

The Belgian violist Kaat Schraepen's (2000) attention was immediately caught hearing the deep and warm sound of the viola. Over the years she has been praised for her earnest interpretations as a true storyteller, her rich palette of sound colour and her great expressivity.

Awarded in several national and international competitions, Kaat Schraepen stands up as one of the most remarkable viola players of her generation. Her love for creating innovative programmes and projects with central themes, makes her into an open-minded musician with a broad repertoire, ranging from classical to contemporary.

Nowadays Kaat is the violist of Musikk i Nordland, a chamber music ensemble based in Narvik (Norway). This position allows her to explore a wide range of chamber music further and perform concerts all over Nordland, Norway and Europe. At the moment, she is focused on developing a broad classical solo and chamber music repertoire to perform in events during the next season. Next to her soloist activity, she also works on going deeper into the field of chamber music.

After completing her bachelors with Julia Dinerstein in Maastricht in 2020, she finished her masters in 2023 with Mikhail Zemtsov at the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague.

Kaat has won prizes in several national and international competitions, such as: the first prize in the 'European Competition for Young Soloists' in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (2015), the first prize in the 'Britten Altvioolconcoures' in the Netherlands (2017), the second prize in the '9° Concorso Internazionale di Esecuzione Musicale "Giovani Musicisti - Città di Treviso"' in Italy (2017), the first prize in the International Competition "Salzburg" Grand Prize Virtuoso 2017, the third prize in the MiN International Music Competition for Strings in Norway (2018) and a silver medal in the Vienna International Music Competition (2019). In 2021 she was a semifinalist of the '28th International Johannes Brahms Competition' in Pörtlach am Wörthersee (Austria).

Highlights from past seasons include concerts at Møn Sommerkoncert (Denmark), the Aurora Festival (Sweden) and the Asiagofestival (Italy), performances in halls such as the Mozarteum (Salzburg) and the Schumann- and Mendelssohnhaus (Leipzig). As a chamber musician, she has shared the stage with artists such as Stephan Picard, Eszter Haffner, Claudio Bohorquez, Ilya Grubert, Cuarteto Casals, Daniel Rowland, Maja Bogdanovic, Nino Gvetadze, Lilli Maijala, Utrecht String Quartet, Alena Walentin, Anne Denholm and Duccio Beluffi.

Kaat plays on a modern instrument by Belgian maker Thomas Meuwissen.