

Dorian Xhoxhi



Born in Tirane (Albania)
Member since 2010-01-01

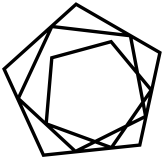
Awards:

First prize at the International Queen Sophie Charlotte and International Louise Henriette Competitions; scholar at the Villa Musica, Mainz (since 2006)

“The magic of this orchestra comes from the way that we musicians, despite outstanding preparation in rehearsals, are still left with great scope for spontaneity at the concerts. The sound is like a wave that you can ride. You can help determine the direction, even if you don’t know at first exactly which way it’s going. That’s the great excitement.”

As the son of a violinist father and a pianist mother, it was only natural that Dorian Xhoxhi would become a professional musician. Between the ages of 5 and 15 he received instruction from his father, who gave him the technical foundation of playing the violin. In 2000 Dorian Xhoxhi left his native Albania – first for Munich to study with Ernő Sebestyén at the Musikhochschule, which was followed by studies at Berlin’s Hanns Eisler Musikhochschule with Stephan Picard and Antje Weithaas, the two teachers whom Xhoxhi credits with decisively influencing his artistic development.

Dorian Xhoxhi, recipient of numerous prizes and grants for his playing, began his career as an orchestral musician as a member of the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra. An internship with the Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester of Berlin in 2006 led to his first permanent engagement as a second violin in that orchestra. Following a detour to Leipzig, where from 2008 to 2010 he was leader of the second violins in the Gewandhausorchester, he came to the Berliner Philharmoniker. The musician’s hobbies include cinema, reading and, especially, cooking.



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Johanna Pichlmair



(photo: Tam Photography)

Born in Judenburg (Austria)
Member since 2020-03-15

Awards:

2nd Prize and Bach Prize at the Montreal International Violin Competition (2019), 2nd Prize at the International Max Rostal Competition (2019), 1st Prize at the Ysaye International Violin Competition in Liège (2018), Deutscher Musikwettbewerb (2015), Scholarship, 2nd Prize and Chamber Music Prize at the Competition “Pacem in Terris” in Bayreuth (2014)

Official Website:

johannapichlmair.com ↗

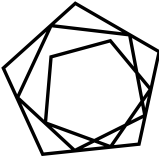
“My first impression of this orchestra was that everyone made music with incredible passion! You feel like you're in a huge chamber music group in which each musician is consciously aware of what the others are playing. There is a lot of non-verbal communication! For me as a violinist, one of the greatest challenges is to fit perfectly into the musical concept on the one hand, while at the same time contributing an independent and personal voice. Because it is only through individual effort that music gains its power.”

She did not even know what a violin looked like, but its song-like sound, which she listened to on recordings, fascinated Johanna Pichlmair so much that she was determined to learn the instrument. At the age of six, the native Austrian became a pupil of Alexandra Rappitsch, who taught her until the beginning of her music studies and had a decisive influence on her.

Johanna Pichlmair completed her first year of study at the Mozarteum University Salzburg under Igor Ozim. In 2009 she moved to Berlin, where she first studied at the Academy of Music “Hanns Eisler” under Antje Weithaas and Feng Ning, and later at the University of the Arts under Nora Chastain. From 2014 to 2016, she was a scholarship holder of the Berliner Philharmoniker’s Karajan Academy. She also attended master classes held by Pinchas Zukerman, Lewis Kaplan and Eberhard Feltz, among others.

The violinist gained her first orchestral experience in various chamber ensembles as a teenager. In the course of time she also won over 20 prizes as a soloist at national and international competitions. In 2017, she received her first position with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks. Since March 2020, she has been a member of the Berliner Philharmoniker’s first violin section.

As a soloist, she has performed with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, the Münchener Rundfunkorchester, the Nürnberger Symphoniker, the Grazer Philharmoniker and the Pforzheimer Kammerorchester. She has also performed as a chamber musician at the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, the Ludwigsburg Festival and the Heidelberg Spring Music Festival. In her spare time she loves latin and ballroom dancing and does Pilates.



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Martin Stegner



Born in Nürnberg
Member since 1996-09-01

Ensembles:

- Violentango →
- WuWei Trio →

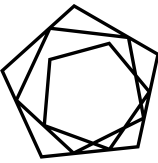
Boards:

Member of the Fünferrat (Council of Five, 2006-2014)

His first teacher was his father, who gave him his first violin lessons when Martin Stegner was eight. After studying with Roman Nodel at the Mannheim Musikhochschule, he switched to the viola and then went for training to Neithard Resa and Wilfried Strehle in the Berliner Philharmoniker’s Orchestra Academy. His first engagement was in 1993, as principal viola of Berlin’s Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester. Three years later he moved to the Berliner Philharmoniker.

Martin Stegner performs as a soloist and chamber musician in Europe, America and Japan. He also works with the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester and the Orquesta Juvenil Centroamericana and has given courses at Yale University and the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler in Berlin. He is actively involved in expanding the viola’s repertoire. Together with the pianist Tomoko Takahashi, he has released several highly acclaimed CDs of transcriptions of lieder by Robert Schumann. He has been a keen jazz musician since his youth, and has appeared at numerous festivals, performing with artists such as Herbie Mann, Diane Reeves, Thomas Quasthoff and Nils Landgren.

A co-founder of the Berlin Philharmonic Jazz Group, he founded the ensemble Bolero Berlin in 2008 in which he and soloists of the Berliner Philharmoniker dedicate themselves to South American music. In 2015, an album was released together with the German/Persian singer Cymin Samawatie on the ECM label. Martin Stegner is involved in other projects with, among others, Simon Stockhausen and the Chinese sheng virtuoso WuWei. His work has been documented on 15 CDs.



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David Riniker



Born in Basle
Member since 1995-05-01

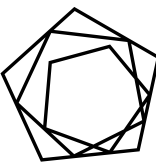
Ensembles:

- Philharmonia Duo →
- The 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic →
- Feininger Trio →

Awards:

Prizewinner at the 4th Eurovision Young Musicians competition

David Riniker first studied with Jean Paul Guéneux and later in the master course given in Basle by Antonio Meneses. He completed his training in the master classes of Arto Noras, Boris Pergamenschikow, Wolfgang Boettcher and David Geringas. Along with his orchestral duties, he is an active chamber-music player with his colleagues of the Berliner Philharmoniker, including the 12 Cellisten der Berliner Philharmoniker, the Breuninger Quartett and a duo with violinist Christoph Streuli.



Michael Karg



Born in Amberg (Bavaria)
Member since 2014-09-08

Ensembles:

Philharmonisches Streicherensemble →

Awards:

1st prize and special prizes – “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Conservatory Competition” 2014, 2nd Prize – “Leoš Janáček International Competition” 2013, 1st Prize – “International Johann-Matthias-Sperger Competition” 2012, 1st prize and special prize – “Jugend musiziert” Competition 2010

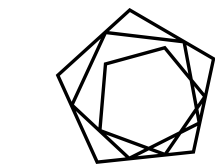
“My fascination with the bass arises from the combination of two very contrasting elements: on the one hand, due to its sheer size and weight, the instrument demands a physically exhausting and often animalistic style of playing from the musician. On the other hand, in terms of size and shape, it is sophisticated and perfectly formed. In the group, the double bass player takes on rhythmic tasks in particular, creating the harmonic framework for the orchestra. So, playing together requires good coordination and precision, in addition to the prerequisite musicality and the ability to listen. To be part of the bass section of the Berliner Philharmoniker and to be allowed to shape the unique sound of the orchestra from its very foundations fills me with pride and joy. Every second I can feel the enthusiasm for music and the desire to discover new things in it.”

Michael Karg came to the double bass while attending the arts high school in his home town of Amberg. In order to play in both the school orchestra and its big band, he decided to learn the double bass in addition to his other instruments, piano and guitar. The double bass soon became his main instrument. After a short time, he was accepted by the National Youth Orchestra of Germany and the Bavarian state youth orchestra. Dealing with large symphonic works and having contact with renowned conductors and soloists, he quickly realised he wanted to be an orchestral musician. Michael Karg began his studies under Professor Dorin Marc at Nuremberg University of Music and while still a student, he had the opportunity to participate in orchestra academies at major German music festivals.

As a winner of national and international competitions, he was invited by numerous orchestras and music festivals to perform as a soloist. He played for example with the Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt, the Neubrandenburger Philharmonie and the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie. He gained further orchestral experience as a temporary member of ensembles such as the symphony orchestras of Bayerischer and Westdeutscher Rundfunk and also with the Berliner Philharmoniker. He also has a great interest in chamber music. Michael Karg has been a member of the double bass section of the Berliner Philharmoniker since the beginning of the 2014/2015 season.

← Martin Heinze

Stanisław Pajak →



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