

Valentin François is a versatile trumpet player from France, who is active throughout Europe. He received his first trumpet lesson at the age of seven at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional in Metz (France). After graduating from highschool in 2008, he began Law Studies at Strasbourg's University, he decided to instead devote himself to music in 2010. This led him to study at Strasbourg's conservatoire in 2012, which was then followed up by going to the Hochschule für Musik in Luzern (where he worked with Prof. Philippe Litzler — principal trumpet of the Tonhalle Zürich Orchester). There, through both his Bachelor and Master's study, he developed himself as a multi-faceted trumpet player, a versatile musician who was interested in many kinds of music. He graduated in 2017 and since then he has played regularly with different ensembles, often performing chamber music on either baroque or modern instruments. During his Master's specialization in Luzern (supervised by Marco Blaauw) he developed a strong affinity for playing contemporary music. In the last few years, he participated in the Lucerne Festival Academy, and also in the Jeune Orchestre de l'Abbaye aux Dames, with historical instruments, or the Schweizer Jugend Sinfonisches Orchester under the direction of many renowned conductors, such as Philippe Herreweghe or Marc Minkowski. François has also played with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, the Basel Sinfonietta, the Collegium Musicum Basel, and the Grand Ensemble de Cuivres d'Alsace. He recently graduated from the Master aus LICHT Programm at the Royal Conservatoire Den Haag, Netherlands, where he specialized in the music of Karlheinz Stockhausen. He performed the piece Pietà, for quarter tone flugelhorn, soprano and electronic music during the Aus LICHT production from the Holland Festival (in collaboration with the Royal Conservatory Den Haag, the Nationale Opera and Ballet Amsterdam and the Stockhausen Stiftung für Musik), receiving numerous flattering reviews. There, he also played multiple ensemble pieces such as Donnerstags Gruss and Abschied, and Luzifers Tanz.