

Katerina Chatzinikolau

Biographie

Violinist Katerina Chatzinikolau captivates her audience through her impetuous temperament and her energetic presence on stage. The diversity of her sound demonstrates an intense work with historically informed performance practice as well as with contemporary music. She was praised by the *Leverkusener Stadtanzeiger* with the words: “Pure implicitness how she devotes herself equally brilliantly to the classical as well as to contemporary music”.

She applies the broad spectrum of repertoire in the constellation of her concert programs. For Katerina it becomes interesting in particular when the borders between Early music and contemporary music vanish and when the concert becomes an aesthetic and social event. With her fresh and authentic interpretations that she takes from the sheer endless potential of the music itself, she provides new perspectives of seemingly out-dated musical works and puts it into the light of our time.

Katerina can look back to a number of prizes in competitions on national and international level. She is first prize winner of the *Golden Classical Music Awards 2020*, International Music Competition *eMuse* (2017), of the *Alois-Kottmann-Prize* for lyrical playing and the National German Youth Competition „Jugend musiziert“ (2007). In 2017 she won the second prize at the *Panhellenic Competition* „Young Soloist“ and in 2015 the first prize at the *International Thöne Competition* as well as the prize for the best interpretation of the contemporary work. Besides she is finalist of the “Deutscher Musikwettbewerb” in the duo category violin/piano (2013) and of the competition “Ton und Erklärung” (“Word and Explanation” (2016)).

As a soloist Katerina played in prestigious concert halls such as the *Philharmonie Köln*, the *Tonhalle Düsseldorf*, the *rbb-Rundfunksaal* Berlin, the *Royal Theater Thessaloniki*, the *Beethovenhalle* Bonn, the *Laeiszhalle* Hamburg, the *Liederhalle* Stuttgart, the *Musiktheater im Revier* Gelsenkirchen and at the *Ruhrtriennale*. Katerina will play her debut at the *Carnegie Hall* in November 2020. She performed with different orchestras such as the *Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin*, the *Philharmonie Südwestfalen*, the *Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra*, the *Neues Rheinisches Kammerorchester Köln*, the *Neue Philharmonie Westfalen* and the *Cognimus Kollektiv*.

Katerina received additional musical ideas i. a. at international masterclasses with Leonidas Kavakos, Andrés Cárdenes, Mauricio Fuks, Ida Kavafian, Barnabas Kelemen, Mihaela Martin, Evgueni Sinaiski, Pavel Vernikov, at the Kronberg Academy and at the Darmstädter Ferienkurse for contemporary music. In the field of historically informed performance practice she received intense lessons on the baroque violin from the baroque violinist Prof. Richard Gwilt and had the possibility to enlarge her practical knowledge through masterclasses with Sigiswald Kuijken.

From 2017 to 2019 Katerina was concertmaster of the *Bergische Symphoniker*. She was also concertmaster at Studio Musikfabrik, the youth ensemble for contemporary music, from 2010-2013. A concert tour with this ensemble brought her to Singapore, Malaysia and Bangkok. At the Acht Brücken Festival and at the Ruhrtriennale 2010 she participated in many other premieres of contemporary works.

Katerina took her first violin lessons at the music school “Orpheas” in Kilkis, Greece, in 1994. After immigrating to Germany she took privat lessons from the American violinist Monique Mead

from 1997 until 2001. Additionally she was involved in the presentation of the concert series for children "Klassik for Kids" that were initiated by Monique Mead. In 2001 she continued her musical studies with Prof. Alexander Kramarov and was later on taken in his class as a young student at the "Robert-Schumann-Hochschule" in Düsseldorf. She received her "Master of Music" in Violin Solo at the "Hochschule für Musik und Tanz" in Cologne in the class of Prof. Ariadne Daskalakis in 2017. Since 2016 she continues her studies in musicology with focus on „Artistic Development and Reflection“. There she follows her insatiable wish to investigate and develop flexible and innovative concert formats.

In Germany she has been strongly supported by the "Franz und Christel Kuhlmann" Foundation that gave her a violin to play from 1998 until 2001. From 2014 until 2016 she received a scholarship from the "Horst und Gretl Will" Foundation that is located in Cologne. In 2010 the Robert-Schumann- Hochschule awarded her with the NRW scholarship, the E.ON Stipendienfonds and the DAAD scholarships. From 2012 until 2014 she received a scholarship from the Foundation "Yehudi Menuhin - Live Music Now".

With her duo pianist, Schaghajegh Nosrati, Katerina forms the "Duo Euterpe". Together they have played concerts i. a. in the concert series "Young Professionals" at the Bechstein Centrum in Hanover and at the "International Chamber Music Festival" in Montepulciano.

Katerina is based in Cologne and plays a violin of Giovanni Paolo Maggini from 1629, a loan instrument of the conservatory of Cologne, that she has won at an internal competition of the HfMT Köln.

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