

**“Never think that your age stops you from achieving your dream.”**

-Nikolas Kharroubi

# FROM AUDIENCE TO ... CELEBRITY PERFORMER

Following the success of his debut album 'Emerald Symphony' in early 2024, young prodigy Nikolas Kharroubi told Sonata about his unexpected rise to stardom, as well as how he fell in love with classical music.

Article and Images by: Ben Gosling

## EARLY LIFE CURRENT CAREER

**B**orn on February 12th 2007, Nikolas Kharroubi was raised in Latvia by his mother, Anastasia (a semi-successful songwriter for various musical production companies across the country), and his father, Lars (a lawyer for Byron and Hanz Law Firm). As Nikolas grew up, he attended many concerts with his parents who decided to share their love for classical music with their son from a very young age. As a result of this exposure, Nikolas quickly became enthralled by the violin, an instrument that he saw as something small, but had the capability to express an enormous amount of passion through the music it could produce. In Christmas of 2012, Nikolas received his first ever violin at the age of 5, and from then on, began to embark on his musical journey.

A year later, by the age of 6, Nikolas started his own Youtube channel under the moderation of his parents, documenting his progress with his violin as he amassed a small following amongst the classical music community. As he matured, Nikolas began to excel with the instrument, mastering most of his sheet music books by the age of ten. Although he was determined early on in his life to be a successful violinist, he still made sure to commit to his studies in school, as well as balancing his violin work alongside it.

## DAWN OF HIS CAREER

Nikolas' music career would not begin to truly shine until late 2020, during the coronavirus pandemic. During this time, at the age of twelve, Nikolas had amassed over 10,000 subscribers on Youtube, due to his online performances on his channel, and incredible improvement in his talent.

From here, Nikolas had decided to write his own music, working alongside his mother during lockdown. This strengthened his dream of becoming a successful violinist, and he also began to create his own music, not just practising the classics. During lockdown, Nikolas also expanded his presence on social media, by joining Tiktok. Nikolas then began releasing short pieces on Spotify, hoping to extend the reputation and popularity of classical music on modern streaming services, as well as increasing the potential of recognition from people in the music industry. Despite him gaining a small amount of streams from his followers from Tiktok and Youtube, it wasn't enough to be seen as one of the next big classical musicians.

He would have to wait until he reached the age of 16 in winter of 2023, when Nikolas released his first debut album, 'Emerald Symphony' to his 50,000 followers across his social media. Again gaining only a small amount of traction during its first few months, Nikolas continued his studies at the Latvia Academy for Music, after earning a scholarship. However, the album unexpectedly began to skyrocket in popularity amongst the classical music community, after the famous composer, Alastair Frye, put Nikolas' album in his 'Top 10 Albums of 2023' during a livestream; earning the number one spot. Due to this, Nikolas went from tens of thousands of followers, to millions overnight; and was finally being noticed as a brilliant musician after twelve years of practice.

Now that Nikolas is approaching adulthood and having performed 'Emerald Symphony' live on stage across Europe after its incredible success amongst the classical community; he can now boast nearly 54 million followers on his social media. His ambitions are still determined however, as he intends to work on a more personal project to release in the future. Currently, Nikolas is writing new music back in Latvia, and teasing his second upcoming album, 'Golden Goodheart'. It aims to bring the same feeling that he felt back when he was younger, that feeling of warmth and passion towards classical music; and passing it on to a new age of listeners.

**“It takes a while if you stick to it, but it's never impossible to be successful.”**

-Nikolas Kharroubi

Follow Nikolas' Journey to create 'Golden Goodheart' on:



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