

## Laura Lootens

Laura Lootens was born in 1999 in Marktoberdorf (Bavaria). Her passion for classical guitar was kindled when she took her very first guitar lesson at the age of eight. Ever since then, she has found artistic fulfillment by thrilling audiences with the infinite variety of sonorities the guitar offers.

In 2022, Laura won First Prize at one of the most important guitar competitions worldwide: the Andres Segovia Competition in Spain, where she was also awarded the Special Prize for the Best Interpretation of the Obligatory Piece. She scored a further success when the renowned German Music Competition selected her for a scholarship; on the same occasion, she was awarded the Special Prize of the German Musikleben Foundation.

When she was fourteen, Laura began her studies as a selected young student in Munich under the guidance of Professor Franz Halász while attending a secondary school specialized in the arts. Only one year later, her acknowledged talent for classical guitar allowed her to enroll in Bachelor's degree studies as one of the youngest students at the Munich University of Music and the Performing Arts. At fifteen, she also gave her orchestra début in Joaquín Rodrigo's renowned *Concierto de Aranjuez*. Laura obtained her Master's degree cum laude, followed by an "Excellence in Performance" diploma, the equivalent of a doctorate.

In 2021, at the age of 22, Laura was selected among several competitors to occupy a teaching post at the Munich University of Music and the Performing Arts.

Laura's music has led her to perform in renowned classical music venues in Germany and abroad: at the Gasteig in Munich, the Beethoven Festival in Bonn, and the Muziekgebouw in Amsterdam. She can also be heard and seen on radio and television broadcasts recorded by Bavarian Radio (Munich), by the German national ARD channel, and by Austrian public radio station Ö1.