

Claire Wells, Violin

BIOGRAPHY

American violinist Claire Wells is emerging as one of the most exciting and original violinists of her generation. Recognized for her personal musical voice, natural sense of freedom on stage, and vivid imagination, soloist and chamber musician Claire Wells captivates audiences with her compelling interpretations, making her a young artist to watch.

In growing international demand, Claire Wells has performed with orchestras including the Dallas Symphony, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, working with conductors such as Leonard Slatkin, Dima Solobodeniouk, and Andrew Litton. An avid chamber musician, Claire appears at leading festivals such as Chamber Music Northwest, Chamber Music Connects the World in collaboration with Christian Tetzlaff and Steven Isserlis, the IMS Prussia Cove Open Chamber Music Festival in Cornwall, the Verbier Festival Academy, and the Kryzyowa Festival in Kreisau, Poland.

Claire's work is shaped by a broad, instinctive curiosity that guides her across periods and styles, drawing her toward music she finds genuinely compelling, from early repertoire to contemporary works. Highlights include performing Kaija Saariaho's *Graal Theatre* with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Dima Solobdeniouk, as well as working on and performing Jorg Widmann's *Etude no. 3* alongside the composer himself as part of the CMNW 2024 season.

1st Prize Winner and Commission Prize Winner at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Competition 2021, Claire has won top prizes at acclaimed international competitions, including the Michael Hill, Sibelius, and Indianapolis international competitions. She was the 2023 scholarship winner of the Mozart Gesellschaft Dortmund, and most recently was the winner of the 2025 Susan Wadsworth Young Concert Artists International Auditions.

Born into a family of musicians, Claire Wells began playing violin and piano at the age of three. At the age of nine she became recognized as a child prodigy, winning the Grand Prize at the Vernell Gregg and Lynn Harrell National Competitions and performing on the acclaimed NPR radio show 'From the Top'. In 2017, Claire started studying at the Yehudi Menuhin School with teacher Lutsia Ibragimova, before moving on to study at the Köln Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in 2020 with Mihaela Martin. Her former private teachers from childhood include Shelley Rich, Jan Sloman, Gary Levinson, Sandy Yamamoto, Emanuel Borok, Rudens Turku, and Brian Lewis.

Claire is represented worldwide by Young Concert Artists. She currently resides in Berlin, and is studying at the Kronberg Academy under the tutelage of Mihaela Martin, made possible by the Opel/Dr. Schaefer patronage.