



PANNON YOUTH ORCHESTRA & OUR YOUNG MUSICIANS 2020

INTERVIEW with ZALA OBLAK

photo: Marija Zanetic & Zala Oblak

photo by Kerstin Zach

EINKLANG – an orchestral peace project of European youth
Katarina Budimaier | Association KULTURVEREIN QUINTESSENZ

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How did You spend your time as a violinist under lockdown?

As a violinist under lockdown I wanted to get the most out of that extra 'free time'. Of course that was only in theory for me. The lockdown wasn't so 'easy' as I thought. It was going from working all day every day to staying home all the time. I didn't think that it would be so hard to adjust and I was starting to get nervous. Luckily we musicians can find comfort in music and playing our instruments. We get to do what we love to do. I don't think that everybody had that luxury while in lockdown.

Which were the most inspiring experiences for You in the Pannon Youth Orchestra?

I was really surprised with the good atmosphere while playing with others in Panon Youth Orchestra. We all became friends really fast. There was no judgement. We were all in this together, encouraging each other and having fun. Of course big thanks to our excellent organisers who made that all happen!!

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How do You appreciate the value of music and personal development in our society? Do we need a new social awareness after the Covid-19 pandemic?

I often forgot the true value of music and that can often happen to musicians while they are striving for better results. Through the last couple of years I remind myself often that music is meant to be enjoyed, make us feel better and of course make the people in the audience feel something. Music still isn't appreciated enough in every country and this is something we all need to work on. Maybe this pandemic will make people wonder what they would do under lockdown without music and other arts and give them a different kind of appreciation. Self development is also a strong factor in how you will feel while being more at home. No more running from problems but facing them and striving to be a better person. I definitely hope that this pandemic started a new social awareness. We could definitely learn how every role or job is important in this society and there is no need looking down on others. We are all now facing the same problem. In these tough times it is now more than ever important to be kind and supporting to all people around us.

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