

## BIOGRAPHY



# GABRIELA HRŽENJAK

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Gabriela Hrženjak is a coloratura soprano from Varaždin, a town in Croatia famous for its Baroque heritage and a well known school of music which has given plenty of renowned artists and musicians.

Born in 1998, she started singing at the age of five when she enrolled into music workshop "Little Nightingales" in Varaždin. After finishing primary music school, she continued her education at the Secondary Music School in Varaždin in the class of mr. prof. Valentina Geci Koren.

In 2016, she enrolled to the Academy of Music at the University of Ljubljana, with doc. mag. art. prof. Barbara Jernejčič Fürst as her singing mentor. In the same year, she received the Annual Award for Excellence of the Rotary Club Varaždin. In 2019 she moved to the Academy of Music in Zagreb where she continued her professional path in the class of prof. art. Lidija Horvat Dunjko, a renowned Croatian opera singer.

Through all these years, Gabriela made numerous notable performances. After auditioning, in the fall of 2015 she performed at the Varaždin Baroque Evenings with the Varaždin Chamber Orchestra. Also, she performed several times on the stages of the Croatian National Theater in Varaždin, the Croatian National Theater in Split, the Croatian National Theater in Osijek, and the Vatroslav Lisinski Great Hall in Zagreb.

She achieved great success in some of the following competitions: "Lav Mirski" in 2015 in Osijek; Vocal Competition in Maribor, 2016; "Far Chords" 2016 at the Croatian National Theater in Split; "Giovani Musicisti - Citta di Treviso", 2017; "Adriatic Chords" 2017 in Kraljevica; "Bistrica Sound" 2018 in Marija Bistrica; Slovenian national competition TEMSIG, 2019; Lions Grand Prix 2019 in Rijeka.

At the beginning of February 2020, she had the opportunity to perform at the concert of the Lions Grand Prix Laureate at the Mimara Museum in Zagreb. Shortly afterwards, she held her first solo concert in the Hall of Klenovnik Castle, which also had a humanitarian purpose.

In October 2020, she had the privilege of performing in the Vatroslav Lisinski Small Hall with the Rucner String Quartet. In February 2021, she performed again at the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall at the concert of the Laureates of the Lions GRAND PRIX competition "Youth for Youth".

In May last year she made her premiere opera performance, debuting in Jules Massenets famous opera "Cinderella" in the role of Villa, while at the end of November she made her debut as Mollie in „Animal Farm“, directed by Igor Kuljerić at the Vatroslav Lisinski Great Hall in Zagreb.

During this entire period she did not neglect performing at the singing contests, so in mid-December 2021, after the lecture round and the finals, she performed at Gala Góra VIII. The international Vera Kovač Vitkai competition in Novi sad, where she won 1st prize in the category IV with 98.6 points, thus becoming a laureate of the competition.

This year, she plans to participate in as many professional seminars and singing competitions as possible. This is why she applied for the 10th „Papandopulo“, Croatian competition of young musical artists where she won 2nd place in a very strong competition

Also, at the end of March she participated in a masterclass in Vienna led by Božidar Nikolov and Peter Valentovič, where she had the opportunity to perform at the final concert, after which she received new offers for performances in Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Finally, in May she will perform in Carl Orffs famous cantata „Carmina Burana“, which will be conducted by prof. Jasenka Ostojčić in Zagreb.