

Ricson Poonin at his relatively young age, has had a stellar and exciting career as a trombonist. He started with numerous achievements early on, and has since been known for showcasing his trademark musicality, his sound technique, and his versatility as a soloist, ensemble and orchestra player. His life journey has successfully brought him from San Pablo City, Laguna, where as a 9-year old, he started playing with the local band, Banda 97. His first teacher was his father, Ricardo Poonin.

He then went to Manila and earned his Bachelor of Music, Major in Trombone Performance degree at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in 2009, receiving a full scholarship from the school. He also received a certificate of recognition for outstanding ensemble performance, and won first prize in the UST Solo Competition. While pursuing his college degree, he won first prize in the 2009 Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) Solo Category C held in the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and travelled all over Asia as a member of the Asian Youth Orchestra (AYO--2011) and the Southeast Asian Youth Orchestra and Wind Ensemble (SAYOWE--2005-2006 and 2008-2010).

He became the bass trombone player of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra in 2012, and then went on a three-year leave, to pursue graduate studies at Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland, United States.

At Peabody, he earned his Masters of Music in Trombone Performance in 2016 and finished his Graduate Performance Degree the following year. Among his achievements there were receiving the James Winship Lewis Memorial Prize Performance Award and performing Johann de Meij's T-bone Concerto as the featured soloist of the Peabody Wind Ensemble's concert in December 2016. He also won first prize in the Peabody excerpts competition. He actively performed in school as principal trombonist of Peabody Concert Orchestra, and assistant principal trombone of the Peabody Symphony Orchestra, and in the Peabody Conductors Orchestra, training under conductors Marin Alsop, Hannu Lintu, Gustav Meier, Hajime Teri Murai, Leon Fleischer and Edward Polochik. He also played in a multitude of other Peabody Ensembles including the Trombody Peabones trombone choir, the Peabody Jazz Ensemble, the Fourtissimo Trombone Quartet, and the Marquee Brass Quintet. His Marquee Brass Quintet was chosen to participate in the Artist-in-Residency program in Mesa, Arizona El Paso Texas and in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and in the Ensemble Connect marketing workshop in Carnegie Hall, New York City. He also attended master classes with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra's Joseph Allesi, Boston Symphony Orchestra's Toby Oft, National Symphony Orchestra's Dave Murray, American Brass Quintet's Michael Powell, as well as Doug Yeo and Ron Barron, formerly the bass trombonist and principal trombonist of Boston Symphony, respectively. He was also part of the International Trombone Association's Guinness record of having the most number of trombone players performing at a single event in Lincoln center in New York.

His brass professors have been affiliated with the Canadian Brass Quintet, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, and ABS-CBN Orchestra and are principal players of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. They include Maestro Hermie Ranera, Romeo San Jose, James Olin, Aaron Lavere, Randy Campora, David Federly, and Joe Burgstaller.

He was also a scholar of Irene Marcos Araneta, Zeneida Tantoco, Monique Villonco, Tricia Amper-Jimenez, Chuchu Madrigal Eduque, Raul Sunico, Don Ado Escudero, and the FAPI.

He has been back in Manila since July 2017, and is actively pursuing a career as a performer and as bass trombonist of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.