



Kjartan Örn Styrkársson was born in Reykjavík, Iceland, on July 3rd 2002. He began studying the violin at the Allegro Suzuki School of Music at the age of five and completed the Elementary Level Examination in violin in 2015. At eleven, he also began studying the trumpet at Tónskóli Sigursveins, pursuing both instruments simultaneously for two years. In 2020, he completed the Advanced Level Examination in trumpet and performed his graduation recital at Seltjarnarnes Church in October of that year. In May 2021, he graduated from Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík (MR) with Stúdentspróf, the Icelandic Certificate of Matriculation.

Between 2015 and 2021, Kjartan Örn gained extensive orchestral experience, frequently performing as principal trumpet with the Iceland Symphony Youth Orchestra, Ungsveit SÍ, under the direction of Daniel Raiskin, he performed major works including Beethoven Symphony No. 9, the *Fidelio* Overture and Piano Concerto No. 3, Sibelius Symphony No. 5, Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring* and Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 in Eldborg Harpa Concert Hall. His additional orchestral experience includes performances of Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 3 and 7 with the Harpa International Music Academy Festival Orchestra, conducted by T. Djupsjöbacka, as well as Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony* and Márquez's *Danzón No. 2* as principal trumpet at Langholts Church. He has also performed as principal trumpet in big bands, marching bands, brass quintets and solo with chamber orchestra. Kjartan Örn was a member of the Reykjavík Boys' Choir for six years and also sang with the Reykjavík Cathedral Choir, participating in performances of Bizet's *Carmen* in Eldborg, Harpa, in 2013 and Bach's *St John Passion* at Langholts Church in 2017.

From 2016 to 2018, Kjartan Örn worked in public relations for Reykjavík Classics, a classical concert series held in Eldborg Harpa, where he gained valuable insight into the organisation and promotion of classical music events. He is currently studying economics with insight into political science, at the University of Iceland and has completed a student internship with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of Iceland in the Office of Public Finances. At the university, he has served on the Student Council's Finance and Career Committee and on the Finance and Policy Committees of Vaka. Since 2024, he has worked in public relations and media management for cultural events including the Festival of Icelandic Piano Music in Salurinn Concert Hall, summer masterclasses at the Iceland University of the Arts Open University and the inaugural WPTA Iceland International Piano Competition in 2025. Since the establishment of WPTA Iceland, he has played a central role in publicity, public relations, social media content, design, support, daily operations and the strategic development of the competition. Kjartan Örn serves on the board of the Society of Icelandic Pianists and is the Managing Director of WPTA Iceland.



Kjartan Örn Styrkársson
Managing director WPTA Iceland