

**Nika Kožar** and **Petromila Jakas** founded **Conducting Studio Zagreb** to support the professional development of young conductors and all those who want to learn about orchestral conducting. The organisation offers conducting masterclasses with visiting professors from all over the world, concerts, conducting competitions, as well as educational workshops for beginners. The target group of their programs are young conductors at the beginning of their careers, as well as instrumentalists and singers who are beginners in conducting, but would like to acquire a solid base technique. Petromila and Nika are themselves conductors in the process of developing their own careers, and they want to pass on their experience to those who are at the beginning of their conducting journey. Their goal is to bring the most modern European conducting techniques to Croatia, as well as to provide education to young conductors on the threshold of entering the professional world. In their work they put emphasis on the encouragement of female conductors, who are still underrepresented in the conducting world, as well as older musicians who would like to try conducting for the first time, but don't know where to start, thus making conducting more accessible to all those who want to learn the basics, or take their already existing technique to a higher level.

The founders of the Zagreb Conducting Studio, Nika Kožar and Petromila Jakas, studied music at the Academy of Music in Zagreb, and also at European institutions: "Giuseppe Tartini" in Trieste, the Schola Cantorum in Paris and the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz. In addition, they attended master seminars all over Europe (United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Bulgaria) which opened their horizons towards the most modern methods of musical activity and the integration of music into everyday life. The programs offered by Dirigentski Studio Zagreb are new in our area because they offer well-designed, multi-month monitoring of students/candidates in achieving their goals.