**Biography - Yiğit Vural**

Yiğit Vural (was born on 1st of May, 2000) is a passionate cello player who loves his instrument a lot, sees it as a present of his life. The strong and impressive sounds of violoncello are the reason why he has fallen in love with this instrument. He is highly interested in taking his cello playing to a much higher level. The great musicians and cellist that he met till now, all meant he has a very special talent.

He has been always in favor of classical music but his first attempts to play cello on his own date back to 2014 when he was 14 years old. Since then he became thrilled by this instrument, and his whole life is centered on it. In October 2014, he started attending a cello course in the neighborhood, taking private lessons from an amateur teacher. After a couple of months through the encouragement of his music teacher at regular high school he started to take private lessons from Mr. Ismail Kaya who is a Lector for Violoncello at Marmara University, Istanbul. Even in these first years he was very keen on learning works from composers such as Dvořák, Shostakovich, Elgar.

After two and half years he found the possibility to play Kodály Cello Solo Sonata III. Mvt. to the cello quartet Çellistanbul, established by four cellists with high reputation in Turkey. They were very surprised and impressed about him and indicated that they have never seen such a performance from a person who plays this instrument for such a short time.

In summer 2017, his aunt and uncle invited him to come to their hometown, Vienna, for attending a German Course at the University of Vienna. Short before that trip he shared one of his cello performances in social media and got immediately contacted by Prof. Ozan Evrim Tunca. Through him he could find the possibility to play to Prof. Rudolf Leopold during his master classes in Vienna in August 2017. Prof. Leopold invited him to his forthcoming masterclass in Hungary where he had the chance to work about ten days closely with him. Prior to his conservatory education he also attended masterclasses of Prof. Wen Sinn-Yang as scholarship student and of Knut Weber.

Upon his return to Turkey he attended the Benyamin Sönmez 2nd international cello competition in Fethiye, Turkey. He gained compliments from the cellists in the jury such as Christoph Henkel and Claus Kanngiesser.

In 2018 he started to study at Anadolu University State Conservatory, Eskişehir/Turkey under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ozan Evrim Tunca. This was the first profound education that he took about cello in a University. While preparing for the exams which were in Austria with him,he was also selected twice as a soloist for playing with the state and university orchestras in Eskişehir. He also played at the opening concert of the Gedik Philharmonic Orchestra in Istanbul and University Symphony Orchestra in Eskisehir/Turkey. In February 2019 he gave a chamber music concert with violist Garth Knox in Ankara.

In 2019, he passed the entrance exam of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz and started his studies with Prof. Julian Arp. During his bachelor education, he had chance to attend masterclasses of Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt and Garry Hoffman. In these times, he also played concerts in Germany with the orchestra Enigma Classica and concerts in Austria with the orchestra of University of Music and Performing Arts Graz. Yiğit Vural is currently living in Graz, Austria and continuing his education with Julian Arp.