



Music
as the art
of encounter

Dr. phil.
Nicole Besse

VIOLINIST • VIOLIST • MUSIC EDUCATOR

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Long Biography

Dr. Nicole Besse is a German violinist, violist and music educator. Her work circles around a single question: what happens between people when they make music together? In resonance with another instrument, in the concord of a choir, in the space between teacher and learner.

Trained at the music academies of Cologne, Stuttgart and Lyon — diplomas in violin and viola, in instrumental and orchestral pedagogy as well as in school music and German studies — with additional training in art and music therapy at the IEK, she first taught as an instrumental teacher at music schools, then as Studienrätin at the International Gymnasium Kolleg St. Blasien (2009–2015), directing choirs, orchestras and instrumental classes. Since 2016 she has lectured at the University of Cologne (Humanities Faculty, Department of Art and Music).

In 2021 she received her doctorate at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Academy of Music and Theatre in Leipzig. Her thesis *Music-Making as an Art of Encounter. Auragogik — Reflexivity and Intersubjectivity in Musical Educational Processes* (Waxmann 2022, Open Access) introduced the concept of *Auragogik* — a holistic, improvisation-based approach that treats artistic aspiration and healing as one path, not as opposites.

As a performer she appears as a soloist (recent engagements include Cologne Philharmonic 2024, S.O.S. Glow up your Power) and with her ensembles NicEr (film and passion music around the soprano Sandra Schwarzhaupt-Calderón, with Erik Arndt at organ and piano), Flurklang (classical-Indian cross-over with Martin Küpper and Debasish Bhattacharjee, tabla), Nomadian (sound journeys) and Das Duo (with cellist Johanna Stein). Since 2019 she has directed three choirs in the Eifel region. Lectures and workshops have taken her to the Shanghai Conservatory, the HMT Leipzig, the International Society for Philosophy of Music Education (ISPME) and the further-education programmes of BMU and JeKits.

When the violin rests, Nicole Besse paints under the artist name *Bai Nike* (bai-nike.com). She lives and works in Mechernich in the Eifel.