major festivals and music centers, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, Musée d’Orsay in Paris, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin, Musikverein in Vienna, Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse, Brucknerhaus in Linz, Festival Heidelberger Frühling, Sommerliche Musiktage Hitzacker, Grachten Festival in Amsterdam, Festival Young Artists in Bayreuth, Festival Boswiller Frühling, and the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival in Japan.

Elitsa attracted international attention after winning some of the world’s most renowned Lied competitions in just two years. In a duo with her regular partner, baritone Mikhail Timoshenko, she reached the final of the Wigmore Hall/Independent Opera Song Competition (United Kingdom), where Mikhail was awarded 1st prize. Furthermore, the duo Timoshenko-Desseva received 1st prize at the International Art Song Competition Stuttgart (Germany), 1st prize at the Franz Schubert and Modern Music International Competition in Graz (Austria), 2nd prize and Audience Award at the International Schubert Competition Dortmund (Germany), 3rd prize and Audience Award at the Concours International de Musique de Chambre de Lyon (France), and the 18th Nordfriesischer Liedpreis des Ministeriums für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur des Landes Schleswig-Holstein.

As a soloist, Elitsa has received several awards, including the 1st Prize at the Liszt-Bartok Piano Competition in Sofia, the Bela Bartok Prize at the Ile-de-France International Piano Competition in Paris, and, alongside

mezzo-soprano Polina Artsis, 1st prizes at the International Lied Duo Competition in Groningen and the International Karl-Adler Youth Music Competition in Stuttgart. Receiving the Foundation Yordan Kamdzhaliy prize culminated in her performance of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 at the International Festival 'Balabanov's House Music Days' in Plovdiv.

In 2024, Duo Timoshenko-Desseva released a critically acclaimed CD with Hänssler Classic (Eduard Erdmann: Lieder), featuring world premieres of songs by Eduard and Irene Erdmann as well as songs by Philipp Jarnach. Their dedication to exploring unknown and captivating composers is further highlighted by their recording of Jacques Ibert's "Quatre chansons de Don Quichotte" for B-Records (Aimer à loisir). Elitsa has also premiered works by Isabel Mundry, Bec Plexus (Brechtje), and Sehyung Kim. Curious to explore the depth of the Lied genre through the lens of a composer, in 2024, Elitsa presented her composition "Gift," a song based on a poem by Barbara Kennedy, performed with baritone David Kennedy at the LiedBasel Festival. This piece, an experiment in the possibilities of contemporary Lied, "captivated audiences with its unusual piano sounds" (Das Opernmagazin).

Invited by Thomas Hampson in 2022, Elitsa now serves as the study director and academy pianist at the prestigious Heidelberg Liedakademie, becoming the first female song accompanist to hold this position. Furthering her commitment to making Lied concerts more engaging, Elitsa will conduct concert programming workshops for Lied-Duos at the Franz Schubert und Musik der Moderne Liedduo Competition in Graz in 2025. Born in Bulgaria, she began playing the piano at the age of six in her hometown of Sofia and made her debut at the age of ten with the Sofia Sinfonietta Orchestra. She continued her studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Weimar and the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna under Balasz Szokolay, Thomas Steinhöfel, Charles Spencer, and Markus Hadulla. Elitsa also received notable mentorship from distinguished musicians such as singers Thomas Hampson, Mitsuko Shirai, Véronique Gens, Angelika Kirchschrager, Brigitte Fassbaender, Ian Bostridge, and pianists Hartmut Höll, Piotr Anderszewski, Dalton Baldwin, Graham Johnson, Susan Manoff, Julius Drake, Malcolm Martineau, and Helmuth Deutsch.

Elitsa is a former scholar of the Carnegie Hall Song Studio, Heidelberg

Lied Academy, Academy LiedBASEL, and Académie Orsay-Royaumont. Additionally, Elitsa is a Britten Pears Young Artist and a Yehudi Menuhin LIFE Music Now artist. She has received the Anny Felbermayer Preis and DAAD Preis and is a member of the International Hugo Wolf Academy.



BARITONE

Mikhail Timoshenko

Baritone Mikhail Timoshenko is recognized for his “rare beauty of sound, powerful and balsamic at the same time” (Tagesspiegel). Born in a small village in Russia’s Ural Mountains, he began his musical education in Mednogorsk and further refined his craft at the Hochschule für Musik in Weimar and Berlin with Mikhail Lanskoi. Mikhail is Orsay-Royaumont, Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now and Britten Pears artist and is a member of the International Hugo Wolf Academy.

From 2015 to 2017, Mikhail was a member of the Academy of the Opéra National de Paris and featured in the award-winning documentary “L’Opéra” by Jean-Stéphane Bron as well as the DVD recording “Don Carlos - Live from Paris Opera,” directed by Stéphane Metge. In 2016, he secured the First Prize at the International Singing Competition Bordeaux Médoc, the Cercle Carpeaux Lyric Prize, the AROP Prize from the Opéra National de Paris, and the Siemens Opera Contest First Prize. The following year, he won the Grand Prix at the International Opera Competition Maria Callas in Greece.

Mikhail’s career highlights include notable performances such as the world premiere of the chamber opera *En Silence* by Alexandre Desplat in Luxembourg and Paris-Bouffes du Nord, Ottokar in *Der Freischütz* at the Konzerthaus Berlin, Albert in *Werther* and Prosdócimo in *Il Turco* in Italia in Lausanne, Leporello in *Don Giovanni* at the Glyndebourne Festival, Marcello in *La Bohème* at the Royal Opera House in London, Chitchelkalov in *Boris Godounov* in Toulouse and at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, and Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* in Montpellier.

As a concert singer, Mikhail has collaborated with esteemed conductors including Teodor Currentzis, Manfred Honeck, Philippe Herreweghe, Markus Poschner, Emmanuelle Haïm, and Martin Haselböck. He has

performed at prestigious venues and festivals such as the Musikverein Wien, Salzburger Festspiele, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Berliner Philharmonie, and Konzerthaus Berlin.

Mikhail Timoshenko and his long-term duo partner, pianist Elitsa Desseva, have achieved notable success, winning first prizes at the International Chamber Music Competition “Franz Schubert and Modern Music” in Graz, the International Competition for Art Song of the Hugo Wolf Academy in Stuttgart, and the Wigmore Hall/Independent Opera Song Competition in London. They have also been awarded second prize and the Audience Award at the International Schubert Competition in Dortmund, Germany, as well as third prize and the Audience Award at the Concours International de Musique de Chambre de Lyon, France, and the 18th Nordfriesischer Liedpreis des Ministeriums für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur des Landes Schleswig-Holstein. Described by critics as “a duo of exception, that enchanted the audience” (Webtheatre), they have performed at prestigious venues such as Wigmore Hall, the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Brucknerhaus Linz, and the Musée d’Orsay in Paris, as well as esteemed festivals including the Heidelberg Frühling Festival, the Festival Idéal au Potager du Roi in Versailles, Sommerliche Musiktage Hitzacker, and the Boswiller Frühling Festival.

Mikhail’s discography includes “Mozart Masses (Complete)” with Christoph Poppen and the Cologne Radio Choir and Cologne Chamber Orchestra for NAXOS, “Im wachen Traume - Schumann/Reimann, Byrd/Pierini, Purcell” with the Delian Quartett for ECM, and “Le Concert d’Astrée & Emmanuelle Haïm - Une Nouvelle Fête Baroque! 20 Ans” for Erato. In 2024, Mikhail and Elitsa Desseva released a critically acclaimed CD with Hänssler Classic, featuring the world premiere of songs by Eduard and Irene Erdmann, as well as songs by Philipp Jarnach. The duo’s dedication to uncovering and presenting lesser-known gems of the Lied repertoire is further demonstrated by their recording of the song cycle “Quatre chansons de Don Quichotte” by Jacques Ibert for B-Records.

In the 2024/25 season, Mikhail’s engagements include performing Paganini at the Opera Bastille in Paris, Marcello in La Bohème at the Royal Opera House in London, Belcore in L’elisir d’amore at Opera Nancy, and Taddeo in L’italiana in Algeri at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris.

He will also perform concerts with Elitsa Desseva at Wigmore Hall in London, the Schubertiade Beauforthuis, the Festival Heidelberger Frühling, and for the Hugo Wolf Gesellschaft in Stuttgart.

Philanthropy is a cause close to Mikhail's heart. Since 2009, he has organized charity concerts for children with mental health issues in Russia. In collaboration with the non-profit organization "Touch" in Orenburg and the social adaptation center "Mayak" in Orsk, he supports several boarding schools for children with intellectual disabilities.



Ruslan Talas

Born in Kazakhstan in 1998, Ruslan Talas' musical journey has been shaped by the European, Russian, and Kazakh violin traditions, which continue to inform his multifaceted and passionate approach to the instrument. He began his studies at the Kazakh National Academy of Music in Astana (2005–2010), before continuing at the Central Music School and later at the Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in Moscow (2010–2021). He then pursued further studies at the HEMU Conservatory in Switzerland (2021–2024) and is currently studying at the Kronberg Academy in Germany, in the class of Janine Jansen.

Ruslan is a laureate of several international violin competitions, including the Queen Elisabeth Competition (2024) and the Stuttgart International Violin Competition (2024). He has performed at major venues such as Berliner Philharmoniker, Wiener Konzerthaus and Bozar in Brussels. In 2025, he made his debut at the Salle Cortot in Paris.

In addition to his solo career, he is an active chamber musician and has collaborated with artists such as Janine Jansen, Denis Kozhukhin, Antje Weithaas, Jens Peter Maintz, Daniel Blendulf, Timothy Ridout, Boris Brovtsyn, and Gareth Lubbe.



Marin Maras

Marin Maras (born Dubrovnik, 1990) began studying the violin in his hometown. Recognized early for his talent, at age 15 he enrolled at the Zagreb Academy of Music in the class of Prof. Leonid Sorokow, graduating in June 2011 with a Master of Music degree. From autumn 2010, he pursued postgraduate studies at the prestigious University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, also under Prof. Sorokow.

Maras made his first solo orchestral appearance just before turning 11 with the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, with which he has since maintained an ongoing performance partnership. He has also performed with the Zagreb Philharmonic, Croatian Radiotelevision Symphony Orchestra, Varaždin Chamber Orchestra, Zadar Chamber Orchestra, Zagreb Youth Orchestra, and the National Academic Orchestra of Ukraine. As an affiliated member, he has performed with Zagrebački Solisti, the Croatian Chamber Orchestra, the Liechtenstein Symphony Orchestra, and others. A decorated competitor from a young age, Marin won the International Violin Competition in Novosibirsk, Russia, in 2007. In 2008, he was selected as Croatia's representative at the Eurovision Young Musicians Competition in Vienna. In 2009, he received the prestigious Stjepan Šulek Award in Zagreb for his performance of Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen" with the HRT Symphony Orchestra under Maestro Mladen Tarbuk. That same year, he was honored with the Ivo Vuljević Award as the outstanding young musician of 2009. In 2010, he won the City of Samobor Prize at the Ferdo Livadić International Competition for the best performance of a work by a Croatian composer (Dubravko Detoni: *22 per 2 in 2*). In 2012, he took first prize at the Stefanie Hohl Competition held by the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts, and in 2013 he placed fourth at

the 10th Václav Huml International Violin Competition in Zagreb. From 2014 to 2017, Maras served as the first violinist of the Zagreb Quartet. Since 2015, he has been a member of the Ensemble Esperanza Vaduz, which brings together scholarship-holding young musicians from across Europe. He joined the Liechtenstein Symphony Orchestra in 2012 and served as its concertmaster during the 2015–2016 season. Between 2019 and 2024, he worked as deputy concertmaster on a freelance basis with the Croatian Radiotelevision Symphony Orchestra. Since September 2024, he has held the position of first violinist with the Zagreb Philharmonic.

Maras is widely recognized as one of Croatia's leading young violinists, regularly performing at prestigious festivals and concert series—including the Dubrovnik Summer Festival—and collaborating with top orchestras and conductors across Europe.



Dagmar Korbar

Dagmar Korbar was born in 1999 in Zagreb (Croatia). She began to play the viola at the age of five, making her the youngest violist in Croatia. In 2013, she enrolled herself at the Academy of Music in Zagreb, where she received lessons in Professor Milan Čunko's class. In September 2022, she obtained her Bachelor's degree from The Conservatory of Amsterdam, where she studied with Professor Marjolein Dispa and Professor Nobuko Imai.

From season 2021/2022 until end of 2023/2024 season, she has been appointed as Solo violist of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra. Since October 2024, Dagmar is teaching as an Assistant Viola Professor at the Academy of Music in Zagreb.

She has profited musically from the great number of masterclasses she has participated in, offered by renowned teachers such as Bruno Giuranna, Tabea Zimmermann, Gilad Karni, Thomas Riebl and Miguel da Silva. She also receives a scholarship from the International Academy of Music in Liechtenstein, and takes part in the intensive music weeks held there. In the course of her studies, Dagmar has participated in numerous national and international competitions and won many prizes. She won 1st prize at the Papandopulo Competition for Young Musicians in February 2024 in Zagreb. In November 2019, she won 1st prize at the 6th Dutch National Viola Competition. She was also awarded with Dean's and Rector's Prize for her outstanding performance as a student at the University of Zagreb.

Dagmar is a member of the ENSEMBLE ESPERANZA, which is made up of scholarship holders from the International Academy of Music in Liechtenstein.

As a chamber musician, she has been invited to perform at festivals such as: Festival Next

Generation in Bad Ragaz (Switzerland), :alpenarte Festival (Austria), Mozartfest in Würzburg

(Germany), Delft Chamber Music Festival and Grachtenfestival (The Netherlands), Korkyra Baroque Festival, Ostinato Chamber Music Festival (Croatia) and Ohrid Summer Festival (North Macedonia).

In June 2018 she has had her debut as a soloist with the Zagreb Philharmonic playing William Walton's Viola Concerto at Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall.

The young violist has received scholarships from Jeunesses Musicales Germany and from the

International Summer Academy of the mdw – University of Music and performing Arts Vienna.



Kian Soltani

Hailed by The Times as a “remarkable cellist” and described by Gramophone as “sheer perfection”, Kian Soltani’s playing is characterised by a depth of expression, sense of individuality and technical mastery, alongside a charismatic stage presence and ability to create an immediate emotional connection with his audience. He is now invited by the world’s leading orchestras, conductors and recital promoters, propelling him from rising star to one of the most talked about cellists performing today.

In the 24/25 season, Kian Soltani makes several returns including with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and Lahav Shani, the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Cello Biënnale in Amsterdam and Orchestre de la Suisse Romande; he will make his debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and will be artist-in-residence at Fränkischer Sommer Festival. As a recitalist, he will join forces once again with Benjamin Grosvenor, Hyeyoon Park, and Timothy Ridout for a quartet tour and will also embark on several trio concerts with Renaud Capuçon and Mao Fujita across the season. In celebration of the Vienna Symphony’s 125th anniversary, he will tour Austria with the orchestra, performing the world premiere of Marcus Nigsch’s concerto written for him. He will also tour with the Amsterdam Sinfonietta in Asia as well as with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin across Europe.

His recent orchestral highlights include his residency in 23/24 with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich and concerts with the NDR Elbphilharmonieorchester, Berlin Staatskapelle, WDR Cologne, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra and Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. As a recitalist he continues to appear in prestigious halls and series including at the Pierre

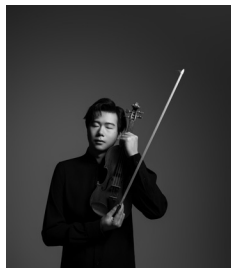
Boulez Saal, Berlin; Wigmore Hall, London; Musikverein and Konzerthaus Vienna and he appears regularly at festivals such as Verbier, Rheingau, Dvorak Prague Festival, Bregenzer Festspiele, Gstaad Menuhin Festival, Grafenegg, Kissinger Sommer and many others.

In 2017, Soltani signed an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon and his first disc 'Home', comprising works for cello and piano by Schubert, Schumann and Reza Vali, was released to international acclaim in 2018, with Gramophone describing the recording as "sublime". Soltani has since recorded discs including the Dvorak and Tchaikovsky Piano Trios with Lahav Shani and Renaud Capucon, recorded live at Aix Easter Festival in 2018 released by Warner Classics and Dvořák's Cello Concerto with the Staatskapelle Berlin and Daniel Barenboim in August 2020.

He recently won Innovative Listening Experience Award at the coveted Opus Klassik Awards 2022, Germany's most prestigious classical music prize which honours outstanding artists and recordings, for his 'Cello Unlimited' album released back in October 2021. He has worked on this latest disc with Deutsche Grammophon during the entirety of 2020, and it is a celebration of the cello and film music. Of the disc, Soltani wrote "Everything you will hear on this album is made only and exclusively with my cello and played only by me. The possibilities of this instrument are unlimited and infinite, and this album is a celebration of the instrument and of epic film music as well".

Soltani attracted worldwide attention in April 2013 as winner of the International Paulo Cello Competition in Helsinki. In February 2017 Soltani won Germany's celebrated Leonard Bernstein Award and in December 2017, he was awarded the prestigious Credit Suisse Young Artist Award. Born in Bregenz, Austria, in 1992 to a family of Persian musicians, Soltani began playing the cello at age four and was only twelve when he joined Ivan Monighetti's class at the Basel Music Academy. He was chosen as an Anne-Sophie Mutter Foundation scholarship holder in 2014 and completed his further studies as a member of the Young Soloist Programme at Germany's Kronberg Academy. He received additional important musical training at the International Music Academy in Liechtenstein. As of October 2023, he holds position as a professor of cello at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria.

Kian Soltani plays “The London, ex Boccherini” Antonio Stradivari cello, kindly loaned to him by a generous sponsor through the Beares International Violin Society.



Simon Zhu

Simon Zhu is a rising violinist with a versatile repertoire. His successes are remarkable.

In October 2023, he won 1st prize at the 2023 International Violin Competition “Premio Paganini” in Genoa, Italy, and the special prize for the best Paganini concerto, as well as a number of important concert engagements – including the rare opportunity to perform on Paganini’s own violin “Cannone”. By Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù from 1743.

In May 2021, he won Second Prize at the Menuhin Competition in Richmond, Virginia, as well as the Mozart Prize and the European Community EMCY Award for his outstanding performance at the Menuhin Competition.

He won First Prize at the 13th International Georg Philipp Telemann Competition in Poznan, Poland in 2016. In 2016, he also received the Bruno Frey Music Prize awarded by the Bruno Frey Foundation, Ochsenhausen.

In 2017, he was awarded First Prize at the 17th International Violin Competition in Kloster Schöntal. First Prize at the 34th International Violin Competition Valsesia Musica (2018), First Prize at the Zhuhai Mozart Competition (2019) and First Prize at the 7th International Chamber Music Competition Bydgoszcz (2020) with his duo partner, Adam Tomaszewski.

Simon Zhu made his debut at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall in 2015 and has since performed there several times as a soloist with orchestra. He was a guest at the International Young Masters Violin Festival on Lake Constance and is a scholarship holder of the Menuhin Festival & Academy. He has given concerts in Germany, England, France, Belgium, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Korea, and China, performing with

renowned orchestras including the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, the Salzburg Chamber Soloists and the Orchestra del Teatro La Fenice and collaborated with conductors such as Sir Antonio Pappano, Sir John Eliot Gardiner and Stanislav Kochanovsky. October 15, 2024 is an important moment in recorded history.

Simon performed with the London Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Antonio Pappano at the Guildhall in London, England, using the Il Canno-ne that Paganini used during his lifetime. The King, His Majesty, Charles III attended the concert and received him after the concert.

Simon is a scholarship holder at the International Academy of Music in Liechtenstein and takes part in intensive music weeks and activities of the Academy. He has been a scholarship recipient of the German Music Foundation since 2016. He was an academist at the Hope Music Academy 2020 and at the Walter Stauffer Academy Cremona 2020-2022, where he worked with Salvatore Accardo.

He is currently studying at the HMTM Munich with Prof. Ana Chumachen-co, as well as receiving guidance from famous violinist Ning Feng. In the years 2020-2023, Simon has performed on a fine old Montagnana violin, generously loaned by the Florian Leonhard Fellowship.

Simon now plays an important violin by Zosimo Bergonzi, Cremona around 1760. The instrument is on generous loan from a member of the Stretton Society.



Karolina Errera Pavon

Recipient of numerous international awards, violist Karolina Errera is an artists of natural musicality, refined taste and humbleness. She is the winner of the 9th Jan Rakowski Viola Competition (2013), the VIII International Yury Bashmet Viola Competition (2018) as well as prizewinner at the 52. Markneukirchen Competition (2017) and Peter-Pirazzi Competition (2019).

Her debut CD “Songs of Rain” with pianist Lilit Grigoryan was released together with label Genuin Classics and has received many distinguished reviews as well as several nominations by the Opus Klassik Award (2023). Starting from season 2025/2026 Karolina will also become part of Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin as Principal of the Viola section. Highlights of recent and current musical activities include her debut with Giya Kancheli “Styx” on the stage of Chamber Music Hall of Berlin Philharmonie together with Berliner Capella, Filarmonia Pomorska and Sergi Gili Solé, performance of Paul Hindemith “Der Schwanendreher” with Vogtland Philharmonie in Greiz under the baton of David Marlow, her recital debut at Konzerthaus Berlin together with pianist Yannick Rafalimanana and multiple chamber music collaborations with such renowned artists as Sir András Schiff, Bomsori, Gidon Kremer, Vilde Frang, Gary Hoffmann, Jörg Widdmann, Viviane Hagner, Nils Mönkemeyer, Antje Weithaas, Vadim Gluzman, Gil Shaham.

Her dedication to music has allowed her performances on many international stages such as Wigmore Hall London, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Pierre Boulez Saal Berlin, Casals Forum Kronberg and brought her to participate at world class music festivals including Festival de Pâques, Moritzburg Festival, Krzyzowa Music, Kronberg Academy Festival, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Rheingau Festivals.

Karolina was born into a non-musicians family of two origins: Russian-Dominican, and brought up with strong musical influences around her. She started her musical path at the age of four. After completing her Bachelor's degree at the University of Arts Berlin with Prof. Wilfried Strehle she enrolled for her Master education at the Hanns Eisler Musik-hochschule with Prof. Tabea Zimmermann and completed her studies at the Kronberg Academy.



Roman Kosyakov

Roman Kosyakov is a winner and a laureate of many international piano competitions: most recently he won the Third Prize and The Bridget Doolan Prize for the best performance of a piece by Mozart of The 12th Dublin International Piano Competition (Ireland, 2022); First Prize, Orchestra Prize and an Audience Prize of the XV Campillos International Piano Competition (Spain, 2021); as part of “Fitzroy Piano Quartet” Roman won the Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition string ensembles section (UK, 2020); Second Prize of the UK Piano Open International Piano Competition (UK, 2020); First Prize and the Orchestra Prize of the 14th Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition (UK, 2018), performing Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No 1 with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; Fourth Prize of the 1st Saint-Priest International Piano Competition (France, 2017); Gold Prize of the 3rd Manhattan International Music Competition (USA, 2018); First Prize and the audience prize of the 10th Sheepdrove Piano Competition (UK, 2018).

Roman was born into a musical family and made his debut with orchestra at the age of 12 with Mozart Concerto No.23 in A Major. In 2012, he graduated from the Central Music School in Moscow where he studied with Farida Nurizade and then in 2017 from the Tchaikovsky Moscow Conservatoire with Vladimir Ovchinnikov. From 2017-2021, he studied at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on a full scholarship with Pascal Nemirovski.

Roman’s performance career includes engagements in the most important venues and festivals across the UK, USA, and Europe such as Kings Place, St James Piccadilly, St Mary’s Perivale and Cadogan Hall in London, Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, Sursa Performance Hall in Ball

State University (Muncie, IN, USA), Teatro Juan Bravo (Segovia, Spain), Festivals in Leamington, Battle, Barrow, Furness Classical, North Norfolk, West Meon and European Chamber Academy in Leipzig. He has worked with The Royal Philharmonic, Hastings Philharmonic, English Symphony, Bangor University, and Basingstoke orchestras.

In January 2019 Roman received “The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Silver Medal” by the Musician’s Company in the UK, became a member of Musician’s Company Yeomen Young Artists’ Programme and has been invited to represent and launch the 2019 Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition at House of Commons in London. Roman is a winner of Denis Matthews Memorial Trust award, Kirckman Concert Society Artist and a scholar of the Drake Calleja Trust.

Roman is regularly invited to join the piano faculty at the Berginos Summer Piano School in Bergamo (Italy) giving masterclasses with esteemed artists including Pascal Nemirovski, Michel Beroff, Vladimir Ovchinnikov, Boris Slutsky, Louis Schwizgebel and Norman Krieger.

In Summer 2019 Roman recorded a debut CD for “Naxos” with works by Liszt which was released in late 2020.

Roman joined the piano faculty of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire’s Junior Department as a Visiting Lecturer in 2023. He has also been invited to give a series of masterclasses in different schools and colleges such as RGS in Worcester and Sixth Form College in Hereford.



Isidora Timotijevic

Isidora Timotijevic (1997) is the principal violist of the Munich Chamber Orchestra.

She studied with Roland Glassl at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich, as well as with Thomas Riebl at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg. Her musical journey has taken her to perform with some of Europe's most distinguished ensembles, including the Camerata Salzburg and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra.

As guest principal violist, Isidora has collaborated with leading orchestras such as the

Bamberg Symphony, the SWR Symphony Orchestra, and the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Her passion for chamber music has brought her to international festivals including Musique à Marsac, Eggenfelden Klassisch, Musikarte Festival and the Esbjerg Chamber Music Festival.

With a refined sound and a deep musical sensitivity, Isidora continues to build a vibrant career across both orchestral and chamber music landscapes.



Nikita Geller

Born in Minsk (Belarus) in 1997 into a family of musicians, Nikita Geller got his first violin lesson at the age of five in State Music School in Minsk from Olga Karotina and afterwards from Prof. Solomon Kutsovsky in Erfurt. In 2008 he started studying in Music Gymnasium "Schloss Belvedere" in Weimar with Prof. A. Lehmann and C. Blumenstein. Since 2014 Nikita has been studying in University for Music Franz Liszt Weimar with Prof. Dr. F. Eichhorn. Currently Nikita studies Konzertexamen in Weimar. Nikita is a major prize winner at the National Competition "Jugend Musiziert", as well as at International "Karl Adler" Competition.

Nikita has performed as a soloist with Academic Orchestra Halle- Wittenberg, the Thüringen Philharmonie Gotha-Eisenach, Jena Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Kurpfälzisch, Chamber Orchestra of Belarus, Loh- Orchestra Sondershausen and Chamber Orchestra of the University Franz Liszt Weimar.

Further collaborations include the recording of the CD "Very British" together with Metamorphoses Berlin under Prof. Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt. In 20/21 "Radeberg"-concert series he recorded various chamber music pieces for Deutschlandfunk.

Nikita is a member of ensembles "via nova" and "Splendor Baroque". With his ensemble "via nova", he performed in London Ear Festival (England), IlSouno Festival Musica Contemporanea (Italy), Daegu International Contemporary Music Festival (South Korea), "NeoArte. Syntezator Sztuki. Danzig" (Poland), Mixtur- Festival Barcelona (Spain), Intersonanzen Festival Potsdam, Klangnetz Thuringia, Unerhörte Musik Berlin and Weimarer Frühjahrstage for contemporary music.

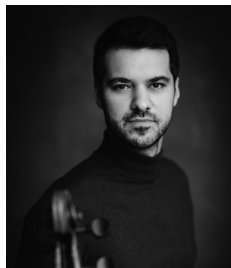
As a soloist and chamber musician Nikita performed at various interna-

tional festivals such as “Eggenfelden Klassisch” (2019/2021), “Ostinato” Festival (2018-2023, Croatia), International Johann Heinrich von Thünen Festival (Warnkenhagen) and “Ciurlionis Music Festival” (Lithuania).

As orchestral musician Nikita appeared as guest member of Jena Philharmonic Orchestra (1st Violin), Meininger Hofkapelle (1st Violin), principal second violin in Mecklenburgischen Staatskapelle Schwerin, assistant concertmaster in Anhaltisches Theater Dessau and now has a temporary contract at the MDR- Sinfonie Orchestra in Leipzig.

Nikita was supported by scholarships by Sparkassestiftung Weimar, Thuringia Ministry of Culture, Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben (violin from Aegidius Klotz), Deutschlandstipendium and Fahrenkamp- Schäffler Foundations. He was also scholar by “Villa Musica” Rheinland-Pfalz, YEHUDI MENUHIN Live Music Now and “PE- Förderung” for Music Students e.V.

In the period from 2019-2022 Nikita Geller played a violin by Sanctus Seraphin (Venice, 1751), given by the “Villa Musica” Rheinland-Pfalz foundation.



Aram Amatuni

„To me my cello is sensitive and loving but also unruly and stubborn, just as a human can be. It is my goal to adapt to this instrument every day, to truly understand and accept it.,“ (Aram Amatuni)

Capturing the emotion that music conveys and sharing this with his audience is the only thing important to Aram Amatuni, when he sits on stage and plays his cello. Shortly after having studied in Hannover and Berlin under Leonid Gorokhov and Stephan Forck, Aram Amatuni began his career as a solo cellist with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. The Russian cellist also impresses with his solos and regularly accepts invitations to play at renown festivals and concert stages such as the Festspiele- Mecklenburg Vorpommern or concerts in Victoria Hall in Geneva. As of March 2022, Aram is a solo cellist of the well renown Staatssorchester Stuttgart.

His unwavering love to his instrument makes Aram Amatuni a versatile and expressive cellist who can easily procure and present both the delicate, as well as, the energetic sides of his instrument. The music he makes has been awarded many prizes including two at the international Bach competition in Leipzig. Master courses led the musician to the Kronberg Academy, the Marktoberdorfer Sommerakademie and the Useedom International Masterclasses amongst others. However, Aram Amatuni is not only attracting attention as a solo cellist: After obtaining a scholarship to the

Ferenc-Fricsay-Orchesterakademie of the Deutschen-Symphonie Orchester Berlin, he was named solo cellist in the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande for two years in 2019- and that at the early age of 25 years.

Besides playing in orchestras, Aram Amatuni enjoys playing chamber music, which also occupies a central role in his artistic creativeness. The spontaneity and direct form of communication in ensemble play makes this form of music particularly interesting to Aram Amatuni and thus, he has had the opportunity to play with many renown musicians including Igor Tchetuev, Andrey Baranov or Beatrice Rana. In this scope, he has played as a guest in many halls including at NDR Hannover, the philharmonic hall in St. Petersburg, or in the French Dom in Berlin.

Aram Amatuni takes interest in the wide-ranging spectrum of sounds of the cello and uses this to create a personal touch which he shares with his audience in every concert. He uses the knowledge and inspiration gathered from his instructors to do this: Born in St. Petersburg, Aram Amatuni began playing cello at the age of six. His grandmother had given him the opportunity to come into contact with this instrument as she was a friend of Aram's future cello teacher and sensed her grandson's hidden talent. After studying with Elena Dernova at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in his hometown, Aram Amatuni completed his Bachelor und Master Degrees in cello in Hannover with Leonid Gorokhov and in Berlin with Stephan Forck. Aram Amatuni makes it his calling to understand the music he plays and the emotions of its composers, whether he is playing as a solo cellist, a chamber musician or with an orchestra.

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