

Freya Creech - Full Biography

British/Canadian violinist, Freya Creech, combines a busy and varied performance schedule as a soloist, chamber musician and collaborative artist. She regularly performs in venues across the UK, which have included appearances at Royal Festival Hall, Cadogan Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall, as well as throughout Europe, in such concert halls as the Festspielhaus (Salzburg), Herkulessaal (Munich), Sendesaal (Bremen) and Brucknerhaus (Linz). She has appeared as a concerto soloist on a number of occasions, and has given many performances at the Edinburgh Fringe, Aldeburgh, Brighton Fringe and Salzburg Kammermusik Festivals. Freya has also held several orchestral positions, including with the Salzburg Philharmonie and the European Union Youth Orchestra, and has played in a wide range of chamber ensembles, most notably as second violinist of the Rose Quartet.

In early 2018, Freya embarked on a self-realised creative project, aiming to shed light on the wonderful music and fascinating life of the European/Canadian composer, Sonia Eckhardt-Gramatté. Freya created an innovative concert performance that featured the beautiful 10 Caprices for Solo Violin by this composer (the first performance ever to include all 10 Caprices!) and performed them in front of a backdrop of a visual slideshow that journeyed through Sonia's life. Freya also recorded the Caprices and is excited for the imminent release of the album – Freya's first album, and the first recording of this music to be produced in 20 years.

A definite highlight of Freya's musical life so far has been working on and performing Beethoven's Op. 127 Quartet with Pekka Kuusisto at the Domaine Forget Festival Chamber Music Session in 2015. Through playing with Pekka, Freya discovered that a revolution in classical music is possible! She learned the art of risk-taking, and how important it is, as well as how to produce such special and colourful sounds that give music a whole new life and perspective, both for player and for listener.

Freya has drawn much inspiration from various festivals in which she has participated, as well as some hugely exciting musical collaborations. These have included working intensively with Ferenc Rados at IMS Prussia Cove Masterclasses (Cornwall), the Miró and JACK quartets and the ICE Ensemble at the Banff Centre (Canada), Rainer Schmidt and Gary Hoffmann at ProQuartet Festival (Paris), Philippe Graffin at International Stichtung Masterclasses Apeldoorn (Holland) and Thomas Riebl at International Somerakademie Bad Leonfelden (Austria). Freya has also been lucky enough to collaborate with Andras Keller, Huw Watkins, Bengt Forsberg and the Doric and London Haydn String Quartets.

Freya grew up on the Wild Atlantic Way, in the West of Ireland, where she learnt the violin with her mother. After moving to the UK at the age of ten, she entered the Junior Department of the Royal Academy of Music where she studied the violin with Igor Petrushevski. During this time, Freya attended the Purcell specialist music school, where she held a full music scholarship from the UK Government. In 2009 Freya continued to pursue her studies with Igor Petrushevski as an undergraduate student at the Royal Academy of Music, London, where she was awarded the 'Sir Elton John Scholarship'. Freya completed her Bachelor of Arts degree with a distinction in 2014, as a student at the Mozarteum, Salzburg, studying with Professor Klara Flieder. She then went on to

study in the prestigious Masters' degree programme in Kammermusik with the Lazarus String Quartet at the Hochschule für Musik, Hannover. In 2018, Freya was awarded a distinction for her solo Masters' degree at the Mozarteum, where she furthered her studies with Professor Flieder.

In addition to her violin activities, Freya is also an enthusiastic viola player, an instrument for which she also has a great affinity and real love. She has performed some wonderful chamber music works on the viola, including Debussy's Trio for Flute, Harp and Viola, and will always be ready to say 'yes' when asked to sight-read any chamber music on viola! Freya's other interests include a deep love of art (she is often to be found enjoying an afternoon at an exhibition) as well as opera, cinema, reading and food (cooking, but mostly eating!). Freya also has a huge passion for writing, and has developed a large readership of her blog, Freya's Nook.

Freya has been generously supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, the Emanuel Hurwitz Charitable Chamber Music Trust, Sir Elton John, the Lewes Rotary Club and the President's Office at the Hochschule in Hannover. She is extremely grateful for all the support that she has received and is currently planning projects that will help the next generation of young musicians. She plays on a 1920 Guerra violin.

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