

Alexandra Soumm
Biography

Violinist Alexandra Soumm is known for an artistic life shaped by curiosity, collaboration and a wide-ranging repertoire. As a soloist, chamber musician and teacher, she moves naturally between the major works of the repertoire, contemporary creation and projects reaching beyond the traditional concert stage.

As a soloist, Alexandra has appeared with orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra and Orchestre de Paris. She has worked with conductors including Ton Koopman, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Pierre Bleuse, Duncan Ward, Marin Alsop, Nathalie Stutzmann, Dima Slobodeniouk and James Gaffigan.

Her relationship with the UK has been an important thread throughout her career. A former BBC New Generation Artist and recipient of the London Music Masters Award, she has appeared with several BBC orchestras and developed a close connection with British musical life, including performances at Wigmore Hall. Alongside her international engagements, she has maintained long-standing relationships with orchestras in France, serving as Artist in Residence for three seasons with the Orchestre national de Cannes and subsequently with the Orchestre symphonique de Mulhouse, as well as performing with the Orchestre national du Capitole de Toulouse, Orchestre national Bordeaux Aquitaine and orchestras in Montpellier, Strasbourg and Metz.

Chamber music lies at the heart of Alexandra's musical life. Her partners have included Nicolas Altstaedt, Igor Levit, Gary Hoffman, Jean-Guihen Queyras, Victor Julien-Laferrière and Lawrence Power, and she has appeared regularly in leading chamber-music venues and festivals. Her appetite for musical encounters also extends beyond the classical repertoire: for more than a decade, she has collaborated with vibraphonist Illya Amar, developing projects that bring together classical music, improvisation and music from different traditions.

Deeply committed to the music of our time, Alexandra works closely with contemporary composers including Éric Tanguy, Benoît Menut and Emile Daems. Her discography reflects the breadth of her repertoire, from concertos by Paganini and Bruch and the complete Grieg violin sonatas with David Kadouch to music by Pēteris Vasks and Wolfram Buchenberg. Her album *Paris est une fête*, recorded with the Orchestre de chambre Pelléas and Benjamin Lévy, received five Diapasons in 2024.

Alexandra is equally committed to bringing music beyond the concert hall. In 2012, she co-founded Esperanz'Arts, which now organises around thirty concerts each year in hospitals, prisons and social centres. This commitment has also taken her to Cambodia, Kenya and Venezuela for musical and educational projects. Teaching is another essential part of her work: following her position at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw), she continues to give masterclasses throughout Europe and internationally.

Born in Moscow and raised in France, Alexandra began studying the violin with her father before continuing her training at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna with Boris Kuschnir. For twelve years she was also a member of the Seiji Ozawa International Academy Switzerland, where she worked closely with musicians including Robert Mann, Pamela Frank and Nobuko Imai. Winner of the Eurovision Young Musicians Competition in 2004, she was subsequently selected as a BBC New Generation Artist and received the London Music Masters Award.

Now based in Brussels, Alexandra continues her exploration of chamber music and contemporary creation as a member of Ensemble Carousel.

She plays a Gioffredo Cappa violin made around 1700.