

## Viola Wilmsen: Biography

Ever since winning one of the most renowned international oboe competitions in 2009, Viola Wilmsen has been performing as a soloist and chamber musician all over the world. She has been highly praised for her “extremely modulated, noble tone”, her “intimate and sensitive playing” and her “great expressive power as a soloist”.

Since 2012 she has been principal oboist of the Deutsches Sinfonie-Orchester Berlin, having previously held the same position for three years at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Viola Wilmsen studied with Diethelm Jonas in Lübeck, Jacques Tys in Paris and Dominik Wollenweber in Berlin.

In 2009 Viola Wilmsen won the first prize at the International Sony Oboe Competition in Japan. In the 30-year history of the competition, she was the first woman and the first German to win this award.

She won further first prizes at various competitions, for example the International Wind Competition “AudiMozart!” of the Italian Mozart Society and the Mozarteum Salzburg, at the “Michal Spisak Competition” in Poland, at the “Young Musician of the Year” Competition in England as an oboist and pianist, and at the Beethoven Society in Bonn, as well as the audience award of the “Louis Spohr Competition” in Germany. At the German competition “Jugend musiziert”, she received first prizes in the categories oboe, trumpet, piano and chamber music. Together with her ensemble Berlin Counterpoint, she received the 2013 Usedom Music Prize. At the 2011 German Music Competition she won a scholarship and was selected as a featured artist in the series “Young Artist Concerts”.

As a soloist, she has performed with orchestras such as the Munich Chamber Orchestra, the Hamburg Camerata, the Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra (Japan), the Astana Chamber Orchestra (Yokohama, Japan), the Haydn Orchestra (Italy), the Chamber Philharmonic of Grisons (Switzerland), the Euro Chamber Orchestra (Aachen) and the Classical Philharmonic Bonn.

Viola Wilmsen has appeared all over the world as a soloist and chamber musician and performed at international music festivals like The Next Generation II, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Rheingau, “Sandstein und Musik”, Hitzacker, “Kultursommer Nordhessen” as well as the festivals in Gstaad, Geneva and Flims (Switzerland) and Santa Cristina (Spain).

She has performed as a guest with the State Opera Berlin, the Munich State Opera, the Frankfurt Opera, the Bamberg Symphonic Orchestra, the Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin as well as the Berlin Philharmonic, with conductors including Valery Gergiev, Riccardo Chailly, Andris Nelsons, Christoph Eschenbach, Alain Altinoglu, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Marcus Bosch and Gianandrea Noseda. She appears regularly with the Camerata Bern under the leadership of Antje Weithaas.

Viola Wilmsen has received scholarships from the Ad Infinitum Foundation (Sweden), the Foundation Villa Musica and the Jürgen Ponto Foundation as well as from the German Foundation Musikleben and the German Music Council.

She has been portrayed on television by Deutsche Welle as well as WDR 3, and has been heard on the radio stations WDR, NDR, BR, HR and SWR.