

## About Me

My name is Oleksandra Fal. I was born in Ukraine, in the small town of Nosivka (Chernihiv region). For as long as I can remember, my life has been tied to music. My older sister is a singer, and she was the one who introduced me to playing the piano. My older brother, who is a dancer, introduced me to dance culture.

I often attended their concerts and always longed to be on stage myself. As a result, I debuted on stage at the age of four. My parents always supported and inspired us. My mother saw my passion for music, piano, and performing, so she enrolled me in a music school for piano and simultaneously for choir and dance. I participated in all school concerts and many competitions, and my mother was always there supporting me.

During my school years, I changed several schools, both music schools and regular schools, due to our relocations. At all schools, I was active and participated in various theater productions, concerts, and similar events. And suddenly, when I was in the sixth grade, war broke out on February 24, 2022.

At 4:40 AM, my mom woke me up with the words: "Darling, wake up, the war has started." Life came to a halt, filled with uncertainty about what would happen next. Explosions could be heard, and I, together with my family and my piano, got into the car. We drove for 36 hours under fire on our way to western Ukraine. When we arrived, my father joined the Ukrainian army without hesitation, while we (my mom, my brother, and I) later went to Poland and then, together with a charity organization, traveled to northern Sweden. After some time, we arrived in Stockholm and lived with Swedish families.

Currently, we live in Nacka Municipality in a hostel together with my mom and brother. Throughout this time, I have found every opportunity to play the piano, to at least for a moment forget everything happening around me and immerse myself in my thoughts through piano playing. During my entire time in Sweden, I have performed at various concerts in support of Ukraine or at school concerts. Right now, I am studying at Jensen Grundskola Sickla in class 9C and simultaneously studying online at Nosivka Art School. Ever since I was six years old, I have dreamed of learning to play the organ. In February 2025, I began playing the organ.

A lot has happened, especially after my life was divided into before and after on February 24, 2022, but music and piano playing have been with me everywhere. Playing the piano is not just a hobby for me – it is a lifestyle where one completely immerses oneself in the melody and forgets everything else.