

## Antonina Styczeń, flute Biography



Photo: Ryan Brandenberg  
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Flutist Antonina Styczeń comes from the small town of Bielsko-Biala in Southern Poland, and at the age of five set her mind on having a career as flutist. By age six, she had enrolled in a local flute class, and since then has experimental performance art rarely to be seen in glamorous concert halls". A performer in classical, jazz, rock, and improvisatory idioms, Ms. Styczeń has appeared in unlikely spaces as a concerto soloist, and has created large-scale, crowd-sourced projects. A dynamic musician and entrepreneur, she hopes to create projects for the flute that will change the perception of the classical soloist. "Clearly a musician to watch" (Arcana FM), Ms. Styczeń is a winner of Astral's 2018 National Auditions.

In 2019, Ms. Styczeń captured First Prize at the National Flute Association Young Artist Competition as well as its special prize for the Best Performance of a New Work; Second Prize and the William H. Grass Memorial Prize at The James Pappoutsakis Memorial Flute Competition, and Third Prize in the Mid-South Flute Society Young Artist Competition. An advocate for social change and for the programming of music by female composers, her program in the final round of the NFA Competition, featuring all female compositions, was overwhelmingly positively received.

In 2016, Ms. Styczeń recorded her debut album, *Mieczyslaw Wajnbreg: Works for Flute*, with the Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Wojciech Rajski, for the German recording label TACET. The album was nominated for the 2017 International Classical Music Award and the Prize of German Critics. Along with pianist Eliza Puchianu and cellist William Laney, she formed the Alara Ensemble trio, which won First Prize at the Boston Conservatory's Berklee Honors Ensemble Competition. In the ensemble's short life, it has performed at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Harvard University. A video of their arrangement of Piazzolla's *Four Seasons* was released by the Berklee College of Music. Upcoming is a concert tour and recording with Eliza Puchianu of music by Eastern-European female composers. She has initiated the Sunbeam Project; devoted to commissioning and recording new works created in COVID conditions and including outdoor performances for limited and distanced audiences.

Very active in electronic and improvised music, Ms. Styczeń created *Witkacy 622, Vol. I*, a program for singer, electronics, harp, and flute, with soprano Aleksandra Klimczak and pianist-composer Andrzej Karalow. She is also currently working as a producer on recital projects that include deejay. She has a new online series #GRLPOWER on IGTV which appears every Wednesday and focuses on music written by women composers.

Ms. Styczeń is a four-time recipient of the prize for extraordinary artistic achievements from the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. She won First Prize at the Virtuoso Competition in London's Royal Albert Hall, First Prize at the Miami Music Festival Concerto Competition, Second Prize at the XV Jeunesse International Music Competition in Bucharest, and Third Prize at the Myrna Brown Young Artist Competition. She has participated in masterclasses with Andras Adorjan, Walter Auer, Samuel Coles, David Dolan, Carsten Eckert, Pierre Ives-Artaud, Andrea Lieberknecht, and Nadine Asin.

A graduate with distinction from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, she was also awarded a full scholarship from the Fundación Albéniz for studies at Madrid's Reina Sofia College of Music under Jacques Zoon, where she also graduated with distinction. She holds an Artist Diploma and a Professional Studies Certificate from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, under Sarah Brady.

Also a passionate and award-winning horse rider and show jumper, Ms. Styczeń has a long-term dream to connect both of her passions in a novel mix of music and equitation.

Antonina Styczeń plays a Powell custom made silver flute, found and delivered by Flutistry Boston.

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Acclaim



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“[Styczeń’s] style has a feel of an experimental performance art rarely to be seen in glamorous concert halls...”–Presto

“Antonina Styczeń is a flautist as adept technically as she is insightful interpretively. She enjoys evident rapport with the Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, as also her fellow players...Styczeń is clearly a musician to watch...” –Arcana FM

“Vivaldi’s [Four Seasons] was offered to viewers in a rarely performed version with solo flute, and soloist Antonina Styczeń played her gruesomely difficult part wonderfully, making it seem effortless and showcasing her musicianship...” –Dziennik Baltycki

“Antonina Styczeń proves a wonderful artist who meets every challenge the writing presents her...” –MusicWeb International

“[Styczeń’s] engagement with Weinberg’s works is a truly impressive endeavor striking with intensity and complexity of expression...” –Pizzicato

“And to the fabulous interpreters of the CD: Antonina Styczeń is excellent, in all aspects ideal in the role of soloist...” –Klassik Heute

“[Styczeń’s] technique was flawless and her sound spectacular. She comes from the land of Chopin, Warsaw. How lucky we are to have her here!” –4arts