

DPO Principal Quartet



Concertmaster Born in Cluj-Napoca, the cultural capital of the Transylvania region of Romania, Aurelian grew up in a musical family. His parents and grandfather were string players in the Romanian National Opera House Orchestra, and his grandmother was the prima ballerina of the Opera's ballet corps.

Aurelian started playing the violin in the first grade, when his parents enrolled him in the city's music school. He graduated in 1995, with a Baccalaureate degree in violin performance. As a student, he served the music school orchestra's concertmaster and frequently played as a guest soloist with several Romanian orchestras. In Romania, Aurelian studied with Stefan Ruha, violin soloist and prizewinner in the Tchaikovsky and Thibaud competitions.

In the United States, Aurelian was concertmaster of the Chautauqua Institution Youth Orchestra (NY) in 1993 and 1994 and of the Chautauqua Institution Music Festival Orchestra in 1997. He was also the winner of the Chautauqua Institution Concerto Competition and the Bowling Green State University Concerto Competition. In 1999, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in music performance from Bowling Green State University. While in Bowling Green, Aurelian studied with Vasile Beluska.

Aurelian won his first professional audition at the age of 20, becoming the youngest member of the Michigan Opera Theater Orchestra in Detroit. He held that position until 2000, when he became the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra's Assistant Concertmaster and, later, Associate Concertmaster.

Aurelian speaks Romanian, Hungarian, and English. He lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Alison (a violist and orchestra teacher) and his daughter, Hannah.