

Sofija Grgur

Organist, Harpsichordist, Chamber musician

Born in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina),

23 November 1983

Nationality Serbian

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EDUCATION:

- Initial music studies at the Music School Branko Radicevic in Priboj. Festivals and competitions in Serbia, highest marks in chamber music and solo performance
- 1998 - 2002 Further studies in piano and theory, Music School Mokranjac, Belgrade
Also organ studies at the newly opened department, Music School Stankovic, Belgrade
- 2009 Diploma in Organ, Music Academy, Belgrade, under Prof. Maja Smiljanic-Radic.
- Additional instruction in presentation technique, interpretation and improvisation under the guidance of several famous organ experts
- 2003 - 2008 Active participant at organ festivals in Belgrade - Dies Organorum. Master classes: Dalibor Miklavcic (SLO), Stephane Bechy (FRA), Carlo Hommel (LUX), Jürgen Essl (GER), Martin Sander (GER), Christoph Bossert (GER), Luca Scandali (ITA), Magnus Kjellson (SWE), Johann Trummer (AUS), David Sanger (UK), Lorenzo Ghielmi (ITA), Mathias Wager, Warmes Vanderhoeven and many others.
- Active participation in harpsichord and organ festivals sponsored by the Belgrade Cultural Center
- Since 2005 scholarship student, Austria Baroque Academy. Courses with Martin Haselbock, Jeremy Josef, Alexander Fiseisky, Kimberly Marshall, Jürgen Essl, Ketil Haugsand, etc.
Master classes in improvisation and interpretation, figured bass (historical keyboard instruments), chamber music ensembles, as well as numerous concerts.
- In 2005 Special Prize at a competition for the interpretation of pieces by J. S. Bach - invitation to play a concert in the Basilica of St. Florian on the Bruckner organ
- Eight years, scholarship student of the Ministry of Education (Serbia)
- October 2009 to the present, advanced organ studies with Prof. Christoph Bossert, University of Music Würzburg
- Summer 2014 Concert Diploma in Organ
- October 2010 parallel studies for Church Music B diploma, as well as Harpsichord (Dept. Historical Instruments) with Prof. Glen Wilson
- Since October 2012, Harpsichord studies with Lucy Hallman Russell (Diploma exam Spring 2015)

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Fonds for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia 2009/11, Leni Geissler-Foundation, Musical Academy Würzburg, STIBET Scholarship from DAAD, Soroptimist International Grant 2013-2014, University of Music Würzburg Scholarship for concerts on historical instruments in Florence and Bologna (San Colombano), Ringve International Summer Course, Norway 2013-14

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE:

Since 2000 performances as solo organist and chamber musician, organisation of numerous professional and student concerts with the goal of reviving and emancipating organ and harpsichord (Baroque)music in Belgrade. Important concerts and projects listed below:

- 2002 Solo concert Music School Stankovic
- 2003 Concert in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Koseze Church
- 2005- 2007 Gmunden, Austria
- 2005 / 2007 Handel Organ Concerts, String Orchestra Orpheus, conductor Ivan Markovic
- 2006 Solo concert, Reichersberg, Austria
- 2008 Project Hommage a Messiaen, works by Messiaen, his pupils and native composers influenced by him
- 2008 Chamber concert for two organs, Belgrade
- 2009 Concert in the Church Himmelfahrt der seligen Jungfrau Maria in Zemun, on occasion of the presentation of the newly restored organ. Sponsor, Austrian Embassy
- 2010 Solo concert, Organs Days in Belgrade
- 2010/14 Soloist, church musician and harpsichordist in numerous concerts of the Musical Academy Würzburg; Related projects and activities with the program Organ Expert (Bach - Research, historical organs, Arnstadt Bach Seminar, Berlin (Reger Project), Zürich, Lüneburg, Maihingen, Bologna, Spain – (Historical organ research, CD productions); Mozart Festival Würzburg, Project Cage (Würzburg-Halberstadt), Würzburger Bach Days, Bad Neustadt Organ Summer, Early Music Days Würzburg, St. Adalbero Organ Week, Organ Festival Cloister Banz, Ars Musica Aub, etc.
- 2012 Concert, XI International Harpsichord Festival Ars vivendi clavicembalum
- Coordination and instigation of numerous concerts and projects combining Baroque performing practices and modern music
- Collaboration with the Belgrade Choirs Oktoih and Beogradski madrigalisti in concerts in Italy, England, Bulgaria, Hungary
- Student presentation of concerts of Baroque music; Ensemble Belgrade Baroque, a unique Serbian group presenting Baroque and Renaissance music on historical instruments; Ensemble Eloquentia Musica, String Orchestra Orpheus, European Baroque Orchestra, etc.
- Frequent collaboration in concert with opera singers
- Soloist and continuo player, Concert/Study Tour Florence and Bologna, 2012-14
- Soloist and continuo player, Ringve International Summer Course, Norway 2013-14
- Soloist (Bach, Brandenburg 5th Concert, etc.) and continuo player with the Baroque Orchestra with Historical Instruments, BAHl, University of Music Würzburg
- Since 2014 *Ensemble Interrogatio*, together with Baroque violinist Filip Rekiec