

# Biography



Oleksandr Kushnarov is a Ukrainian violinist whose artistic development combines strong technical discipline, deep musical sensitivity, and a distinct personal style shaped by the influence of the Soviet and European schools. Born in Ukraine, he began studying the violin at an early age and soon joined the class of Natalia Khilobokova, with whom he studied intensively for eleven years. These years laid the foundation for the development of his technique and musicality, preparing him for a professional artistic career.

Oleksandr continued his studies at the Kropyvnytskyi Music School, where he underwent several years of specialized training in violin playing, followed by a three-year program at the Kropyvnytskyi Higher School of Music. During this period, he actively performed at student concerts, regional festivals, and early competitions, establishing himself as a promising young musician with a strong stage presence and natural expressiveness.

Seeking further artistic growth, he moved to Belgium to study at the IMEP (Institut Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie) in Namur. Under the guidance of Professor Igor

Tkatchouk and his assistant Caroline Poncelet, he completed a three-year bachelor's program. His studies at IMEP were an important stage in his development: he expanded his repertoire, gained experience performing in chamber ensembles, and achieved greater depth of interpretation through regular solo performances and masterclasses.

Oleksandr then continued his development at the Maastricht Conservatory, where he is currently studying with world-renowned violinist Boris Belkin. Close collaboration with Belkin has allowed him to raise his skills to a higher professional level, focusing on the sound quality, stylistic awareness, and expressive clarity required of a modern soloist.

He further enriched his experience through masterclasses with internationally renowned musicians, including Zakhar Bron, Tatiana Samuil, Mukhammedjan Turdiev, Pedro Carneiro, Alexei Semenko, Olga Zolotareva, and Zoya Nevgodovskaya. These encounters contributed to the expansion of his artistic worldview and a deeper understanding of violin performance.

As a soloist, Oleksandr has performed with several orchestras. His repertoire includes Saint-Saëns' "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso", performed with the Kropyvnytskyi Symphony Orchestra; Tartini's "Sonata of the Devil's Trill," performed with the Kropyvnytskyi Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra and the university's student chamber orchestra; and "Autumn" from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons," performed with IMEP Camerata. He has also participated in projects with the Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie (ORCW), gaining valuable experience in professional collaboration with an orchestra.

Oleksandr is a laureate of numerous international competitions. His awards include 1st place at SIMC XI (2024), 2nd place at the Gorokhov Competition (2023 and 2024), 2nd place at the Deru Competition in Verviers (2023), and 3rd place at the Convimus Competition in Portugal (2022). These successes reflect not only his technical abilities, but also his pursuit of artistic excellence and continuous development.

He is fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, French, and English and is actively building his career as a performer in Europe. Oleksandr's artistic interests include solo repertoire and chamber music. His goal as a musician is to convey sincere emotions and clarity of interpretation to his listeners, creating performances that are both personal and deeply rooted in the classical tradition.

