

Ali Aras Özcan (violoncello)

Ali Aras Özcan, born in 2009, in Istanbul, Turkey. Özcan has started learning the cello at the age of nine with Poyraz Baltacıgil at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University İstanbul State Conservatory and in 2020 became a student of Dilbağ Tokay in the cello department of the same conservatory. In 2021, he auditioned for the Doğu Children's Symphony Orchestra (DÇSO), which is Turkey's first children's symphony orchestra. Özcan also participated in Enka Art Project in August 2021. In this project, young successful musicians have been selected to perform and Özcan managed to be selected as the youngest cellist and get a scholarship after his musical performance. In the same year, he participated in Dilbağ Tokay's violoncello masterclass at Çeşme. He has participated in some competitions. In 2021 he was awarded the first prize at the "World Open Music Competition" in Serbia, the second prize at the "J.S Fest Online Music Competition" in Finland and the third prize at "Clara Schumann Competition" in Germany. Özcan gave the first soloist concert with conductor Hakan Şensoy who managed İstanbul Chamber Orchestra, in October 2022. In the same year, he studied with Peter Bruns in masterclass at Ayvalık International Music Academy (AIMA). He performed at the Young Soloists concert cycle within the 11th and 12th Pera International Music Festival in 2022 and 2023. He took part as the youngest artist in a special clip project prepared by "Yuvam Dünya Foundation" for the 22 April Earth Day, and this clip was published on all social media platforms. Ali Aras Özcan continues his education with Dilbağ Tokay as an 8th grade student at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University İstanbul State Conservatory.