

Martin Ruman, born in Slovakia in 1989, is one of the most prominent musicians in Slovakia. From childhood he played mostly in folk music groups, but at the age of 18, he started to concentrate heavily on classical viola. He studied at the Conservatory of Bratislava and the Conservatory of Prague, during this time he won several national and international viola competitions. Still at the Conservatory, he won the audition for principal viola in Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra and moved from Prague to Bratislava. He continued his studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava with Jozef Hošek and the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna with Alexander Zemtsov. He also took part at master courses with Gilad Karni, Atar Arad, Hariolf Schlichtig, Mikhail Zemtsov, Julia Dinerstein, Stephanie Baer, Wolfgang Klos amongst others.

After moving to Bratislava, he quickly became one of the most sought-after violists in chamber music and contemporary music scenes. He steadily performs at the most significant music festivals and events in Slovakia, such as Convergence festival, Melos-Ethos International Festival of Contemporary Music or Bratislava Music Festival. As a soloist, chamber musician and principal violist of Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra he performed in almost all European countries, in USA, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, Oman and Israel. His concert highlights from the recent years include performing with artists like Brodsky Quartet, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Zhou Qian, Isabelle van Keulen, Robert Cohen, Juan-Miguel Hernandez, Daniel Rowland or Pablo Barragán. He regularly performs with the most outstanding Slovak musicians such as Igor Karško (concertmaster of Camerata Zürich and professor at Luzern Academy), Milan Paľa, Jozef Lupták, Boris Lenko, Ján Krigovský. He is also member of several chamber ensembles – Collegium Wartberg, Convergence Chamber Players – and frequent guest of Mucha Quartet.

He plays in viola – piano duo with young Slovak pianist Alena Hučková, with whom he recorded 2 CDs (Complete viola works of Rebecca Clarke and Slovak Music for Viola Piano). They are big propagators of Slovak music, every year they premiere around 7 new pieces written for them by Slovak composers (Ľ. Čekovská, Y. Irshai, Ľ. Bernáth amongst others).

As a soloist, he performed with several Slovak orchestras: Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra (e.g. at Richard Strauss festival in Strauss' Don Quixote, conducted by maestro Muhai Tang, 70th Anniversary Concert of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra with maestro James Judd), Slovak Chamber Orchestra, Cappella Istropolitana and Sinfonietta Bratislava. Recently he explores new professional areas, early music (on authentic historic instruments) and teaching. He is a leading viola coach in Slovak Youth Orchestra and viola professor at the Conservatory of Bratislava. He was also viola lecturer at the International Masterclasses Konvergencie 2017 – 2020 and CIMA International Masterclasses in Vienna (2018, 2019).