

### **Dominik Kossakowski (Violin, Poland)**

Dominik Kossakowski was born in 1994 in Tarnowskie Góry (Poland). He began learning violin at the age of seven. Taught by Janusz Skramlik, he completed his BA degree in 2016 at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice; he was also a member of Erich Höbarth's class at the HMT Leipzig (ERASMUS+ programme). Two year of tuition from Roland Baldini brought him his MA degree with a distinction in 2018 in Katowice.

In 2022 Dominik obtained his PhD under the guidance of Szymon Krzeszowiec in the same Academy. In 2013 he was granted a scholarship from Prime Minister, and in 2017 from Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

During his studies, Dominik has taken part in masterclasses with Gil Shaham, Ivry Gitlis, Rainer Honeck, Alexander Velinzon, Zsolt Tihamer-Visontay, Barnabás Kelemen, Philippe Graffin, Piotr Tarcholik, Jakub Jakowicz and Alena Baeva. He has won prizes in solo (Venice, Dolný Kubín, Barletta) and chamber competitions (Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk), which have led to solo performances with the Silesian Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra Katowice, the Silesian Chamber Orchestra and Kalisz Philharmonic Orchestra. He could also fulfil his love of chamber music at festivals such as the ENSEMBLE Festival in Książ Castle, Warsaw Autumn, MUSETHICA Festival in Berlin, and the "Chopin and his Europe" Festival in Warsaw.

Dominik's main area of activity is orchestral playing. He was the leader of the Young Polish Philharmonic Orchestra (2011-2018, 64 concerts), the International Lutosławski Youth Orchestra (2015-2017), and academic orchestras. Dominik took part in six tours with the European Union Youth Orchestra (2019-2021). He was also a Sinfonia Varsovia academist (2017-2018), and now works with the Haydn Philharmonie, National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Halle, City of Tychy Chamber Orchestra AUKSO and New Music Orchestra Katowice. Dominik spent the summer months of 2022 and 2023 as a resident of the Tanglewood Music Festival, organised by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

In September 2018, Dominik became co-leader of the Kalisz Philharmonic Orchestra (Poland). Since 2022 he has also been a deputy leader of the Silesian Symphony Orchestra in Katowice (Poland). Dominik works also with his Alma Mater as an assistant in the Chamber Music Department and is a member of the Concertmaster Artist Diploma Programme at the Accademia Stauffer in Cremona (Italy).

Operational seat:

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Legal seats:

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### Al Pari String Quartet (Poland)

Founded in 2017, the Al Pari Quartet is associated with the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice and the Accademia Walter Stauffer in Cremona. From the very beginning of the Quartet, its main ideas have been to promote the chamber works of Polish composers and new music, which the artists constantly implement during numerous concerts at home and abroad.

Al Pari has performed at many international festivals, including the:

- International FIMU Festival in Belfort (France),
- International Festival of Slavic Music in Ostrava (Czech Republic),
- Szczecin Classic (Poland)
- Casa del Quartetto - artistic residence at Teatri di Reggio Emilia (Italy),
- Jav Music Festival (Poland)
- Ticino Musica Festival in Lugano (Switzerland),
- Guimaraes Clasico Festival (Portugal).

During the Ticino Musica Festival in Lugano and Guimaraes Clasico in Portugal, the Quartet held artistic residencies culminating in a dozen festival concerts. Their commitment to promoting Polish music is emphasised by an invitation from the Italian organisation Le Dimore del Quartetto, thanks to which the quartet performed Polish music in Cremona, Milan, Casalbuttano, Como, Genoa, and Padua. The Quartet is also a beneficiary of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute's Polish Culture in the World programme.

In Poland, the Quartet has given concerts in the NOSPR Chamber Hall, the Kalisz Philharmonic, and the Polish Radio Katowice Concert Studio, to name but a few.

Al Pari won the 2nd Prize and the Special Prize for the performance of a contemporary piece at the 10th Concorso Internazionale Giovani Musicisti 'Antonio Salieri' in Legnago (Italy). It was further awarded a scholarship from the Hans und Eugenia Jütting Stiftung 2017 (Stendal, Germany), in the chamber music category.

The Quartet's debut album 'World Dialogue' is a monographic presentation of chamber works by the Swiss composer and mathematician Stephan Thelen, released together with the Kronos Quartet. In 2023, Al Pari released their second album, with pieces by Stephan Thelen and Fabio Anile.

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### Monika Szpyrka (Poland)

Monika Szpyrka is a composer, born in 1993. Her works have been frequently performed in Poland and internationally, including at: Spor in Aarhus, Maerz Musik in Berlin, International Summer Courses for New Music in Darmstadt, Young Composers' Meeting in Apeldoorn, Days of Organ Music in Cracow, Musica Electronica Nova in Wrocław, International Festival of Cracow Composers, Ostrava New Music Days, Pulsar Festival in Copenhagen, Panorama and RAMA in Aarhus, Festival Aktuelle Musik in Nuremberg, as well as during Warsaw Autumn.

Monika Szpyrka has cooperated with ensembles such as Aarhus Sinfonietta, Airborne Extended, Duo van Vliet, E-MEX, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Kompopolex, KNM Berlin, Lutostawski Quartet, NJYD Quartet, Orkest de Erepijs, Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej, Ostravská Banda, Spółdzielnia Muzyczna Contemporary Ensemble. She has taken part in the workshops of the Donaueschinger Musiktage Next Generation (2016) and SYNTHETIS (2016, 2017), and received individual tuition from artists such as Mark Andre, Richard Ayres, Marco Blaauw, Zygmunt Krauze, Johannes Kreidler, Bernhard Lang, Martijn Padding, Stefan Prins, Rebecca Saunders, Marco Stroppa, Jennifer Walshe, and Agata Zubeł.

Monika Szpyrka has won a Creative Scholarship of the City of Krakow (2023), a Creative Grant of Koda Kultur and Dansk Komponistforening (2018, 2022), a scholarship for outstanding students from the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage (2017), as well as the Sapere Auso scholarship (2017/18).

Monika Szpyrka completed the soloist programme at the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus under the tutelage of Juliana Hodkinson, Niels Rønsholdt, and Simon Steen-Andersen. She also studied composition and music theory at the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Krakow. In 2023 she defended her doctoral thesis with distinction, supervised by Anna Zawadzka-Gótosz at the same Academy.

Monika Szpyrka is composing a new work, commissioned by Dominik Kossakowski, as part of the 2025 EUYO Café Bauhaus Award.

### Modesta Gorol (Poland)

Modesta Gorol, printmaking artist and pianist, creates graphics, specializing in intaglio techniques such as etching and aquatint. She is a graduate of the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław, and since 2019 has been studying at the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław. She has also studied at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (printmaking studio, 2022), and the Biorn von Schlippe illustration studio in Hamburg (Erasmus Internship, 2022). As a musician, she studied at the TUD Dublin Conservatory of Music and Drama - MM Piano Performance (Erasmus exchange, 2018).

Modesta is working with Dominik Kossakowski to create a visual narrative of the complete programme, as part of the 2025 EUYO Café Bauhaus Award.

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