

ASPEN FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



LILY JOSEFSBERG *piccolo*

The piccolo is a unique instrument—though only thirteen inches long, it can cut through the sound of an entire orchestra playing at full volume. “I love that nobody else likes it,” said twenty-five-year old Lily Josefsberg when talking about why she chose her instrument. “It gives me such an adrenaline rush in orchestra. As a piccolo player, you don’t play very often in a piece but when you do, everyone can hear you.”

With a master’s degree in piccolo from the Peabody Institute, Josefsberg is now out of school freelancing and teaching in the Baltimore area. This is Josefsberg’s fourth summer in Aspen studying under Nadine Asin, former member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. “My parents started me on piano when I was eight years old. They were always very supportive of the arts and when it was time for me to choose an instrument, I immediately signed up for flute lessons and joined the jazz band and pit orchestra,” Josefsberg said. “I didn’t really think in depth about what a career in music would be like until much later—probably not until junior or senior year of college. I went into it blindly and played music because it felt comfortable and it was where I could truly express myself.”

As far as her time in Aspen, Josefsberg’s biggest inspiration is Asin. “She puts so much care into every detail of her playing and she pushes me to be in the moment and love every note. Learning from her during our lessons, masterclasses, and in the orchestra has given me insight on how to act in a professional setting. Her sense of discipline has taught me to never go into a piece of music without a plan and to always have a positive outlook on every situation.”

“Auditions are like a Rubik’s Cube. They are difficult to figure out, but I still have fun trying. Every time I try, I get a little bit closer to where I want to be.”

– LILY JOSEFSBERG

Auditioning for anything in life can be scary. “Auditions for me are like a Rubik’s Cube. They are difficult to figure out, but I have fun trying. Every time I try, I get a little bit closer to where I want to be,” said Josefsberg. “Being resilient after an audition is what is most important.”

Josefsberg’s ultimate goal is to be playing in a full time orchestra. Right now, she’s focusing on auditioning for piccolo jobs. “I never thought I would choose to make a living from it, but now I can’t live without it. Playing in the Aspen Festival Orchestra has taught me what being in a professional orchestra would be like. It feels like my home away from home” said Josefsberg. “I love meeting musicians from so many different places. I’ve made life-long friends here and it’s always exciting to see where everyone ends up and to go through this crazy career together.”