

Nika Kožar was born in Rijeka in 1997, where she attends the Ivan Matetić Ronjgov Music School. She gets her high school diploma in 2015 in Music Theory, graduating with honours.

During high school, she attends numerous singing seminars, including the AIMS International School of Music in Eastbourne, England, Boris Martinović's masterclass in Zadar, Arena International in Pula, participated in opera productions for young singers in Italy (Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*) organised by Accademia Lirica Santa Croce.

In 2015, she enrolls in the undergraduate study of opera singing in Trieste at the "Giuseppe Tartini" Conservatory in the class of prof. Rita Susovsky. During her studies, she attends seminars by Giorgio Surian, Martina Zadro and Linda Hirst and participates in the production of Mendelssohn's oratorio *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the theatre in Monfalcone. During her studies, she participates in conducting classes as an optional subject and collaborates with the Mitteleuropa Orchestra from Palmanova as part of the classes. In 2017, she attends the Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland conducting masterclass in Weikersheim, Germany, organised by the Musikakademie Schloss Weikersheim.

She is the author of the music for the short animated film *First Step*, produced by Zagreb Film, which was released in 2018 and was screened at Art-kino in Rijeka and at several film festivals.

In March 2019, she completed her undergraduate studies with the highest marks and the commission's praise for the performance of the role of Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

After her graduation, she operates as a freelance singer and holds concerts in the area Friuli Venezia Giulia, and in 2020 she starts studying orchestral conducting at Zagreb Music Academy, in the class of Mladen Tarbuk, later transferring to the class of Tomislav Fačini.

She has since conducted many student productions, the most notable of which is Orff's *Carmina Burana* in her 2nd year, Croatian contemporary opera *The Shoemaker and the Devil* by Tomislav Uhlík (in which she acted both as an accompanist during rehearsals and assistant conductor, and conducted multiple performances), the performance of Mozart's oratorio *Davide penitente*, and an evening concert "Voices of Europe," seeking to explore European folksongs in the classical music setting, where she acted as project leader and conductor, and even sang one of the pieces, while conducting it simultaneously.

Outside of her university projects, she makes an effort to be an active member of the classical music community, and seeks to better her skills by attending masterclasses and gaining real-life experience. Since 2022 she has been leading the choir of the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, “Capella Juris”, an amateur choir with which she organised and led two major concerts, the most notable of which was a Christmas performance of Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols*, adapted for a mixed choir. She has worked as an assistant conductor in “Ivan Goran Kovačić” choir in Zagreb. In April of 2023 she attended a conducting seminar led by Maestro Uroš Lajovic in Dubrovnik with Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, and in November of 2023 she attended Maestro Lior Shambadal’s masterclass on Beethoven, where she collaborated with Berlin Sinfonietta. In 2024 she attended a conducting technique masterclass in Belgium held by René Gulikers, and in June 2024 she organised another performance of the concert “Voices of Europe” in Rijeka, Croatia. She also occasionally sings in the Croatian Radiotelevision choir as a freelance singer.

She is currently in her final year of her orchestral conducting Master’s programme at Zagreb Academy of Music. In September 2024 she was selected to attend the Glover-Edwards Programme at Royal Academy of Music in London, under the mentorship of Sian Edwards.