



Udruženje / Association "RHAPSODY"

Dr. Silve Rizvanbegović 18A, Sarajevo, BiH

Bosnia and Herzegovina

JIB / ID: 4203010150003

Transakcijski račun BAM / Transaction account BAM:

1610000278080096 (Raiffeisen bank dd BiH)

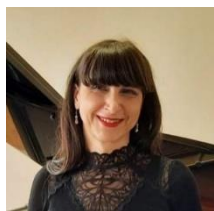
## YURI

5th INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION "SERGEI RACHMANINOFF",  
Organizer: Association "Rhapsody", April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 (live in Sarajevo and online)



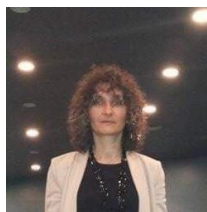
**DANIJEL OTO**

Croatia



**LEJLA ALAJBEGOVIĆ ŠEĆEROVIĆ**

Bosnia and Herzegovina



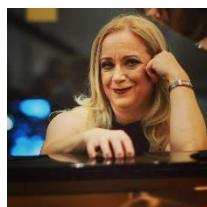
**IRENA MIJUŠKOVIĆ**

Montenegro



**SLAĐANA DEDIĆ**

Bosna and Herzegovina



**JASNA ĐUROVIĆ**

Bosna and Herzegovina

## DANIJEL OTO

Danijel Oto started learning the piano at the age of 12. He finished secondary music school in Varaždin in the class of Professor Miljenke Slunjski, and already 6 years after her first encounter with the piano, at the age of 18 she enrolled in the Music Academy of the University of Zagreb in the class of pianist and pedagogue Professor Vladimir Krpan. He graduated in 2009 with the highest grades.

He improved his skills at the piano and chamber music seminars of many eminent pedagogues, among whom are Peter Eicher, Franco Scala, Noel Flores, Vladimir Krpan, Konstantin Krasnitski, and Eun Jung Kim.

He performed with the Varaždin Chamber Orchestra, recorded for the needs of Croatian Radio Television and Croatian Radio, and recorded several sound carriers. He performed in many halls in the country and abroad (Kaisersaal in Vienna, Vatroslav Lisinski in Zagreb, National Theater in Belgrade, Croatian Music Institute in Zagreb, University Hall in Ljubljana, Croatian National Theater in Varaždin and Osijek, "Blagoja Berse" hall in Zagreb, the hall of the Sorbonne University in Paris, the City Museum in Brno, the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Berlin, Zurich, Bern, Rome, etc.)

He collaborates with many renowned artists and is regularly invited as an official accompanist for international competitions (auditions for the world competition of solo singers "Hans Gabor Belvedere", Varaždin Woodwind & Brass competition).

He is an artistic collaborator with numerous recitals and seminars. He is regularly invited as a member of the jury of competitions in Croatia and abroad (State Competition of Chamber Ensembles HDGPP, "Republic Pianist Competition of Serbia", "Festival of Pianists" Serbia, International Pianist Competition "Šabac", "Piccolo Piano Talents", "International Piano Competition Mozart", "Mladi Padovec", "Young virtuoso", "Davorin Jenko", "Panonian festival of pianists").

He has been working as a professor at the Summer International Piano School in Grožnjan for four years and, regularly holds seminars and lectures in schools or online platforms. A month ago, he held a seminar at "Brighton College" in Abu Dhabi.

He has been teaching since 2008 and has won more than 200 awards at national and international competitions.

He is a professor of piano and accompaniment at the Music School in Varaždin and, since the fall he has been an assistant at the Department of Music and Media at the University of the North in Varaždin.

## LEJLA ALAJBEGOVIĆ ŠEĆEROVIĆ

Lejla Alajbegović Šećerović was born in Travnik. She finished Elementary music school and Secondary music school in Zenica, department of piano. She started her studies at the Academy of Music in Sarajevo in 1991, under the guidance of Professor Milica Šnajder, and graduated in 2000 under the guidance of Professor Svetlana Člaidze.

She has worked as a piano teacher in The Elementary music school in Zenica and as an art assistant-rehearse and lecturer at the Academy of Music in Sarajevo. She works as a piano professor in The Secondary music school in Zenica and as an external associate in The Elementary music school Novi Travnik.

She is also one of the co-founders of The Music kindergarten “Notica”, where children age 3-8 learn basic music and musical instruments. Together with her students, she has taken part in numerous national piano competitions, where she has won many prizes and awards (two specials, 11 first prizes, 6 second prizes, and 9 third prizes at national/federal competitions).

At international piano competitions in Brčko, Bijeljina, Banja Luka, Sremska Mitrovica, Šabac, Istočno Sarajevo, Smederevo, Belgrade, Zagreb, Osijek, and Slovenia she won 50 first prizes (a gold one in Slovenia), 18 second prizes and 10 third prizes.

She has organized many seminars and lectures where eminent and famous experts in piano pedagogy and teaching were lecturers.

## IRENA MIJUŠKOVIĆ

Irena Mijušković was born in Kruševac, Serbia where she also attended the local elementary music school. She continued her music education at a secondary music school in Niš, under the tutorship of Mirjana Nikolić.

In 1991, she graduated from the Music Academy in Belgrade where she studied piano and graduated with honors under the tutorship of the professor Miloš Ivanović. Throughout her study she continued to attend numerous workshops, summer schools, and master classes by world-renowned pianists such as Elena Richter, Irina Chukovskaya, Aleksey Nasedkin, Arbo Valdman, Naum Shtarkman, Vladimir Krpan, Konstantin Bogin, Vladimir Feltsman, Oxana Yablonskaya, Emanuel Krasovsky, Leslie Howard, Eteri Andjaparidze and Earl Wild.

Following her academic studies, she emerged herself into accompaniment, chamber music, and solo performance, touring the country as a member of different chamber ensembles, winning many piano competitions, as well as participating in national and international music festivals such as NOMUS, NIMUS, and A FEST. She also performed in many prestigious concert halls around former Yugoslavia, as well as in France, Italy, Poland, Greece, Bulgaria, and Albania, and made several appearances on local TV and radio stations.

Her extensive career in performance took a slight turn in 1997 when she decided to venture into teaching. Over the years her students have been the winners of many national and international piano competitions in Russia, Italy, France, Germany, Croatia, and Slovenia, and gained invaluable experience whilst collaborating with different departments within the music school as a result of Irena's insistence on collaborative learning.

She was proclaimed the Teacher of the Year three years in a row, from 1997 through 1999, and won the prestigious teaching award in 2015 as the teacher with the highest number of prizes won by her students. In 2018 she was also recognized as the Employee of the Year by the Ministry of Education in Montenegro.

From 2001 through 2011 she worked as the Head of the Piano Department at the Herceg Novi Music School in Montenegro. When she's not teaching, she likes to split her time between giving master classes in music schools all over the Balkans, organizing piano workshops, and participating in different piano competitions, only this time as a member of the jury.

## SLAĐANA DEDIĆ

Sladana Dedić was born in 1978 in Tuzla, where she started in the class of Professor Planinke Atić Jurišić, and graduated from the music high school piano department in the class of Professor Zlatan Mujkić for 3 school years with an average of 5.0. She then continued her piano studies at the Music Academy in Sarajevo in the class of Professor Svetlana Člaidza and finished as one of the best students with a grade point average of 9.5 and an average piano grade of 10.

She received numerous scholarships as a good student. Canton from the Government of Japan, then from the Ministry of Education of Tuzla Canton, Education Builds BiH, Bosanska Riječ, etc. Throughout his schooling, he attended chamber music classes with Professor Yevgeny Xaviereff, where he also achieved the best results. He continuously attends seminars with renowned piano pedagogues: Mila Lacković, Bočkarjov, Stanetti, Vladimir Milošević, Aleksandar Serdar, Jokut Mihailović and many others. He is currently attending doctoral studies at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad in the class of Professor Rita Kinka.

Immediately after the war, she played at the International Competition in Maribor in the strong competition (students of the List Academy from Budapest, then students of CMS Moscow), where she won the third prize. Sladana Dedić also participates in the famous competition "Jan Paderewski" in Poland, where she reaches the semifinals. Back in high school, as part of a school project, she played with several other colleagues on a tour of Dutch cities that lasted 23 days, where a very demanding program as played.

Shortly afterward, she performed a concert by E. Grieg with the Sarajevo Philharmonic in honor of the 40th anniversary of the High School of Music. She also received a piano for the award, which she did not have until then, as well as a letter of recommendation from Professor Michael Davidson from the Rotterdam Conservatory. After that, she played a concert by E. Grieg with the Sarajevo Philharmonic in honor of the 40th anniversary of the High School of Music. During her teaching career, she got first and special awards for her pedagogical work at competitions organized by piano pedagogues in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

She was employed at the Elementary Music School in Tuzla, where she quickly became the head of the department, and then the director for a term of 4 years. Currently, she is permanently employed in the High Music School "Čestimir Mirko Dušek" in Tuzla and a part-time piano teacher at the Elementary Music School Tuzla.

A member of the jury at most of these competitions every year for both solo and piano duo, so 4 times so far she received the award for the best piano pedagogue in his country and then at the competition in Smederevo. As a professor, she achieves very significant results. Her students from a young age, even as students, have won a large number of awards at the national and international level.

As director, she opened new departments such as ballet, and solo singing, and introduced the saxophone and chamber orchestra, which had not existed in the school until then. Even during the term of the principal, she works with students, and in the end, she is been evaluated with the highest grade of success.

During her schooling, she collaborated with many pianists and professors, and some of them are: Rudolf Kerer, Nevena Popović, Jakša Zlatar, Alan Lafre, Lidija Zardon, and many others. In addition to separate concerts with professional musicians, where he performs a respectable repertoire, there is also a long-term collaboration with solo singers, where, among others, she is a constant accompanist to soprano Dženana Huseinagić.

## JASNA ĐUROVIĆ

Jasna Đurović was born in Banja Luka, where she finished her basic music education at The Music school "Vlado Milošević" in the class of Professor Branke Kuzmanović, and the high school of music in Zemun, in The Music school "Kosta Manojlović" in the class of Professor Tanje Jablanović. She graduated from the Academy of Arts - piano department in Banja Luka (2002) in the class of Professor Nevena Popović. She was a scholarship holder of the Petar Kočić Fund, which is awarded to students with the highest grade point average.

She performed as a soloist in chamber ensembles. He is a semi-finalist of the International piano competition Grand Koncertum in Athens in the piano duo discipline. However, she shows the greatest affinity for piano pedagogy, as evidenced by the numerous successes and awards of her students, both in the country and abroad. She was also a member of the jury at piano competitions in Šabac, Kragujevac, Banja Luka, Belgrade, Smederevo, Bijeljina, Prijedor, Smederevo Palanka, and Brčko. She was also a member of the jury at the prestigious "Jan Sibelius" piano competition organized by the Finnish city of Turku. Recently, she was a member of the jury of the international piano festival in Malta, which is organized by the piano academy of the renowned professor and pianist Milica Lorens. Her students have been awarded several times by the home school "Vlado Milošević" as the most successful.

She improved at master classes with eminent pianists and piano pedagogues: Nevena Popović, Ljiljana Vukelja, Aleksandar Serdar, Arbo Valdma, Nataša Veljkovic, Maria Nemcova. She worked as an accompanist demonstrator at the Academy of Arts in the Department of Dramatic Art. She collaborated with the National Theater of the Republika Srpska (2002) in the play "How to Laugh at the Master" directed by our famous and recognized director Kokan Mladenović, where she played the role of a musician whose music permeated the entire play.

She is the co-founder and initiator of the Banja Luka Biennale International Piano Competition (the first piano competition in Bosnia and Herzegovina), together with his colleague Dijana Zrnić, Nemanja Savić, school director and prof. Nevena Popović. She held a piano workshop called "Viva la music" in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, which was supported by the Banski Dvor Cultural Center in Banja Luka.

After 16 years, she returned to the music scene, in 2021, with a performance at the concert of the music school professor "Vlado Milošević". She collaborates with pianists and colleagues from Belgrade. She currently collaborates with the renowned pianist and piano teacher Marija Gođevac, with whom she founded the piano duo "Balkanik". They performed at the Banska dvor in Banja Luka, as well as in the "Artget" gallery of the Belgrade Cultural Center, then in the Historical Museum of Serbia in Belgrade, in Matica Srpska in Novi Sad, and the Portrait Gallery in Tuzla.

She is registered in the Register of Eminent and Distinguished Artists and Performers in the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska.

She has 30 years of work experience in piano pedagogy. The goal of its activities is to nurture and guide young talents and promising young artists to engage in artistic music and preserve its tradition via public performances, concerts, and piano competitions.

She is currently employed as a piano-major subject and chamber music teacher at the elementary and secondary music school "Vlado Milošević" in Banja Luka.