

# Biography

The cellist Adya Khanna-Fontenla was born in Vigo (Spain). She has specialised in the classical as well as in the contemporary repertoire. She focuses on solo, chamber music and ensemble playing. The performance of works by living composers such as Francisco Coll, José María Sánchez-Verdú and Kaija Saariaho plays an important role in her artistic development.

Adya is a member of *notabu.ensemble*, a contemporary music ensemble based in Düsseldorf. She collaborates also with other several contemporary music ensembles such as *United Instruments of Lucilin* (Luxembourg), *Ensemble MusikFabrik* (Cologne), *Ensemble E-MEX* (Essen, Germany), and *Vertixe Sonora Ensemble* (Galicia, Spain). Adya has participated in several chamber and contemporary music festivals, such as *Forum Neuer Musik* and *Acht Brücken* (Cologne), the *5ª Settimana Internazionale Montepulciano* (Montepulciano, Italy), *na hör'n Sie mal* (Düsseldorf) and *11.11 neue musik in delmenhorst* (Delmenhorst, Germany).

In 2020 Adya was accepted by the Lucerne Festival Academy under the artistic direction of Wolfgang Rihm, taking part in the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra in 2021. This gave her the opportunity to play in concert halls such as the Berliner Philharmonie and the KKL Luzern with works by I. Xenakis, R. Saunders or M. Illés among others.

Adya Khanna-Fontenla completed her Bachelor of Music studies in cello at the *Conservatorio Superior de Música de Aragón* under Prof. Fernando Arias (cello) and Cuarteto Quiroga (chamber music). This was followed by a *Master of Music Violoncello-Solo* in the class of Hans-Christian Schweiker and a *Master of Music Interpretation Neue Musik* in the class of David Smeyers. Both Masters were done at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with the highest marks.

Adya has also been an active participant in several cello masterclasses and mastercourses (Truls Mork, Jens Peter Maintz, Peter Bruns, Emil Rovner, Claudio Bohórquez and Johannes Moser among others) as well as in contemporary music (Helmut Lachenmann, Arditti Quartett).

During her studies, Adya has been awarded several grants and scholarships by institutions such as DAAD, the Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung, the Rotary Club Foundation and the Spanish Performers Association (AIE). Adya won awards in music competitions such as *The North International Music Competition* and the *7. Internen Kammermusikwettbewerb der Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln*.

Her interest in the arts, literature and philosophy inspired her to take a university degree in History of Art at the University of Santiago de Compostela, for which she received two excellency awards.

Adya plays a cello made in 2021 by Frank Lemke (Cologne).