

Nadia and Liuba Kalmykova

Born in Saint-Petersburg, Russia, twin sisters Nadia and Liuba Kalmykova began their musical studies at an early age, influenced by their musical family. At the age of 12 they moved to Norway, where they entered Barratt-Due Music Institute for highly gifted young musicians in Oslo. Thereafter they moved to Vienna to continue their studies at the prestigious Music and Arts University of Vienna in the class of Pavel Vernikov, from where they graduated with honors, receiving Bachelor and Master Degrees. At the same time they were studying chamber music in the class of Johannes Meissl (a member of Artis Quartet) at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, which they graduated in 2021. Their musical development has also been influenced by legendary artists such as Pierre Amoyal, Miriam Fried, Leonidas Kavakos, Natalia Gutman, Menahem Pressler, Alfred Brendel and Hatto Bayerle among others.

The girls made their solo debut with orchestra at the age of eleven, performing Vivaldi double concerto in the Small Hall of Saint-Petersburg Philharmonia. Each of them performed later with many orchestras, such as Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Paneuropean Philharmonia and several youth orchestras in Norway, Austria, Switzerland and Russia.

With the founding of the Selini Quartet in 2015, the sisters started their professional path as chamber musicians. The Selini Quartet is a prize-winner of several competitions, such as “Prague Spring International Music Competition” 2021 (Czech Republic), “Ysaye International Music Competition” 2021 (Belgium), “mdw great talent award” 2021 (Austria), “Szymanowski International Music Competition” 2018 (Poland) as well as of the “Artis Quartet Prize” of ISA Competition (Austria) 2018.

For the season 2020-2022 Selini Quartet was selected to represent Austria's music scene across the world, through the "NASOM-New Austrian Sound Of Music" program, which made it possible for the ensemble to perform all around Europe as well as the USA.

Their performances have included appearances at the "Gent Festival of Flanders" in Belgium, at the "Festival d'Aix en Provence" in France, at the "Sion Festival" in Switzerland, at the "Grafenegg Festival", "Salzburger Festspiele", "Wien Modern", "Carinthischer Sommer", "Festival St. Gallen" and "Steirisches Kammermusikfestival" in Austria, "Kronberg Academy" in Germany, "Istanbul Music Festival" in Turkey, "Aegina International Music Festival" in Greece, at the "ReMusica Festival" in Kosovo, at the "Prague Clarinet Days" Festival in Czech Republic and more.

Nadia and Liuba are thankful to the Goh Family Collection for the loan of the instruments and support through the years.