*Biography Raquel Lechner*

Raquel Lechner, born in Switzerland in 2009, is a young international clarinetist, soloist, and chamber musician. She is also a percussionist. In addition to her musical pursuits, she enjoys sports, especially ballet.

For Raquel Lechner, music is not just sound, it is a special language full of emotion. She began playing the clarinet at the age of six, receiving her first lessons from Francine Brunner at the Music School Zurich Oberland and from Letizia Zoppis. Since 2024, she has been a pre-college student at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, studying with Prof. Christoph Moser. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree with Prof. Nicolas Baldeyrou and Ferran Garcerà Parelló at Forum Musikae Madrid, while completing her secondary education at Academia Matura Zurich.

Raquel Lechner has won several prizes and special awards at national and international competitions. Notably, she achieved first prize with distinction (a top score of 25 out of 25 points) at the Swiss Youth Music Competition (SJMW) in 2026 and was selected to perform at the winners' concert, which was recorded by SRF Swiss Radio and Television. She also reached the finals of the Swiss Youth Music Competition in 2022 and 2024, winning first prize as well as the special award from the Ruth and Ernst Burkhalter Foundation. She also received support from the Fritz Gerber Foundation Zurich.

She has already performed as a soloist at various international festivals, including two appearances at Allegro Vivo for Rotary International in Zwettl (Austria) in 2024 and 2025, as well as the opening concert of the Clarimondo Festival (Germany) in 2025. In 2026, she performed in concerts at the International Summer Academy (ISA)(Austria) and played the solo clarinet part in Saint-Saëns' The Carnival of the Animals at the "Herbst in der Helferei" festival in Zurich (Switzerland), alongside members of the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich.

As a member of Trio Meraly (flute, clarinet, and bassoon), she won first prize at the OSEW chamber music competition in Switzerland in 2022. As part of the clarinet quartet Reedlines, she won first prize at the Prima la Musica competition in Austria in 2026.

She gave her first solo performance with an orchestra at the age of ten with the Kinderorchester Rüti ZH (Switzerland).