

# GWENDOLYN MASIN

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*Biography / Short Version (2022/23)*

*“A daring and exciting performer who ventures courageously into unknown territory with relish.” – The Irish Times*

Gwendolyn Masin is one of today’s significant concert violinists and an innovator in classical music. She performs internationally as a soloist, and in collaboration with musicians, artists, and orchestras. Notable partnerships include that with the Saint Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra, Bernese Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra and RTÉ Concert Orchestra of Ireland, the Hungarian National Philharmonic as well as its Chamber Orchestra, Savannah, and Georgia Philharmonic Orchestras, to name some. She enjoys a flourishing career that takes her all over Europe and the United States, as well as Asia, Russia, South Africa, and the Middle East.

Gwendolyn is descendant of a lineage of classically-trained musicians from Central and Eastern Europe. She holds degrees with highest honours from the Royal Schools of Music in London, England; the Hochschule der Künste in Berne, Switzerland; the Musikhochschule in Lübeck, Germany, and a PhD from Trinity College, Ireland. Her doctoral thesis (2012) examines the similarities and differences within 20th-century violin pedagogy and traces a history of violin playing from 1750 until today. Her teachers include her parents, Herman Krebbers, Igor Ozim, Ana Chumachenco, Zakhar Bron and Shmuel Ashkenasi. She also speaks five languages.

[www.youtube.com/c/GwendolynMasinMusic](https://www.youtube.com/c/GwendolynMasinMusic)   [www.gwendolynmasin.com/](https://www.gwendolynmasin.com/)   [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwendolyn\\_Masin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwendolyn_Masin)

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Gwendolyn approaches education, research, writing, and public speaking with zeal. She has been a keynote speaker at platforms as diverse as the European String Teachers Association, TEDxBern, and a string of colleges in North America including Princeton University, Berklee College of Music, Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus and the Faculty of Music of Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). In 2009, the award-winning, Michaela's Music House, The Magic of the Violin, was published. The method includes her studies and compositions and is available in English and German as part of the ESTA Edition collection available via Müller & Schade. Gwendolyn's articles have been published in The Strad Magazine and other trade journals. From 2013 to 2021, Gwendolyn was professor and researcher of violin studies at the Haute École de Musique de Genève, Switzerland.

As a commissioner for contemporary music, Gwendolyn has premiered works by, amongst others, Raymond Deane, Thorsten Encke, Thomas Fortmann, Don Li, Urs Peter Schneider, Daniel Schnyder, Eric Sweeney, Dobrinka Tabakova, Martijn Voorvelt, and John Buckley, the latter of whom dedicated his first violin concerto to her.

One of her intentions is creating alternative means that bring more music to more people. Gwendolyn is very active as an artistic director and producer. Most prominent for her is her role as founding artistic director of GAIA, an annual festival held in Switzerland since 2009, recognised as one of the country's most important. Other notable ventures include establishing the international, multidisciplinary series, In Search of Lost Time in 2004 which has taken place in multiple cities in Ireland and in Berne, Switzerland, as well as Cocktail für die Musen, a series for Casino Berne for which Gwendolyn creates elaborate, one-off productions involving classical music and other art disciplines since 2019. Gwendolyn is also co-founder and co-artistic director of the International Chamber Music Series and International Master Course at Dublin's National Concert Hall together with pianist Finghin Collins since 2016. Faculty members of the summer school have included Mihaela Martin, Frans Helmerson, Lars Anders Tomter, Gary Hoffman, Kim Kashkashian, and Gilles Apap.

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In 2020, as a response to COVID-19, Gwendolyn brought The Exhale online. The Exhale is an online platform and in-person retreat providing professional courses and holistic masterclasses to musicians, practitioners, and artists from across the globe. It is unique in its holistic approach to music education, employs more than 90 artists and offers a sense of normalcy during what has been a highly disruptive time for the arts.

Since live concerts recommenced during the summer of 2021, Gwendolyn began “Gwendolyn’s Bridge Club”. Patrons of the club can join for as little as one Swiss franc a week. The club democratises the reception and impact of music and the arts. It organises myriad events for its patrons, presenting works that audiences can identify with, without skimping on the need for discourse around important themes which art can represent – from the collective to the individual.

Gwendolyn is an Orchid Classics and a Naxos recording artist.