

## **Zoltán Despond**

Born near Fribourg in 1992, the cellist Zoltán Despond belongs to a generation of young, curious Swiss musicians. His repertoire is broad, ranging from Bach to modern music. He is also interested as a matter of course in performance styles from the era in which a composition was written. He began playing the cello at the age of 10 and received his initial training in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, first with Pierre-Bernard Sudan at the Conservatoire de Fribourg-Bulle, and, starting in 2010, with Marc Jaermann at the Lausanne University of Music. He subsequently completed a four-year course of post-graduate studies with Thomas Grossenbacher at the Zurich University of the Arts, where he graduated with a master's in solo performance in 2018. From Enrico Dindo at the Pavia Cello Academy he received valuable advice, and he also attended master classes with such teachers as Frank Helmerson, Antonio Meneses, Christophe Coin, and Giovanni Sollima. He concertizes across Europe and enjoys working with such musicians as Ilya Gringolts, Silvia Simionescu, Marko Milenković, Claudius Herrmann, Tanja Sonec, and Anahit Kurtikyan as well as collaborating with Vesselin Stanev, Anna Bertogna, and Richard Octaviano Kogima as keyboard partners. In addition to his solo and chamber music activities, he values his work in the orchestra, regularly performing as an adjunct with the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra. Zoltán Despond has received the Zubaloff Prize and is also a laureate of the Pierre et Renée Glasson Fund of the Canton of Fribourg and the Friedl Wald Foundation in Basel.

*[zoltandespond.com](http://zoltandespond.com)*