

# ASPEN FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Today, Charlotte Marckx is sitting third chair in the first violin section.

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—CHARLOTTE MARCKX

## CHARLOTTE MARCKX *Violin*

“The violin, growing up, was my most important outlet for self-expression,” says Aspen Music Festival and School (AMFS) student Charlotte Marckx. After a brief stint on the cello at age five (her mom is a cello teacher and her older sister a cellist) Marckx settled on the violin, a decision that just felt natural. “To be honest, I don’t know a time when I didn’t [want to pursue music]. It’s been my life’s work,” says Marckx.

She is returning to the AMFS for her fifth summer since first attending in 2016, when she was just 14 years old. Now 21, Marckx is excited for a summer of illuminating private study, dedicated practice sessions, and learning new orchestral repertoire.

Marckx is studying with Robert Lipsett this summer, who is also her violin teacher at The Colburn School, where she is completing her final year of her bachelor’s degree. Marckx’s studies with Lipsett have been transformative, both musically and personally. “I credit him with pretty much every aspect of my playing at this point,” she says. “But the most important thing he’s done for me is be a mentor. I’ve learned how to live my life, how to be a responsible human being who is good to others. That’s how he treats his students and his colleagues, and he is dedicated to teaching. I’m very lucky to study with him.” She could go on about her admiration for her teacher “for about a week,” she says, laughing.

This week’s repertoire, an orchestral transcription of the *Ring* cycle and violin virtuoso Augustin Hadelich playing Donnacha Dennehy’s Violin Concerto is especially meaningful for Marckx. “I actually saw the entire *Ring* cycle when I was quite young,” she says. “My sister had a ‘Wagner phase’—she was obsessed with learning about the leitmotifs and their meanings. When the *Ring* cycle came to Seattle opera, we saw the whole thing.” After the concert, “I couldn’t actually remember much of [the storyline], but the sounds were rattling around in my head, and it was the coolest thing,” she continues. Few people have seen the whole 16-hour, 4-opera cycle, but the music is what stands out to Marckx, who says this transcription can provide a similarly moving experience. “I think a lot of the brilliance of the *Ring* is that the story is contained in the music.”

This concert also affords Marckx an exceptional opportunity to share the stage with Hadelich, a long-time hero for Marckx. “Hadelich is one of the first performers that I totally revered,” she says. “He has this very thoughtful yet methodical approach to the violin. It’s incredibly powerful,” she says about his intentional playing. “He’s a stunning performer.” When learning a new piece, she first seeks out his interpretive recording of it to study. She once had the opportunity to perform in a studio class for Hadelich, but performing in orchestra with him today will be a first. “There’s nothing like Aspen for that. There’s no one who is too famous to come to Aspen,” she says.

While finishing her final year of college, Marckx performs with her sister—who also attended Colburn—teaches young kids from underprivileged communities in Los Angeles, and plans to continue with a professional degree in violin performance next year. And after 5 summers here, she appreciates every day in Aspen: “Everyone talks about how beautiful it is here—but it really is so beautiful,” she says.

*Marckx is one of the 480 young talents studying at the AMFS this summer.*

CHARLOTTE MARCKX IS A RECIPIENT OF THE TALENTED STUDENTS IN THE ARTS INITIATIVE SCHOLARSHIP, A COLLABORATION OF THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, AND THE SURDNA FOUNDATION