

Jone Kaliunaite was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. She started studying the violin, and later – the viola, at the local M. K. Ciurlionis Art and Music Gymnasium. In 1989, she entered the Academy of Music and Theatre in Lithuania to study with prof. P. Radzevicius. In 1991, she continued her education at the Lübeck Academy of Music, Germany with prof. B. Westphal. She graduated with honours in 1998. She is also an extraordinary student at the Mozarteum in Salzburg with prof. T. Riebl.

Jone Kaliunaite has won various national and international competitions, among which the CIEM, Geneva, 1996. She has played the first viola at the Philharmonics of Essen and at the Opera in Duisburg. In the period 1999 – 2005 she taught viola at the FOLKWANG Music Academy in the city of Essen. Since 2005, she has been a professor at the Saar Music Academy.

Jone Kaliunaite is a preferred partner in chamber formations. She has performed with E. Brunner, F. Eichhorn, M. Vengerov, D. Klöcker, R. Pagny, as well as with the string quartets of Mannheim and Vilnius. She maintains close contacts with the Lithuanian composers A. Martinaitis and M. Baranauskas who have dedicated to her viola works. In her intensive concert and teaching activity she has visited South Korea, Spain, Bulgaria, Lithuania and England.