



Pianist and composer Lara Oprešnik is a multi-talented artist whose dedication to art has earned her international acclaim. She started playing the piano at the age of seven in the class of Prof. Monika Vehovec at the Velenje Music School. At the same time, she also played the violin in the class of Prof. Igor Ulokin. She started her secondary education in the class of Prof. Jožica Grebenšek and graduated with honours in the class of Prof. Jerneja Grebenšek as the top student of the Velenje Performing Arts Secondary School.

In 2021, she graduated with the highest grade at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria, in the class of Prof. Dr. Milana Černjavska. Before that, she graduated in 2019 at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, in the class of Prof. Hinko Haas. In September 2023, she graduated and receiving her master's degree with a special commendation Summa cum laude in the class of Prof. Ruben Dalibaltayan at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. She built on her knowledge with well-known teachers such as Laszlo Baranyay, Jasminka Stančul, Lovro Pogorelić, Rita Kinka, Oleg Marshev, Natascha Kudritskaya, Julia Gubaidulina, and others.

In 2023, she successfully passed the entrance exams for studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 2024, she furthered her knowledge at the University of the Arts Berlin in the class of Prof. Bjorn Lehmann.

In 2024, she performed Skrjabin's Piano Concerto with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also appeared as a soloist with the RTV Slovenija Symphony Orchestra on several occasions, including a performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with them in 2024. She has also given concerts with foreign orchestras, including the Mihail Jora Philharmonic Orchestra of Bacau and the Vienna City Orchestra.

In 2024, she recorded for RTV Slovenija *Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals*, and a longer, about one-hour-long programme with broadcasts of her own compositions and commentaries on the creative process, art, and more, as part of the *Izpod peresa slovenskih skladateljev* (In English: *From Under the Pen of Slovenian Composers*) series. She has given solo recitals and

concerts in various chamber ensembles and orchestras at many national and international festivals (Lent Festival, Ljubljana Festival, Celje House of Culture, Ljubljana Musical Youth, Young Virtuosi, European Piano Teacher Association (EPTA), Arsana Festival, Solo e da camera, New Music Forum, Symphonic Voices, Zagreb, Budapest, Vienna, etc.). She also frequently collaborates in piano-violin duo ensembles, in the Affettuoso piano trio, and with a wide variety of artists and ensembles for concerts, recordings, and other projects. Enthusiastically and with great curiosity, she takes on multidisciplinary art projects that push and question the boundaries of art or culture in relation to other fields.

She has won numerous prizes at international and national competitions (Vienna, Trieste, Tenerife, Lamporecchio, Ljubljana, Gorizia, Rome, Citta di Cervignano, Belgrade, etc.). Notably, she won the absolute first prize at the International Augustin Aponte International Music Competition in Tenerife in 2022, the absolute first prize at the TEMSIG National Competition in 2019, the absolute first prize at the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Competition in 2020, the first prize at the International Valsesia Competition in Varallo in 2019, among others. For her performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1, she was awarded the Prešeren Prize for Students in 2018. "In general, the pianist stood out for her strong presence, her energy, which on the one hand dominated the whole orchestra, while at the same time she collaborated with the orchestra at all key moments and beautifully intertwined musical thoughts – the latter was most evident in the second movement, played with pure emotion...", wrote Katarina Radaljic in her review of the concert, which was broadcast on Radio Ars in the programme *Glasbeni utrip*, among other things.

In 2024, she received first prize at the international Vienna New Year's Concert Competition in Vienna. As part of the award, she performed Skrjabin's Piano Concerto as a soloist with the Vienna National Symphony Orchestra in the famous Musikverein Hall in Vienna in 2025.

In recent years, she has also tackled the world of composing. Her musical opus to date includes works for oboe and piano, English horn and piano, clarinet and piano, occasional orchestra, vocal and piano, and solo piano. In 2022, she published her first composition, *V iskanju (In Search of)*, for solo piano, with the Založba Bogataj publishing house. In 2018, she won the 1st prize for her composition *Modrina (Azure)* at the Oskar Rieding International Composition Competition, and in 2022 she won the 3rd prize at the spevSLAM National Festival for her composition *Ocean*. In 2025, she is preparing the release of *Fuga (Fugue)* for solo piano with the Založba Bogataj publishing house.

Lara is self-employed in the cultural sector; since 2024, Lara has been employed as a pianist at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. Additionally, since 2025, she has also been working as a part-time Arts Associate on the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) projects of the Laboratory of Physics at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the University of Ljubljana. Lara also works as a columnist for the Velenje newspaper *Naš čas*, where she writes articles about music, culture, and other subjects that inspire her. In her free time, she writes poetry, paints on canvas, plays tennis and volleyball and enjoys nature and coffee with friends and family.