

Katerina Chatzinikolau – Biography

Praised as a musician of “*sparkling vitality and firm virtuosity*” by the *Rheinische Post* Greek violinist Katerina Chatzinikolau catches her audience through her bold stage presence and her unique arrangements and interpretations of classical music works.

She has been recently awarded 1st price at the “Golden Classical Music Awards” and had the possibility to give her debut at the Carnegie Hall.

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*”.

Collaborations with film art, design and architecture are an important aspect of her artistic activities. In her upcoming project she collaborates with Greek designer and luxury brand *Mia Papa* and presents her work as a violinist and arranger through her own video productions on her Youtube channel.

Her performances expand the limits of conventional concerts and mark her work as an artistic explorer with a huge desire to offer new approaches to her audience and to enrich her own musical understanding.

Her innovative concert format “Metamorphosis” combines a special music program with a presentation of texts, pictures and videos to a unique concert experience. In 2019 “Metamorphosis” was selected as best innovative project by the *Kolleg für Musik und Kunst* and was presented at the "Students in Residence" program in Montepulciano (Italy).

Katerina is first prize winner of the *Golden Classical Music Awards 2020*, International Music Competition *eMuse* (2017), of the *Alois-Kottmann-Prize* for lyrical playing. 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* (2016).

As a soloist Katerina played in prestigious concert halls such as the Philharmonie Köln, the Tonhalle Dusseldorf, the rbb-Rundfunksaal Berlin, the Royal Theater Thessaloniki, the Beethovenhalle Bonn, the Laeishalle Hamburg, the Liederhalle Stuttgart, the Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen and at the Ruhrtriennale.

She has performed with Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Philharmonie S^westfalen, Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra, Neues Rheinisches Kammerorchester Köln, Neue Philharmonie Westfalen and Cognimus Kollektiv.

Katerina has been appointed concertmaster of the Bergische Symphoniker from 2017 until 2019. 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 numerous premieres of contemporary works.

Katerina studied in Pre-College at the Robert Schumann Musikhochschule Düsseldorf with Alexander Kramarov and is a Master graduate of the HfMT Cologne where she studied with Ariadne Daskalakis.

Katerina received additional musical ideas i. a. at international masterclasses with Leonidas Kavakos, Pavel Vernikov, Andrés Cárdenes, Mauricio Fuks, Ida Kavafian, Barnabas Kelemen, Mihaela Martin, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Evgueni Sinaiski and Anthony Spiri 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.

She also holds a master's degree in musicology with focus on "Artistic Development and Reflection" and currently completes her doctorate with an autoethnographic study on the topic "Self? Determined! - The Musical Self: Self-Representation and Self-Determination in Digital Spaces."

In 2020 she received a grant kindly given by Tarisio Auctions. In Germany she has been strongly supported by the Franz und Christel Kuhlmann Foundation and the Horst und Gretl Will Foundation. Furthermore she has been awarded the NRW scholarship, the E.ON Stipendienfonds and a DAAD scholarship. The HfMT Cologne gave her an Italian violin made by G. P. Maggini after winning the university's competition two times in a row in 2014 and 2016.

Katerina has been a scholar of the foundation "Yehudi Menuhin - Live Music Now". Inspired by the idea of bringing music to people who can't attend a concert because of their health circumstances she followed Menuhin's footsteps and initiated the concert series „Klang Im Puls“ at the Katholisches Klinikum Bochum.

As a devoted pedagogue she has given masterclasses and workshops in Germany, China and Mongolia where she applied traditional and started developing her own pedagogical methods. She strongly supports an interdisciplinary and all round education in the artistic field.

Since her early years she performed as a violinist, singer and actress at the „Klassik for Kids“ concert series, workshops and educational projects and inspired young audiences for classical music.

Katerina and pianist Schaghajegh Nosrati form the „Duo Euterpe“ that she knows since her early childhood.