

The friends Julia Hechler (*06.03.1987) and Christian Zielinski (*27.04.1987) got to know each other during a guitar festival in Poland. They quickly recognized their musical solidarity and started to perform as a duo in 2006.

Before studying music, both musicians have been awarded with many prizes:

- 1st prize at the International Guitarist Competition of Chamber music Gorizia (Italy)
- Special prize of the “Deutsche Musikrat” for the best interpretation of modern music
- several 1st prizes and awards in german national youth competition (“Jugend Musiziert”)
- two 1st prizes at the “Tonkünstlerwettbewerb Baden-Württemberg“
- numerous prizes of the „Sparkasse“ (huge german credit institute)

Julia Hechler and Christian Zielinski have played with different orchestras and recorded several CDs with them. They have been invited to many countries e.g. China, Korea, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Polen, Portugal, Bulgaria, Italy and Lithuania.

Since 2009 Julia Hechler and Christian Zielinski are stipendiaries of the **highly skilled foundation of the ING-DiBa**. They are also stipendiaries of the Yehudi Menuhin Society Live Music Now and of the patrons of Musikhochschule Stuttgart.

Many prizes at international chamber music competitions

- 1. prize in Parma/Italy(2008)
- 2. prize in Weikersheim/Germany (2008)
- 2. prize in Valencia /Spain (2008)
- 3. prize in Bubenreuth/Germany(2006)

established the Guitar Duo Sona in the music world. Invitations for festivals in Germany and other countries are showing the special career of the young duo.

At the moment Julia Hechler and Christian Zielinski are studying music in Stuttgart with their teachers Prof. Johannes Monno and the Kaltchev Guitar Duo. Both musicians are teaching at the music school in Böblingen.

2007 the Duo Sona recorded their first CD “Im Klang der Zeit”, with first recordings of Beethoven and Pujol as well as compositions by Francaix, Bellinati and Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

„...I have been really impressed upon their native talent in affirming their musicality and charisma with ever increasing intensity and strength leaving to the audience a deep feeling. In my opinion they may be recognized among the most young and promising guitar interpreters of the world.“

Giampaolo Bandini (Professor für Gitarre in Lucca, Italien)