

ATAY BAĞCI

CONDUCTOR - HORN PLAYER

Born 1992 in Ankara, Turkey. Bağcı was accepted in 2002 to Bilkent University's Music Preparatory School in Ankara as a horn student under Mahir Çakar. He started his Bachelor studies in the Faculty of Music and Performing Arts (FMFA) in Bilkent University, studying with Sertan Sancar, Güloya Altay and Utku Ünal. He earned his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Horn in Austria at the Music and Performing Arts University in Graz (KUG) under Hector McDonald, Matthias Riess and Ozan Çakar. During his Master's studies, Bağcı specialized in historical performance practice and took lessons on natural and Baroque horn playing from Hector McDonald and Peter Heckl. He obtained his Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting from Bilkent University under the tutelage of Assoc. Prof. Işın Metin in 2025.

Bağcı gave his first professional concerts as a conductor in 2025, conducting the Bursa State Symphony and Muğla Municipality Orchestras. As part of the Pehlivanian Professional Opera Academy, he participated in 9 concerts at different venues in Slovenia conducting Mozart's Don Giovanni, including an appearance in the prestigious Ljubljana Festival's 73rd edition.

Bağcı acted as an assistant to German conductor Daniel Geiss (currently GMD in Neubrandenburg, Germany) between 2019-2021; taking part in projects of the EUphony Orchestra, Bundesmusikschulorchester (German National Music School Orchestra) and the Brixen Classics Festival orchestras. He took part in conducting masterclasses in Ankara (Turkey), Belgrade (Serbia), and Bled (Slovenia), and worked with Artun Hoinic, Martin Akerwall and George Pehlivanian respectively.

During his horn studies, he attended diverse masterclasses in Turkey and abroad; as well as receiving lessons from horn teaching luminaries like Radovan Vlatkovic, Frøydis Ree Wekre, Mahir Çakar, Palma Szilagyi, Ozan Çakar, Stefan

Dohr, Szabolcs Zempléni, Peter Arnold, Thomas Hauschild, Christian Dallmann, Erich Penzel, Christian Lampert and Hermann Baumann.

He took part in the concert tours and projects of various Turkish and international youth orchestras between 2007-2020.

Professionally on the national level, Bağcı performed as a guest artist in the Bilkent Symphony, Presidential Symphony, Borusan Philharmonic and Başkent University Academic orchestras. He worked as a guest player and substitute hornist in the Graz Philharmonic Orchestra between 2018-2020. He was a guest player in Nikolaus Harnoncourt's historical performance orchestra Concentus Musicus Wien from 2015-2018, with which he took part in the Salzburg Summer Festival and the Styriarte festival under Harnoncourt's direction. In 2019 He recorded a CD titled "Luka Sorkočević: 7 Simfonija" with the Croatian ensemble "musica imaginata", and performed in the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. He is a regular guest player of Ensemble Prisma Wien since 2018 and took part in the 2020 and 2022 editions of the "Carinthische Sommer" music festival with the orchestra.

He was featured as a solo hornist in various CD recordings of KUG contemporary and early music institutes.

He continues his musical career in the Presidential Symphony Orchestra Ankara from 2021, where he is a member of the horn group; he is also in the process of building a career in conducting.