

Talia Erdal

Biography

Talia Erdal, principal cellist of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and former principal cellist of the Tel Aviv Soloists Ensemble, enjoys a career that covers a wide range of styles.

Her repertoire as a cellist includes early music, classical cello repertoire, newly written pieces, folk, jazz, rock, world and free improvisations. Alongside these, Talia is active as a composer, arranger and singer, performing her own music in classical and non-classical venues and writing for theatre and dance.

Born in Jerusalem, Israel 1991, Talia began studying the cello with Sabina Frankenberg at HaSadna conservatory Jerusalem. She continued her studies at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance with Zvi Plessner and with Hilel Zori at the Buchman-Mehta School of Music. At the Buchman-Mehta School Talia won the first prize in the chamber music competition in 2010, and in 2013 won third place. Between 2011-2013 she studied with Felix Nemirovsky, and in 2013 she began her studies at the Amsterdam Conservatory, studying modern cello with Monique Bartels and baroque cello with Viola de Hoog. In 2015 she completed her bachelor's degree with distinction. In 2019-20 she studied with Sally Pendlebury at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire, London. Her studies were made possible thanks to Alan Niekirk and Trinity College London scholarships.

Talia won Trinity Laban's Soloist Competition in 2020, the Sharon Tabor Pintz Concerto Competition at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in 2018, and first prize at the national cello competition 2009 in the Beer-Sheva Conservatory. She received scholarship from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation between 2005-2015 and is a former member of the Jerusalem Music Center's Young Musicians Unit, and the Young Israeli Philharmonic. In 2015 Talia won a prize at the Aviv Competitions in the category of Israeli compositions, performing the piece "Channels" dedicated to her by the Israeli composer Oleg Bogod. Her performance of original music in the play „A Very Narrow Bridge“ (Chutzpah! Festival 2016, Vancouver, Canada) was nominated for a Jessie Richardson Award in the category "significant artistic achievement".

She played as soloist with the Trinity Laban Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Beer-Sheva Sinfonietta, Jerusalem Strings, Tel-Aviv Soloists Ensemble, Jerusalem Street Orchestra, and the Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Talia is the cellist of the German Jazz band Der Weise Panda, having performed with them in JazzArt Schwäbisch Hall, Internationaler Augsburger Jazzsommer, Jazzhaus Freiburg, Jazz Initiative Dinslaken, Germany and Jazzahead Bremen. She is the founder, singer, cellist and composer of the Dutch-Israeli Zenith Duo, having performed in Cello Biennale Amsterdam, Cello Festival Zutphen, Jerusalem Music Center, Mitzpe Ramon Jazz Club as well as community concerts, performances in hospitals and workshops for students. The Duo released their debut album "Yona" in March 2020.

Talia often participates in community-oriented projects such as "Mekudeshet" festival ("Dissoolving Boundaries" journey) and the Jerusalem Street Orchestra.

Her playing was broadcasted on the German television, the BBC radio, and can often be heard at the Israeli classical radio station "Kol HaMusika".