

Polina Tarasenko, trombone

Polina Tarasenko was born in 2001 in the small town of Kherson, in the south of Ukraine.

She began to play music very early, at the age of 5, on a drum kit in the children's jazz group "Dixieland" in the Kherson Palace of Children's and Youth Creativity under the guidance of the Honored Worker of Culture of Ukraine, Semen Ryvkin.

Over the next 5 years, he also taught her to play the saxophone, trumpet and trombone. As part of "Dixieland", she

regularly performed at concerts and festivals, not only in Ukraine, but also abroad. Already during this period, she combined jazz with classical music and studied piano and musical theory.

After the death of her first teacher in 2011, Polina met the Russian trombonist Alexander Nyankin on the Internet, who at that time lived and worked in Taiwan. He gave her lessons via Skype and prepared her for participation in the Rotary competition in 2013 in Moscow.

In this competition, Polina took 4th place and a special jury prize, and received an invitation from Michail Khokhlov, director of the Gnessin Moscow Special School of Music to study there without entrance exams in the main specialty trombone (teachers Viktor Lebedev, Alexander Nyankin) and electives - saxophone, trumpet, composition, piano, organ. It was a huge step for her further education as well as her development as a musician.

During her studies at the Gnessin school, Polina took part in many international competitions and festivals, such as "Iguazu and concerto" (Argentina), the All-Russian competition for young composers (1st prize), the V. International Jazz Festival-Competition for Young Performers "Gnessin Jazz" (1st prize), International jazz festival-competition "Riga Jazz Stage" (3rd prize) and "Moscow meets friends" where she played with the Moscow Virtuosi under Vladimir Spivakov. She was also honored as the best student of the school in 2015 and graduated there in 2018 with highest honors.

Her many and various interests, both musical and extra-musical made it a difficult choice – but in the end she chose the classical trombone as her main path. She entered the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover to study with one of the best trombone teachers in Europe - Professor Jonas Bylund, with whom she continues to study.

Since the beginning of her studies in Germany, Polina won prizes at many international trombone competitions in Italy, France, Germany and the USA, like the 4th international competition "Positively Brass and Percussion Competition Trossingen" (1st prize), the international trombone competition in Alsace (1st prize and audience award) or the Gilberto Gagliardi competition in Indiana, USA (1st prize). She also was a semi-finalist at the Aeolus Wind Competition 2019 in Düsseldorf.



Polina is a scholar of Leonid Kuchma Presidential Foundation “Ukraine”, Vladimir Spivakov's International Charitable Foundation, Marous Foundation, Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now Hannover e.V., Yamaha (trombone) and Gundlach Foundation.

The Nikolaisaal Potsdam invited Polina in 2020/2021 to its debut series for a number of chamber concerts and education programs. In October 2020, she played a concert with the NDR Radio Philharmonie Hannover under Andrew Manze at the NDR Funkhaus Hannover.

Engagements in the season 2021/2022 include a series of eight concerts with the Neue Lausitzer Philharmonie under Ewa Strusińska, concerts at the Nikolaisaal Potsdam, in Barcelona and in Alsace as well as her debut at the Konzerthaus Dortmund with the Dortmunder Philharmoniker.

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