

The Belgian violist Kaat Schraepen's (2000) attention was immediately caught hearing the deep and warm sound of the viola, leading her to pursue this passion from the age of 7. Awarded in several national and international competitions, Kaat Schraepen stands up as one of the most remarkable viola players of her generation. By taking part in masterclasses and festivals with renowned musicians all over Europe and performing a broad repertoire, she works on her mission to put the viola on the map as a solo instrument.

Nowadays Kaat is studying her master with Mikhail Zemtsov at the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague (The Netherlands). In 2020 she completed her bachelor studies (10 with distinction from the jury) with Julia Dinerstein at Conservatorium Maastricht (The Netherlands). At the moment, she is focused on developing a broad classical solo 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.

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 Altvioolconcours' 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).

Highlights from past seasons include concerts at the Aurora Festival (Sweden) and the Asiagofestival (Italy), performances in halls such as the Mozarteum (Salzburg) and the Schumann- and Mendelssohnhaus (Leipzig). As a soloist, she performed in Amsterdam with the Britten Jeugd Strijkorkest. As a chamber musician, she has shared the stage with artists such as Stephan Picard, Eszter Haffner, Mikhail Zemtsov, Claudio Bohorquez, Ilya Grubert, Johannes Fleischmann, Daniel Rowland, Maja Bogdanovic, Nino Gvetadze, Lilli Maijala, Duccio Beluffi, Julius Berger, and Øivind Nussle.

Kaat plays on a modern instrument by Belgian maker Thomas Meuwissen, built in 2012, named Miss Ma(r)ple.