

Royal Academy of Music Bios

Gabriel Bilbao, Daniel Stroud and Malgorzata Zwierzchowska have been fellow students for the last four years and have performed together in various ensembles and projects. Eager to explore a wide variety of repertoire, they perform in different settings and new arrangements. They wish to continue collaborating in year 2021/22 and give concerts at RAM, as well as outside.

Gabriel Bilbao is Bolivian violinist, since 2017 studying with Jack Liebeck at RAM and since 2019 leading the Clova Quartet mentored by Levon Chilingirian. He has been part of chamber and symphony orchestras in the cities of Tarija and La Paz in Bolivia. He also received a scholarship from the Bolivian Chamber Music Society to attend the 2016 Musica na Montanhas Festival in Brazil. He was also accepted to participate in the 2016 Verbier Junior Orchestra being the first Bolivian in the history of the festival to be accepted. In 2017, he attended the National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute where he also won first prize in the program's concerto competition in Washington D.C. debuting at the Main Hall of the Kennedy Center. In 2018, he had his debut as leader/conductor with the Bolivia Clasica Chamber Orchestra.

Malgorzata Zwierzchowska - is a Polish violinist and violist. Currently studying with Michael Foyle and Jim Sleigh, Malgorzata pursues busy career performing regularly in renowned venues across Europe and taking part in festivals such as Aurora Festival in Stockholm, Chipping Campden Music Festival and Bach the European Festival in London. Holding leading positions in projects in collaboration with members of Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and London Symphony Orchestra, she works with acclaimed conductors such as Mark Elder, Marin Alsop, John Wilson, Edward Gardner and Jukka-Pekka Saraste. She's been awarded the Wolfson Prize and the Polish Prime Minister Scholarship. Additionally, Małgorzata is hugely interested in historical performance, studying baroque violin and working with specialists in the field such as Rachel Podger, Masaaki Suzuki, Trevor Pinnock and Pavlo Beznosiuk.

Rodrigo Checa was born in Cordoba (Spain) in 1999. He has recently finished his Bachelor of Music studies at the Royal Academy of Music with violin professor Sophie Langdon. He has also been studying Baroque Violin with Maggie Faultless and Pavlo Beznosiuk during these years. He is currently doing a Master of Music degree at the Royal Academy of Music, studying with Jack Liebeck and Alex Redington. Rodrigo is also taught Baroque violin by Maggie Faultless.

Rodrigo has enjoyed a varied and intense professional career from an early age. He has held an Academy position at the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for one year. He often takes part in other top period performance ensembles such as The English Concert. Furthermore, he has led youth orchestras across Europe, such as Youth National Orchestra of Spain, Youth Andalusia Orchestra and Barenboim-Said Academy Orchestra. Currently, he is the leader of Audentia Ensemble, an extravagant and fresh-performing orchestra based in London. Rodrigo has played with remarkable musicians such as Masaaki Suzuki, Trevor Pinnock, Philippe Herreweghe, Rachel Podger, John Wilson, Ed Gardner, John Butt, Manuel Hernandez Silva, Pablo Gonzalez, etc. He usually performs in the finest music halls. Some examples are Berlin Konzerthaus, Wigmore Hall, Ordos National Theatre of Mongolia, Auditorio Nacional de Musica de Madrid, Maestranza de Sevilla, etc.

Although Rodrigo has had an intense orchestral life, he is also recognized for his chamber music trajectory. He has toured through Europe and Asia with pianist Emily Lei, performing in London, Beijing and Ordos (Inner Mongolia). He also has taken part as member of Clova Quartet, performing in important venues across the United Kingdom. His chamber music repertoire comprises from early music to contemporary works, taking part in different ensemble settings.