

Francisca Portugal

Portuguese violinist Francisca Portugal is a multifaceted, sought-after chamber and orchestral musician. She often takes part in the contemporary music scene, both in her home country as well as in the Netherlands, performing new works and working closely with composers. Additionally, she is an experienced orchestra performer, being actively invited to projects in Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands.

Recently graduated from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Francisca has been a resident of the Netherlands for the past 6 years, where she obtained both her Bachelor's and Master's degree under the tutelage of Concertgebouw Concertmaster and renowned pedagogue Liviu Prunaru. During her education, she had the chance to take part in the Conservatorium Orchestra, which led her to participate in the Cello Biennale and the Score Collective, performing in Muziekgebouw Eindhoven, Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, and TivoliVredenburg.

Her latest projects include working with the Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest, Orquestra Vigo '430, Orquestra XXI, and Ensemble MPMP. Furthermore, her work with violinist Nátalie Kulina, as part of Grimm Duette, has taken her to the finals of the Grachtenfestival Conservatorium Concours, for which they presented both original works and arrangements made by them.

Previously, she was a member of OCPZero (Orquestra de Camara Portuguesa) in 2014. Later on, she joined the 2015 Summer Academy and Tour of the European Union Youth Orchestra (EUYO), working under the baton of Gianandrea Noseda and Xian Zhang. During the following years, she has had the opportunity to work with conductors such as Martin Sieghart, Danielle Gatti, Etienne Siebens, and Dima Slobodeniouk.

Next to her orchestral activities, she is a prizewinner of both national and international competitions such as: Concurso Internacional do Fundão, Concurso Nacional Paços de Brandão, Concurso “Vasco Barbosa”, Concurso Cidade de Vigo (Spain), Grand Prize Virtuoso International Competition (Austria), Prémio Jovens Musicos, among others. She has also participated as a soloist with orchestra, performing with the Conservatorium van Amsterdam Orchestra, the Camarata Atlântica, and the Orquestra ARTAVE. Additionally, she has performed for National TV and Radio Antena 2 in Lisbon, Canal Porto in Oporto, and Concertzender Actueel in Utrecht.

Francisca started playing the violin at the age of 6, studying at the Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa with Rosa Sá and Inês Saraiva. Afterwards, she continued her studies at the Academia de Música de Paredes. Further on, she successfully auditioned for the professional music school ARTAVE where she was accepted to the class of Nuno Meira, with whom she completed her musical education in Portugal.

During the season 2022-2023, Francisca is engaged to participate as a soloist with Grimm Duette with the Orquestra Vigo 430, as well as performing with the Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest for various orchestral projects.