

ZOFIA NEUGEBAUER

FLUTE BIOGRAPHY

Zofia Neugebauer was born in the town of Wodzislaw Slaski, Poland in 1994, and started playing the piano at the age of five. However, her fascination with the subtle possibilities of the flute led her to take it up at the age of ten, and her continued passion for its rich and delicate sound has developed into a rich and creative career. Her career as a flute soloist began when she performed with the Katowice Symphony Orchestra at the age of 13, and has since led her to perform, compete and study in many of Europe's most prestigious musical centres.

In order to further her musical knowledge, Zofia closed out her secondary school studies in Wroclaw, at the specialised music school "Karol Szymanowski" under the tutelage of Cezary Traczewski. During this time, she had the opportunity to meet and learn from several inspiring performers and teachers, including Prof. Felix Renggli, and it was following a masterclass with him that Zofia decided to audition for his class in Basel's Music Hochschule. Over the next few years, she worked closely with Prof. Renggli on her musical development, as well as discovering greater opportunities as a performer with smaller ensembles and orchestras in music festivals across Germany and Switzerland.

Zofia concluded her Bachelor's (earning the highest grade possible and a distinction) in Basel in 2016, and immediately commenced a Masters in Performance at the same school. However, her initial postgraduate studies were interrupted when she was selected as a member of the Berlin Philharmonic's Karajan Academy in 2017. Over the next two years, she continued to learn and develop as a member of this select institution under the guidance of Mathieu Dufour.

Zofia was awarded the position of Principal Flute with the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra in January 2019, and has relished the opportunity to perform the greatest works of the orchestral canon in a demanding and artistically excellent atmosphere. She also regularly appears as a solo flautist with orchestras such as the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, the Camerata Zurich and the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, having worked with conductors such as Simon Rattle, Ivan Fischer, Zubin Mehta and Paavo Järvi.

However, Zofia remains active as an ensemble musician and performer as well, frequently performing a wide spectrum of repertoire with the artistically dynamic "AYA Music". She has also participated successfully in numerous competitions across Europe, and was awarded a scholarship by the Mozart Gesellschaft Dortmund in 2018. She was also a Fellow of the Polish Ministry of Culture.

Across all of these accomplishments and performances, Zofia remains committed to her own artistic development and growth. Her love for the flute remains as pure as it was when she was first drawn to it, and every fresh musical challenge is welcome as a possibility to grow still further as a performer and as a musician.