

Andrea Nikolić

“Violinist of mature musicality and imagination, superior technique and heartwarming sound.”

“One of those rare artists who possess a Renaissance-like versatility, wide perspective and a true understanding of music and the arts”.

“Volcanic energy... rebellious... revolutionary...”

*Bobovac, Selection of reviews 2012-2020*

“... perfect, mature music making ... imaginative programming”

“...very impetuous, following the dramatic development of the piece, technically perfect.”

“...a grandiose success!”

*Der neue Merker, 2019*

“...courage, hard work, patience, self-confidence... excellent musicianship and organisation skills... But a special characteristic of this really agile and successful violinist is her own driving motto: Be the change you want to see in the world. ”

*Cantus 2020*

## Andrea Nikolić [Nikolitsch]

has established herself as one of the most exciting and versatile artists of her generation. She is internationally sought-after violinist, violist, artistic director, pedagogue, leader/conductor and a musical activist, tirelessly active as arts and education ambassador, always aspiring to do, create and learn more.



Born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, she grew up in Varaždin, Croatia, and has found her artistic home in the “center of classical music” – Vienna, Austria. Praised for honesty, integrity, versatility, imagination, depth and dedication in her approach to music and her musical interpretations, she is wholeheartedly exploring a diversity of musical languages, styles, genres, and ideas to bring the art of music closer to the broader audiences and make it accessible to everyone.

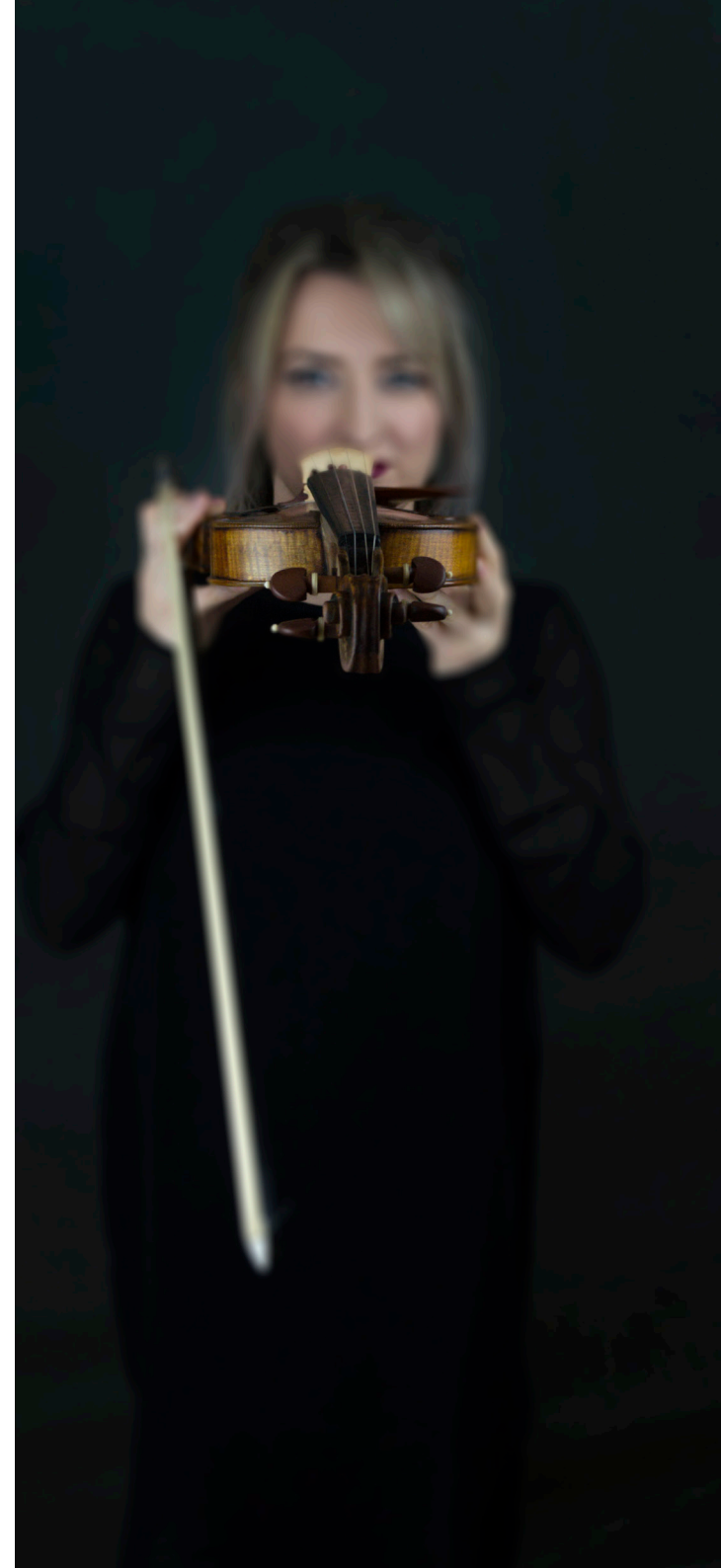
She is a founder, producer, general and artistic director of Vareš Classic Festival - International Chamber Music Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a founder, leader & artistic director of the Vienna - based WISE: Wien - International Soloists Ensemble. In 2020 she founded CRO-ArT, a festival of contemporary art music in Vienna, as a sign of rebellion towards the horrible situation the culture has found itself in due to the pandemic.

## Violinist & Violist

Andrea’s interest and repertoire include works from early and traditional music to contemporary music, improvisation and jazz. She enjoys long lasting inspiring collaborations with artists such as Nataša Veljković, Saša Mirković, Borut Zagoranski, Ivana Nikolić; composers Margareta Ferek Petrić, Meinhard Rüdener, Gabriele Proy, Peter Seabourne; conductors Mark Stringer and Johannes Wildner and violist and producer Petar Krešimir Pustički. And many more!

She is passionately promoting new music and there is already a vast number of pieces written and dedicated to her - some of them being published by the Dutch publisher “Donemus” in her own revision. A full CD with these works is going to be published in 2021 and a new solo CD with both violin and viola is planned for 2021/2022 in collaboration with Stipe Bilić.

Since 2017 she is working with an Iranian architect Hessamedin Fana, creating interdisciplinary projects presented in all the WISE concepts as well as in the past four VaClaF editions. She plays a 1879 S. Nemessany violin, a contemporary viola and her strings of choice are Thomastik Infeld.



## Artistic Director & Musical Activist

Determined to make a difference with her work, Andrea founded the VaClaF and WISE projects in 2013. Working enthusiastically and with strong ideals, she developed them both into international artistic movements.

Since 2015 VaClaF is a festival of international importance for the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2016 internationally acclaimed as part of the Year of Culture Austria-BH. Bringing together world-renowned interdisciplinary artists, Andrea has created more than 100 original concepts and programs, making them accessible for the broadest audience. Giving a platform to new generations to come, she as well created the international VaClaF Masterclasses and Rising Stars programme. She is collaborating successfully with many international organisations.

With WISE she curates an artistically engaging concert season and a festival of contemporary music CRO-ArT in the Bank Austria Salon im Alten Rathaus in Vienna, and the ensemble has been touring very successfully too. In the last two seasons they are collaborating with contemporary composers and the Exil.Arte Centre Vienna, bringing the music of the composers exiled during the 2nd World War again on stage, as well as recording them live for ORF and Vares Classic Festival.

In 2021 Andrea is preparing 10 new world premieres, as Alte Schmiede Kulturverein organises an evening of music by Lauren Bernofsky with Andrea as violin soloist. CRO-ArT is preparing to see its second edition and VaClaF its ninth.

## Leader/Conductor & Curious Explorer

Interested in exploring the wide repertoire and disciplines, Andrea appeared as leader/concertmaster with tenths of international orchestras and ensembles and is creating interesting concepts as a versatile and diverse performer.



Some of her personal highlights include performance of a fairly forgotten Classical concerto by J. B. Vanhal in C major (2012), interdisciplinary recital “Wondrous Landscape”, connecting contemporary music and literature (2016); a contemporary improvisational piece “Ul-la” dedicated to her by David Mastikosa (2017) and a debut as a leader, conductor and soloist, in the Golden Hall of the Viennese Musikverein in 2018. She is currently focusing on the soloist and chamber music activities and performance on both violin and viola and developing further her conducting and composing skills and discovering new repertoire.

## Teacher & Educator

As a pedagogue, Andrea started her career already in 2009. Since 2015 she is a member of the worldwide international Jury Board at the ENKOR International Music Competition. She was a lecturer at the Superar Summer Camp Vienna - part of the Western Balkans Summit Civil Society Forum 2015 and a violin and chamber music professor at the joint international program of Pinnacle Study Institute Vienna and University of Oregon (USA) 2016 in Vienna, Austria. As a violin/viola professor, she collaborates with the Vienna Music Centre, Academia Musica Vienna and has led a private studio since 2010. At the MDW - University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna she is working at the Institute for Conducting as concertmaster and soloist of the Pro Arte Orchestra. She teaches at various Masterclasses internationally and is an artistic advisor of the Josip Klima Days Masterclass and Festival in Varaždin, Croatia. Since 2020 Andrea is teaching online as well, through the platform Play with a Pro.

## Life & Development

Born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a five-year-old she moved from Vareš to Varaždin, Croatia, where she began her general and music education as a specially gifted child. She started to play the violin in the Varaždin School of Music with Benjamin Šambar, continued at the Zagreb



Music Academy with Maja Dešpalj Begović and University of Music and Performing Arts Graz with Eszter Haffner and Andrej Bielow. Since 2010 she has been living and working in Vienna.

During her studies she won several prizes and scholarships, allowing her to enter the international stages and gather priceless experience in a variety of fields. Subsequently, many doors opened after her very successful concert debut at the London Handel Festival 2012.

She participated in many prestigious international soloist, chamber music, historically informed and contemporary music performance schools and masterclasses, with Dora Schwarzberg, Catherine Macintosh, Laurence Cummings, Jože Haluza, Elisabeth Harnik, Artemis Quartet, Shanghai Quartet, Arditti Quartet and Phillippe Manoury leaving some of the strongest influences. Through years of Aestas Musica she worked with some of the most distinguished experts for early music from Royal College and Royal Academy of Music London. Active collaborations with contemporary composers brought her recent research focus to female art and artists and their wider public presentation, which has significantly influenced her artistic views and concepts.

## Epilogue

Andrea's concert appearances were recorded and broadcasted on various international TV and radio stations and there are many interviews and articles to be found about all of her artistic activities. As of 2021 Andrea is becoming more active as an author, writing essays and articles for international journals in Croatian, English and German. Developing her creative output, she is as well interested in composing, art production and film, and is learning to code. Languages being another of her passions, she speaks six of them, and she recently started to learn Farsi.

She is a dedicated speaker and educator, moderating her programmes, concerts and festivals.

In 2018 BRHT produced a documentary called "Music I call Home" about Andrea and her engaging and diverse activity.



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[www.andreanikolic.com](http://www.andreanikolic.com)

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