

Aleksandra Pykacz - cello

(born December 17th, 1991 in Gdynia – Poland) started as a student of MA Jadwiga Rudka-Stefaniak. After graduating Music School of Gdynia she continued her education at Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel, where she has received her Master Degree „cum laude” in the class of Prof. Jeroen Reuling in 2015.

She is a prize winner of many Polish and international cello competitions, such as: Polish Cello Competition in Bydgoszcz (Poland); VII Young Cellists Competition in Wrocław (Poland); L. Boccherini Youth Polish Competition in Zamość (Poland); K. Wiłkomirski International Youth Cello Competition in Poznań (Poland); Young Talents in Gdynia (Poland); International Cello Competition “Noor Musik” in Tallin (Estonia); Young Cellists Competition “Pavasario Pasazai” in Vilnius (Lithuania); XI International String Competition “Talents for Europe” in Dolny Kubin (Slovakia). Besides, she also took part in chamber music competitions, gaining prizes at the International Chamber Music Competition in Heerlen (the Netherlands); 43rd International Radio Competition for Young Musicians Concertino Praga in Prague (Czech Republic); VI String Chamber Music Competition in Gdynia (Poland) and VIII International Music Competition in Warsaw (Poland).

Aleksandra has been invited to chamber music festivals, such as: „Chamber Music Festival” in Gdańsk (Poland); „South Bohemia Festival Concertino Praga” – numerous concerts in Czech Republic, including performance at The Rudolfinum's Dvořák Hall; “Premia Festival” in Łódź (Poland); “Klassik Star” organised by Vysehrad Foundation - chamber music concerts in Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Hungary, “Harmos Classical” in Portugal, with a performance at Casa da Musica in Porto; “Encuentro de Santander” with a performance at “Palacio de Festivales de Cantabria”, where she had an opportunity to share a stage with Nobuko Imai. She also performed at “Aurora Chamber Music Festival” in Trollhattan (Sweden), Festival “Young Talents” in Schiermonnikoog (the Netherlands), Lienzo Norte Festival in Avila (Spain) and The International Holland Music Sessions in Bergen (the Netherlands). She has given numerous concerts as a soloist and chamber music player in many Polish cities and abroad, among others in Germany, Belgium, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, the Netherlands,

In 2014 Aleksandra created together with the pianist Ioana Mandrescu Opia Ensemble – a cello/piano duo focused on contemporary music and interdisciplinary art projects. Since its creation they were invited to participate in numerous festivals, such as “Tehran Contemporary Music Festival” in Tehran (Iran) where they presented Polish and Romanian contemporary music and a world premiere of Cello Concerto by Hooshyar Khayam; “Courants d’Airs” in Brussels (Belgium) and “46. International Artistic Campus FAMA” in Świnoujście (Poland).

Over time Opia Ensemble started collaborating with other artists and musicians creating temporary or fixed side projects. As a result of such collaboration Opia Cello/Guitar Duo has been created together with Polish guitarist Bianka Szalaty in 2015.