

Gwendolyn Masin

Gwendolyn Masin is the descendant of a long line of professional musicians from Central and Eastern Europe. That she was inclined to crystallise her ideas through writing is not surprising given the number of gifted story tellers in her ancestry, including her great-great-great-great-grandfather, Zaphir, court jester to Joseph II.

Aged 21, she first penned a manuscript on teaching methods and violin technique entitled **Michaela's Music House**. Over the following years, Gwendolyn expanded and refined this text after persistent requests from parents of her students for a copy of the original work.

Born in Amsterdam, she began her musical education at the age of three when, inspired by her Hungarian grandmother, she began to play the piano. She took up the violin at the age of five and within her first year of schooling, gave her debut performance in the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. Ever since, Gwendolyn has performed extensively both as a solo violinist and chamber musician to international critical acclaim. She has been described as *"a natural performer with an authority most violinists would envy"* (The Irish Times), *"a formidable talent that demands attention"* (The Sunday Business Post), *"an impressive soloist with a beautifully rich tone and easy virtuosity"* (The Sunday Tribune) and *"setting first-rate standards in concert performance with her technically superior, refined, intensive and richly contrasting expression"* (Der Bund).

Gwendolyn has collaborated with some of the most acute musical minds of our time both on stage and in the recording studio and, reputed as an engaging, charismatic speaker, has been a regular guest on TV and radio shows throughout the world.

In recent years, Gwendolyn has contributed to new ventures that make music accessible to a wider audience. Thus, she established two festivals including the annual Gaia Chamber Music Festival that she founded in 2006 and, devoted to the performance of contemporary music, continues to commission outstanding composers for new pieces.

Gwendolyn has lived and taught in Cape Town, Budapest, Dublin, Berne and Florence and has been awarded degrees and prizes in South Africa, the UK, Ireland, The Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland.

