

Kryštof Kohout, born in 2000 in Pilsen, Czech Republic, started playing the violin at the age of five. He has won numerous prizes in international competitions both in the Czech Republic and abroad, including the absolute 1st prize at the Josef Muzika International Violin Competition receiving the prize for the best performance of the contemporary Czech piece „Pozdní hodina“ by Ondrej Kukal, 2nd prize at the 58th year of the international Kocian Violin Competition (being the best Czech participant), 1st prize at the Art-Duo International Music Festival in Vienna and 2nd prize at the Muse International Music Competition (Greece). In 2017 he became the winner of the Whitgift International Music Competition receiving the coveted Headmaster's Scholarship to study at Whitgift School and a scholarship to study at Junior Guildhall of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. He has performed many times as a soloist with the Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra under conductors Ondrej Kukal, Koji Kawamoto and Tomas Brauner. Apart from a number of performances throughout the Czech Republic, he got the opportunity to perform at the Royal Northern College of Music, the Embassy of Bulgaria in London as well as the opening concert of the 54th International Chamber Music Festival in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. He has also played various concerts in Germany where he performed for different political figures of the Czech Republic and Germany including the former Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic Daniel Herman.

Having had the opportunity to play in a number of masterclasses, Kryštof was mentored by many distinguished violinists such as Anne-Sophie Mutter, Pierre Amoyal (Mozarteum University in Salzburg), Gyorgy Pauk (Royal Academy of Music), Pavel Šporcl, Earl Carlyss (former member of Juilliard String Quartet), Josef Špaček (leader of the Czech Philharmonic). In 2017, Kryštof was awarded a scholarship to attend Meadowmount School of Music in New York where he studied with Ivan Ženaty (Hochschule für Musik Carl Maria von Weber in Dresden) and Kevork Mardirossian (Indiana University Jacobs School of Music). In 2019, Kryštof was accepted directly into the second year of undergraduate course at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama where he now studies as a full scholarship student with professor David Takeno (Eugène Ysaÿe International Chair of Violin).