

Born in Eastern Russia **Iryna Ionenko** went to Kiev where she started to play violin at the age of six entering the Kiev Special Music School for Gifted Children. Eight years later she attended Kiev State Music College where she gained a Degree in Performance and Teaching. After graduating from the College she continued her musical education at the Kiev State Conservatoire of Music studying under Professor Olga Parkhomenko (a former student of David Oistrakh).

While studying Iryna began performing with the Orchestra of Ukrainian Folk Instruments and in 1978 became a Member of the National State Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine. In 1984 Iryna became Principal of Second Violin Section.

During this time Iryna was also a Second Violin of the chamber group "Kamerata Kiev" and a Member of the Chamber Orchestra "Kiev Soloist" under the direction of Professor B Kotorovych, the People's Artist of Ukraine. Iryna was part of L'estro Armonico String as a soloist along with her husband, Oleg Kotorovych. Oleg was also the director of this.

Iryna is a winner of the National Chamber Group Competition (quartet section).

From 1980 Iryna performed with the NSAO of Ukraine, touring many countries around the world. They traveled to Spain, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Hong Kong and many more.

When Iryna arrived in New Zealand, she was the assistant concertmaster of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. After one year, she decided that she wanted to be the principal of the second violin section. Iryna has established herself as a professional and passionate violin teacher, working particularly well with beginners and young pupils.