

Nikolaj Sajko graduated in cello performance from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana in the class of Ciril Škerjanec and completed his Master of Science at the same institution, researching the articulation and phrasing of the orchestral playing. As a soloist he perfected his performance further at postgraduate studies at the Anton Bruckner Private University in Linz. During his studies he regularly took part in several international seminars with prominent professors such as I. Gavriš, E. Schoenfeld, A. Noras, C. Onczay and T. Khne. Nikolaj Sajko was a member of the Gustav Mahler youth orchestra which operates under the leadership of Claudio Abbado. Besides that he was a member of the World Youth Orchestra. As a soloist Nikolaj performed with Maribor Philharmonic Orchestra, chamber orchestras Gaudeamus and Amadeus and with Maribor Youth Orchestra. He has performed in several solo recitals, chamber concerts and successful musical projects on the national as well as the international level. He was awarded the Klasinc diploma and Antonio Tarsia prize; other important achievements come from national and international competitions for young musicians in Gorizia, Lienz, Zagreb and Ljubljana. At present he is assistant solo cellist in the Symphony Orchestra of Slovene National Theatre in Maribor and a professor at the Conservatory for Music and Ballet in Maribor. In January this year Nikolaj released his first duo CD, along with pianist Miha Haas, with works for cello and piano by Edvard Grieg, Risto Savin, Bohuslav Martin and Blaž Pucihar. Since 2012 Nikolaj is artistic leader of chamber music series Carpe artem, which is co-organized by Musicians' Society Amadeus and Slovene National Theatre Maribor.

Miha Haas graduated in piano performance from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana in the class of Dubravka Tomšič-Srebotnjak and finished his post-graduation at The Royal Music Conservatory in Brussels in the class of Aleksandar Madžar. He took part at the international music seminars for piano and chamber music and worked with I. Lasko, J. Siirala, P. Paleczny, J. M. Huizing, M. Voskresenski, P. Kuijken and S. Picard. As a soloist he played with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, The RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra, The Symphonic Orchestra of the Academy of Music Ljubljana, The Symphonic Orchestra of Ljubljana Secondary School of Music, Celje String Orchestra, The Wind Orchestra of the Slovenian Army, The Wind Orchestra Ravne, and Festival Bled Orchestra. Moreover, his musical activities include also solo recitals, chamber music concerts especially in piano duos and in duos with the violin or cello. He participated in premier performances of 8 compositions by Slovenian composers and he made several recordings for the national radio and television. He was awarded the Prešeren prize of the Academy of Music Ljubljana and the Prešeren prize of the University of Ljubljana. Together with the pianist Tadej Horvat with whom he collaborates in a piano duo he won the second prize and the special prize for the best performance of the piece by E. Grieg at the Concours Grieg 2009 in Oslo. At present he works at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana.

Nikolaj Sajko je diplomiral iz violončela na Akademiji za glasbo v Ljubljani v razredu profesorja Cirila Škerjanca. Na ljubljanski Akademiji za glasbo je tudi končal znanstveni magistrski študij na temo artikulacije in fraziranja v orkestrski igri, podiplomsko pa se je v solistični igri dodatno izpopolnjeval na Univerzi Antona Brucknerja v Linzu in Univerzi za umetnost v Gradcu. Med študijem se je udeleževal mednarodnih seminarjev pri priznanih profesorjih I. Gavrišu, E. Schoenfeld, A. Norasu, C. Onczayu in T. Khneju. Bil je član mednarodnega mladinskega orkestra Gustav Mahler, ki deluje pod umetniškim vodstvom Claudia Abbada, in član Svetovnega orkestra glasbene mladine. Kot solist je nastopil z orkestrom Mariborske filharmonije, s komornim orkestrom Gaudeamus, s komornim orkestrom Amadeus in z Mariborskim mladinskim godalnim orkestrom. V dosedanem glasbenem delovanju je izvedel več solističnih recitalov, komornih koncertov ter odmevnih glasbenih projektov tako na državni kot na mednarodni ravni. Je dobitnik Klasinčeve diplome in nagrade Antonia Tarsie, pomembne uvrstitve pa je dosegel tudi na državnih in mednarodnih tekmovanjih mladih glasbenikov v Gorici, Lieznu, Zagrebu in Ljubljani. Je namestnik soločelista v Simfoničnem orkestru SNG Maribor ter poučuje na Konservatoriju za glasbo in balet v Mariboru. Leta 2011 je skupaj s pianistom Miho Haasom izdal svojo prvo CD-ploščo z deli za violončelo in klavir Edvarda Griega, Rista Savina, Bohuslava Martinja in Blaža Puciharja. Od leta 2012 je umetniški vodja cikla koncertov komorne glasbe Carpe artem, ki jih organizirata Društvo za komorno glasbo Amadeus in Slovensko narodno gledališče Maribor.

Miha Haas je diplomiral iz klavirja na Akademiji za glasbo v Ljubljani, v razredu profesorice Dubravke Tomšič-Srebotnjak, podiplomski študij pa dokončal na Kraljevem konservatoriju v Bruslju, v razredu profesorja Aleksandra Madžarja. Izpopolnjeval se je na mednarodnih seminarjih za solistično in komorno igro pri I. Lasku, J. Siirali, P. Palecznyju, J. M. Huizingu, M. Voskresenskem, P. Kuijkenu in S. Picardu. Kot solist je nastopil z Orkestrom Slovenske filharmonije, z Orkestrom RTV Slovenija, s Simfoničnim orkestrom Akademije za glasbo v Ljubljani, z Orkestrom Srednje glasbene in baletne šole Ljubljana, s Celjskim godalnim orkestrom, s Pihalnim orkestrom Slovenske vojske, s Pihalnim orkestrom Železarjev Ravne in z Orkestrom festivala Bled. Njegovo glasbeno delovanje ob koncertih z orkestri zajema še izvedbe solističnih recitalov, nastopov z različnimi komornimi zasedbami, predvsem v klavirskem duu ter v duih z violino in čelom. Sodeloval je pri krstnih izvedbah osmih novitet slovenskih avtorjev ter snemal za arhiv televizije in radia Slovenija. Prejel je škerjančevo nagrado Srednje glasbene in baletne šole Ljubljana, Prešernovo nagrado Akademije za glasbo ter Prešernovo nagrado Univerze v Ljubljani. S pianistom Tadejem Horvatom, s katerim deluje v klavirskem duu, sta osvojila drugo nagrado ter posebno nagrado za najboljšo interpretacijo skladbe E. Griega na tekmovanju Concours Grieg 2009 v Oslu. Danes je zaposlen na Akademiji za glasbo v Ljubljani.