

Biography

Barbara Venetikidou

She was born in Thessaloniki in 1981. She is a graduate of the Music School of Thessaloniki and holds a diploma in clarinet from the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki. She received her bachelor's degree in clarinet from the University of Fine Arts Berlin (Universität der Künste Berlin) and a master's degree in clarinet from the University of Music Würzburg (Hochschule für Musik Würzburg) as well as in arts and media administration with specialization in orchestra, opera and festival management from the Free University of Berlin (Freie Universität Berlin). Her teachers were Monika Grütters, former Minister of Culture of Germany, Stephen Brown, former general director of the Metropolitan Opera New York and Gerald Mertens, director of the German Musicians' Federation (Deutsche Orchestervereinigung).

As a musician she worked at the Symphony Orchestra of Berlin (Sinfonieorchester Berlin) and at the National Opera of Greece and she performed as soloist with the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki, the State Orchestra of Athens, the City Orchestra of Athens and with the Symphony Orchestra of Berlin (Sinfonieorchester Berlin). She represented Greece as member of the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra and of the European Union Symphony Orchestra.

At the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki she held a clarinet class as well as a class for chamber music with wind instruments.

As an orchestra manager she run the Metropolis Orchester Berlin, the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester (pan-European youth orchestra) and since 2018 she is the manager of the Sax Wind Philharmonic, the only professional wind orchestra in Germany.

It works closely with the employers' federation of German orchestras and operas in Germany (Deutscher Bühnenverein) and actively participates in the annual congress of musicians and German-speaking orchestras (Deutscher Orchestertag).

She has lectured in the field of orchestra management at the University of Beijing, Kutztown University Pennsylvania, International Hellenic University and Freie Universität Berlin.