

## Biography

Violaine Willem, viola, has been passionate about chamber music and contemporary creation since she began her studies in Lille, and in Jean Sulem's class at the Paris Conservatoire, she has deepened her knowledge of both solo music for viola as well as the quartet literature. She discovered repertoire on period instruments within the Academy of the prestigious orchestra Les Siècles led by François-Xavier Roth (now principal guest conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra) and has extended her experience of contemporary music at Switzerland's prestigious Lucerne Academy, under leading contemporary conductors. She is also active in art projects integrating theatre, circus or dance, and is an avid improviser.

Violaine will study with the internationally renowned violist Thomas Riebl at the University of Music in Salzburg. Professor Riebl is known for his remarkable use of Qigong and meditation in musical practice, and Violaine believes this will provide new inspiration and natural fluidity to her playing. Immersing herself in the German language, so important for musicians, as well as the Austrian orchestral and chamber music culture, whilst also growing her practice of informed musical practice – all stand to help her grow as a fully European musician and performer.

Violaine's implication in the world around her is an environmental one. As a fervent environmentalist, with a sound engineer and a flutist she is creating a musical tale on the environment for primary school children, with a goal to making them more environmentally aware. The project will take place in Parisian elementary schools and has received the Conservatoire's support.