



ANTONINA STYCZEŃ

flute



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 conservatory flute class, and since then has performed experimental art rarely to be seen in glamorous concert halls. A flutist 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 the 2018 Astral Artists National Competition and is President of the San Diego Flute Guild.

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 the summer of 2022, Ms. Styczeń won the Beverly Hills National Auditions.

In 2016, Ms. Styczeń recorded her debut album, Mieczyslaw Wajenberg: 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. 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. During the Summer of 2021, Ms. Styczeń was an artist at the Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival.

Very active in electronic and improvised music, Ms. Styczeń created Witkacy 622, Vol. 1, a program for singer, electronics, harp, and flute, with soprano Aleksandra Klimczak and pianist-composer Andrzej Karalow.

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, Nadine Asin, Denis Bouriakov, and Jim Walker.

During the 2022-2023 season, Antonina toured with Iranian singer Googoosh, performing for crowds of four to five thousand people in Turkey, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Australia, and the United States. In addition, she premiered a contemporary chamber piece by Pedro Osuna and an opera-musical called *The Magic Hummingbird* (a modern day retelling of Saint Francis set on the Tijuana-San Diego border). This same year, Ms. Styczeń performed "Altar de Viento," a flute concerto by Gabriela Ortiz, with the University of Southern California Symphonic Orchestra under maestro Maximiano Valdes. Additionally, she formed The OC

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Classical Trio with Pola Benke (cello) and Phillip Matsuura (piano) that premiered as a chamber group in April 2023 during Music in the Mansion Festival in Beverly Hills.

In the 2023-2024 season, Ms. Styczeń formed two new chamber groups in Los Angeles, California—one with guitarist Doris Ćosić called *Duo Kava* and one with cellist Pola Benke called *Flucello*.

A graduate with distinction from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, she was awarded a full scholarship from the Fundación Albéniz for studies at Madrid's Reina Sofía 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. Currently, she is studying at the University of Southern California, focusing on research around the impact of inclusion, diversity, socioeconomics, and politics on music (and vice versa).

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. Recently, she returned to showing competitively, re-training an ex-racer thoroughbred named "Money Back" to become a jumper horse. Antonina Styczeń maintains her own international private teaching studio in Irvine, California and plays a Powell custom made silver flute, found and delivered by Flutistry Boston.

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