

International  
Percussion  
Competition  
11 - 16 July 2022  
Zagreb, Croatia

# RHYTHM- O-PHONIA

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the  
University of Zagreb Academy of Music

# The International Percussion Competition RHYTHM-O-PHONIA is held in the organization and on the premises of the University of Zagreb Academy of Music, celebrating 100th anniversary during the academic year 2021/2022.

Under the patronage of:  
The President of the Republic of Croatia Zoran Milanović  
Ministry of Science and Education  
Ministry of Culture and Media  
The Mayor of the City of Zagreb Tomislav Tomašević  
The Rector of the University of Zagreb Damir Boras

Media sponsor: Jutarnji list

Competition supported by: Ministry of Culture and  
Media of the Republic of Croatia; City Office for Culture,  
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Board; The Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra; Croatian  
Composer's Society  
Artistic director of the competition: Igor Lešnik  
Production and organization: University of Zagreb  
Academy of Music Production office and University of  
Zagreb Academy of Music Percussion Department



Jutarnji list



100 years of music: through learning, creativity and research... is a more than appropriate motto for the anniversary season 2021/2022 celebrating the centenary of the Zagreb Music Academy. The rich line of events we organized for this occasion ends with nothing less than a loud bang - the new edition of the International Percussion Competition RHYTHM-O-PHONIA.

As a percussionist, and the dean of the host institution, I feel privileged that our percussion department once again has such an opportunity for the further promotion of Croatian music on a high international level welcoming competitors and renowned jury members from three continents despite all of the unfavorable and unfortunate events that have occurred in the past couple of years.

After three and a half decades of the existence of the percussion department in Zagreb, there is professionally nothing more rewarding for its founder than to witness how the international concert touring, pedagogical and organizational activities of Croatian percussion soloists and ensembles have built a reputation of our scene that is valued in international professional art and pedagogical circles.

The leading world percussionists regularly visit two Croatian international percussion festivals and numerous foreigners study percussion in Croatia. Many of them have won awards at international competitions for example in Belgium, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and the United States, whereby the University of Zagreb Academy of Music confirmed its international reputation as an institution that young musicians from Europe and the world have recognized and are keen to visit to improve their artistic quality, as well as renowned soloists and pedagogues to hold concerts and lectures.

To all of those who have contributed and helped RHYTHM-O-PHONIA become a regular triennial event, I would like to express my sincere gratitude. Finally, I wish all of our contestants a successful performance at our Academy's concert hall and a pleasant stay in Zagreb.

Igor Lešnik  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE COMPETITION



University of Zagreb Academy of Music is the largest and oldest higher musical institution in Croatia. It is the direct successor of the Croatian Music Institute music school founded in 1829. At the turn of the 20th century, the school became a conservatory and was renamed to Royal Academy of Music in 1921. It has been a constituent unit of the University of Zagreb since 1979 where many renowned artists and educators have studied and worked at. They have, through their efforts at home and abroad, confirmed and strengthened the reputation of the Academy and its high level of excellence in music education. The Academy of Music is striving towards becoming the leading institution in the region and setting high standards in all segments in the field of higher music education.

Our goal is to become a music centre with international reputation that will be recognized as a desirable destination for study and work by students and professors worldwide. The values on which we wish to build this vision are the high artistic and pedagogical quality of the teaching staff, the development and innovation of the study programs, as well as the development of professional competencies of our graduates. By ensuring the continuity and development of the musical art, the Academy wants to create an artistic and intellectual elite of young musicians who will, through their public activity, influence the development of culture and art for the benefit of the entire community.



## RHYTHM-O-PHONIA JURY

**Ludwig Albert (B)**

**Mark Ford (USA)**

**István Szabó (HU)**

**Shiniti Ueno (JP)**

**Leo Le Yu (UK/China)**

**Ivana Bilić (HR)**

**Igor Lešnik (HR)**





# LUDWIG ALBERT

Dr. Ludwig Albert is among the top Adams artists, internationally highly acclaimed as pedagogue and one of today's leading marimbists. He had the honor to be the first European marimbist with his own signature Adams marimba concert model and a signature mallet line by Innovative Percussion (USA). Inspired by his praised innovative movement method: *The Ultimate Sound*, Dr. Albert has established marimba Master studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Antwerp and Lemmens Institute in Leuven, where he is the titular professor. Alumni from all continents won over 75 top prizes at international leading competitions.

He is artistic director of the International Ludwig Albert Marimba Academy, the International Percussion Youth Competition and the prestigious Universal Marimba Competition Belgium. He is praised by major international press-reviews for his unique sound and for being one of the rare outstanding lyrical performers with 15 album releases.

For over 30 years, Dr. Albert has been giving master classes and concerts, touring in more than 35 countries. He received in 2020 by the Academia Music Awards US the *Best Classical Music Award* for his double concerto *The Universe* and in 2021 for his solo composition *Feel the Sunlight*. In addition, he received in 2021 the *Artist of the Year Award* and the *Rising Star Award*. A cooperative composing project with the Portuguese composer Rodrigo Marques resulted in 2021 in the completion of a new Concerto *Permafrost* for marimba & Symphony orchestra which is handled as set piece of several Competitions. From 2022, his 30 years career anniversary will be celebrated worldwide with new CD releases, an international jubilee concert and masterclass tour and the release of the new Adams signature Ludwig Albert marimba model.



# MARK FORD

Mark Ford is a marimba artist and the Coordinator of Percussion at The University of North Texas College of Music in Denton, Texas. Mark has been featured as a marimba soloist throughout the US at universities, festivals and music conferences. He has performed in Europe, Japan, China, Taiwan, Australia and South America. Ford is also the Artistic Director for the Drum Fest Marimba/Vibraphone Competition in Opole, Poland and is Past-President of the Percussive Arts Society.

Ford's solo marimba CDs, *Stealing a Moment*, *Motion Beyond* and *Polaris*, have become standards in the percussion world. Mark's latest recording, *Contact* (GIA), with the UNT Wind Symphony features marimba/percussion concertos by Jennifer Higdon, Daniel McCarthy, Keiko Abe and Ford.

As a composer Mark Ford has written many works for solo marimba and percussion ensemble. His compositions, in particular *Stubernic Fantasy Concerto* (performed on tour by the US Navy Band, the US Air Force Band) have been performed and recorded worldwide, and also featured on National Public Radio. His latest work, *Concerto for Marimba and Wind Ensemble*, will be premiered by the Melbourne Conservatory of Music Wind Ensemble in 2022. Ford is also the author of *Marimba: Technique Through Music*, a four-mallet marimba method book and *#MarimbaBaby*.

His former students perform and teach throughout the country. Under his direction the UNT Percussion Ensemble has toured in Poland, Croatia, France and Belgium and also won the PAS International Percussion Ensemble Competition. Mark is the Artistic Educational Director for Tama/Bergerault and represents Sabian Cymbals, Evans Drum Heads, Meinl Percussion and Innovative Percussion Inc.



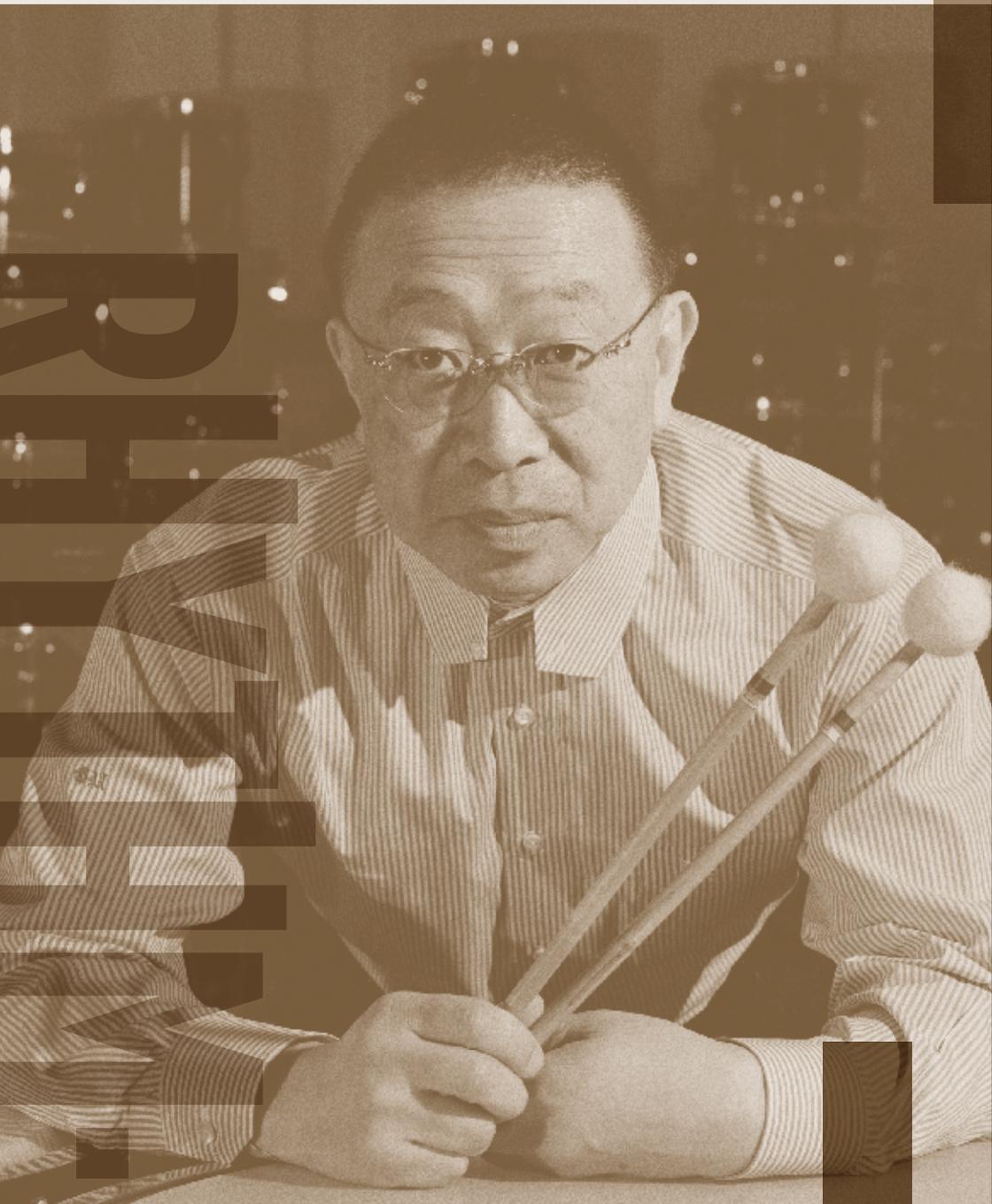
# ISTVÁN SZABÓ

István Szabó studied in Miskolc, Debrecen and Budapest in Hungary. He obtained doctoral degree (DLA) at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in 2011 and his habilitation in 2020.

During his studies he attended master courses in Germany, Italy and Luxembourg. Since 1984 for 20 years he was a member of the Debrecen Philharmonic Orchestra, first as a percussionist, then a timpanist. He was a member of the Percussion Ensemble of Debrecen, since 1993 he has been the artistic leader of the Percussion Ensemble of University Debrecen – named as SONUS Percussion Ensemble since 2004. He gave concerts in several countries with orchestra and Percussion Ensemble.

He has been teaching since 1989 at the University of Debrecen Faculty of Music. Besides, he was a professor of the University of Miskolc for 2 years. Since 2007 he has been working at the Jan Bella Conservatory in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia also, and he is a founder of the higher education of the Art Academy at Banská Bystrica which was established in 2012.

Since 2018 he is the leader of the doctoral program in percussion at Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest and Art Academy at Banská Bystrica. He is a member of international juries, his several students are winners of national and international competitions.



# SHINITI UENO

Multi-percussionist Shiniti Ueno has graduated from Kunitachi College of Music. After attending Strasbourg National Conservatory he obtained premier-prix diploma-superior.

While in France, he also studied with Jean Batigne, Sylvio Gualda, and Jean-Pierre Drouet and won many international awards. Ueno has been the percussionist of Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg and the principal percussionist and timpanist of Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse.

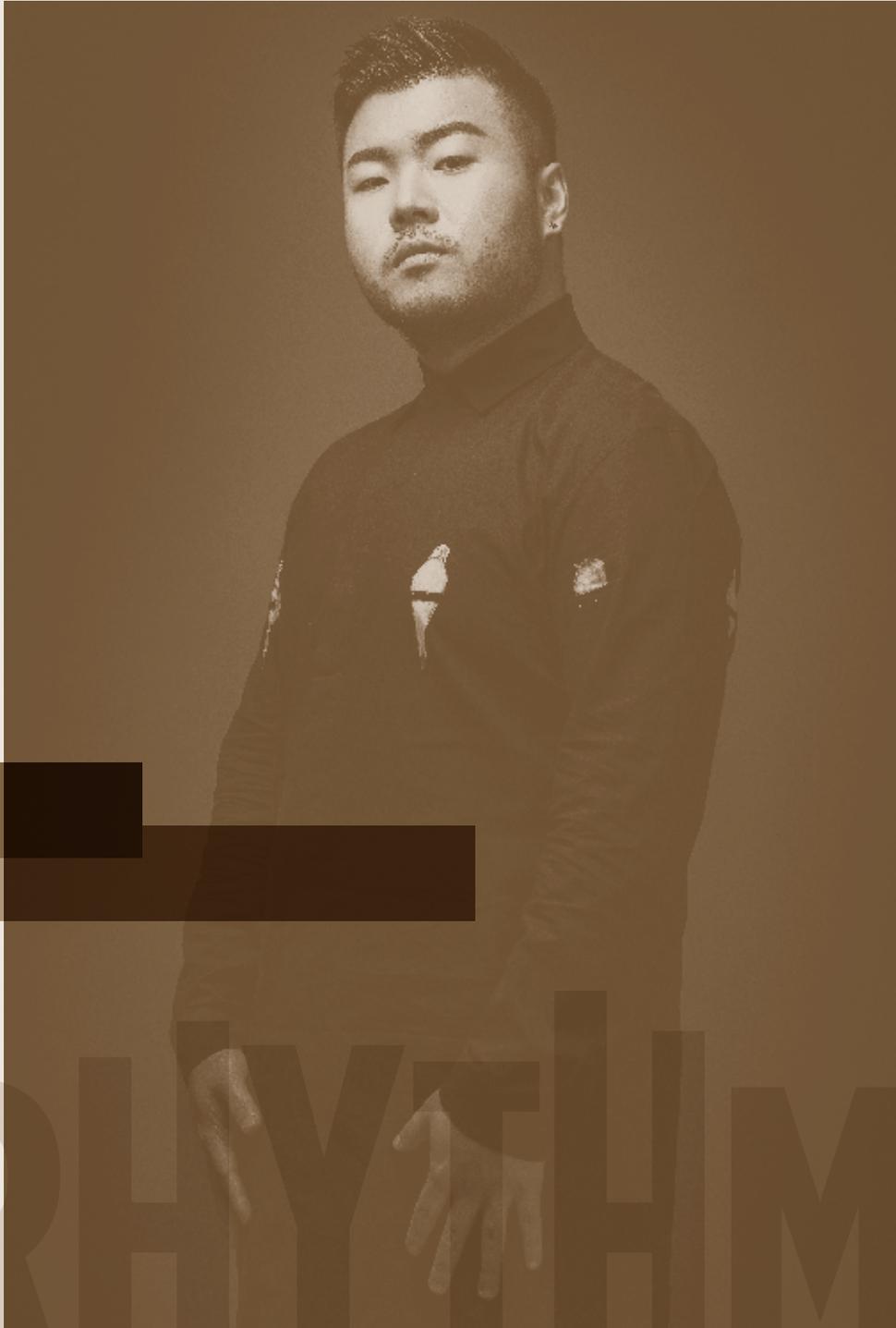
Also active as soloist, he has presented world and Japanese premieres of more than 100 works by composers such as Phillippe Boivin, N.T. Dao, Maki Ishii, William Kraft, Isao Matsushita, Akira Nishimura, Kaija Saariaho, Takehito Shimazu, Yoshihisa Taïra, Iannis Xenakis, Joji Yuasa., and has introduced innovative percussion music at national and international events.

Since 1988, the “Shiniti Ueno and Phonix Reflexion,” group of which he is the founder and director has been performing worldwide.

Recently he has been invited to perform at P.A.S. International Congress in the United States, P.A.S. France, as well as international percussion festivals and events in Croatia, Romania, China, and Korea.

Ueno’s solo CDs: *Psappa* and *Flower World* (Musica Vivante), *Duologue* (ALM Recordes), *Vibra-Elufa* (ALM Records) and most recently *Shiniti Ueno: Timpani* (ALM Records). Both his solo CDs and the group CDs, counting 18, have been well received and reviewed favorably by major newspapers and music periodicals.

He has also held master classes in the United States, France, Switzerland, China, and Korea, and has been a member of international competition juries. He endorses YAMAHA percussion.



# LE YU

Le Yu was born in China. He holds the Gold Medal at China National Percussion Competition and is the winner of Italy PAS and Yamaha European Scholarship 2012 Competitions.

With his Aurora Percussion Duo, Le has performed in front of the British Royal Family at London's Southbank Centre and has won the Park Lane Group Competition. The duo has been chosen by "Live Music Now" to deliver special educational projects across the UK. They have been invited at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, BBC In Tune, Newbury International Music Festival, Bridgewater Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Xi'an Concert Hall, RNCM Day of Percussion and many more.

As a concerto soloist, Le has worked with orchestras in Asia, UK and America (Lucerne, Beijing and Guangzhou Symphony Orchestras, National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, Manchester Camerata, BBC Singers). Le performed live for various Radios and Televisions and was a Soloist of 2016 World Percussion Group.

Since 2016, Le is a jury member of China National Percussion Competition, Royal Philharmonic Society Award and Southern Percussion Competition in London. He has been invited to give Masterclasses at National Conservatory of Music Mexico, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, School of Arts Singapore, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, China Central Conservatory of Music etc.

Currently Le is the Deputy Director of Percussion and Professor in Percussion at the Royal Northern College of Music and Marimba/Solo Percussion tutor at Chetham's School of Music, he also holds two visiting professorships at Xi'an and Shenyang Conservatories (China). In 2018 Le has been appointed as the Vice-President of China Youth Percussion Group. He is a Yamaha, Sabian and Encore Mallet artist.



# IVANA BILIĆ

Ivana Bilić is an international marimba and percussion artist. She regularly appears in Europe, USA, China and South America, at venues like Merkin Hall in New York, Palacio de las Bellas Artes in Mexico City or Franz Liszt Hall in Budapest, as soloist with orchestras or giving recitals, participating in crossover projects, stage productions, cd recording sessions, appearing at live tv shows and cooperating with artists and ensembles of various genres.

Ivana regularly gives marimba clinics and masterclasses, serves as jury member at international competitions and appears at marimba festivals worldwide. Drawn by her interest in different musical styles, she has co-founded several ensembles: The Percussion Club (2021), Synchronos contemporary music ensemble (2019) and I.N.K. Experiment Duo with Nikola Krbanyevitch (2014). The duo holds a discographic award for their collaboration with jazz rock group Chui.

Since 2008, she is the artistic director of Ivana Summer Percussion Festival (ISPF), an annual percussion event held in Samobor, Croatia. Ivana is a commissioned author of new works and arrangements, her pieces are published by Edition Svitzer, Malletworks and Cantus.

Ms Bilić has received all the major Croatian performers' awards and two discographic awards for best performance. For years she has been the solo timpanist of the Symphony Orchestra of the Croatian Radiotelevision.

A pupil of Igor Lešnik, she currently teaches at the Academy of Music of University of Zagreb acting as Head of the Department for Conducting, Harp and Percussion. Ivana is a Marimba one artist with her own signature line of mallets.



# IGOR LEŠNIK

Igor Lešnik's artistic collaborations with famous colleagues, his rich collection of recordings and his soloist concert activities introduced Croatian percussion scene to the world in early 1990s. His music is today performed by renowned soloists and ensembles and international percussion competitions program his works.

As founder of the percussion department at the University of Zagreb Academy of Music, professor Lešnik is a regular guest at renowned universities of five continents and his percussion articles have been published in Europe and USA.

Since 1990 Igor organizes international percussion events and had led the Croatian Radio Symphony Orchestra percussion section from 1984 to 2014. He was also the president of the Croatian Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society / USA and Jury President of the Universal Marimba Competition / Belgium.

Igor has received numerous awards for his artistic achievements at home and abroad. In 2003, he was awarded French knighthood title (Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres) for accomplishments in arts and literature.

Currently Prof. Lešnik is the dean of the University of Zagreb Academy of Music and has been elected to a new three year mandate until 2025.

1. RHYTHM-O-PHONIA International Percussion Competition is organized by the University of Zagreb Academy of Music.
2. Dates of the Competition are 10 July 2022 (arrival) to 17 July 2022 (departure).
3. Application is open to all ages and nationalities.
4. The application process is composed of two steps:
  - candidates are requested to e-mail their competition performance program proposal to [rhythm-o-phonia@muza.hr](mailto:rhythm-o-phonia@muza.hr) as these are subject to confirmation by the application committee;
  - upon receiving official confirmation of their competition program proposal being accepted, the candidates may proceed to payment of the inscription fee via the online registration and accommodation form at <http://www.rhythm-o-phonia.spektar-travel.com/eng-registration.php> — the inscription fee is non-refundable
5. Inscription fee is 150 EUR – no refund available once the payment is made.
6. The competition consists of 3 rounds and participants are requested to perform the program fulfilling the following requirements:
  - **ELIMINATORY ROUND**  
(max. performance duration 15 min)
  - a. Ivana Bilić: Wild Rose for Marimba solo (5:30 minutes – Ed. Svitzer)
  - b. Free choice Snare drum piece
  - 
  - **SEMIFINALS**  
(max. performance duration 20 min)
  - c. Igor Lešnik: Desert Thorn for Vibraphone and Sonic Landscape (10 minutes – Ed. biNgbang)
  - d. Free choice Timpani piece or movement from a longer work (optionally with instrumental or electronic accompaniment – accompanists NOT provided by competition).
  -

- FINALS**  
(total finals program duration limited to max. 30 min)
- e. Free choice piece for solo Mallets
  - f. Croatian Set piece – Igor Lešnik: Silent Dance (20 minutes)
7. Along with the published works, the free choice pieces may be arrangements, transcriptions or own compositions. In such cases, the score samples are required at the first application step.
  8. Competition schedule is:
    - **SUNDAY, 10.07.2022.**  
Arrivals  
18:00 Registration ends  
19:00 Performance order drawing
    - **MONDAY, 11.07.2022.**  
16:00 Eliminary round
    - **TUESDAY, 12.07. 2022.**  
Eliminary round cont.  
Rehearsals
    - **WEDNESDAY, 13.07.2022.**  
10:00 Semifinals
    - **THURSDAY, 14.07.2022.**  
Setting up, practice sessions
    - **FRIDAY, 15.07.2022.**  
Rehearsals with orchestra:  
10:00 only orchestra without soloists  
19:00 Finalists with orchestra
    - **SATURDAY, 16.07.2022.**  
Finals  
10:00 rehearsal general  
19:30 Concert
    - **SUNDAY, 17.07.2022.**  
Departures

9. Candidates are obliged to provide accompaniment audio files (WAW or MP3) and original scores for the jury, except for unpublished works. All the scores and unpublished works shall be given back after each round.
10. Practice sessions will NOT be available during the eliminary round except 15 minutes for warm up immediately prior to the performance.
11. Candidates going through to the next competition round will have hotel expenses for that round covered by the competition.
12. Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra accompanies set piece performances in the final round.
13. PCO agency Spektar putovanja Ltd. is in charge of participants' registration and accommodation.
14. The Jury of the Rhythmophonia competition is: Mark Ford (USA), Ludwig Albert (Belgium), Shinichi Ueno (Japan), Leo Le Yu (China), Istvan Szabo (Hungary), Ivana Bilić (Croatia) and Igor Lešnik (Croatia) as the jury president.
15. Performance order of the two pieces is up to each contestant.
16. Performances exceeding the time limit shall be stopped by the jury president, but the contestant will still receive points.
17. The organizer reserves all rights to any kind of audio-video broadcast during all stages of the Competition, without compensation to the competitors.
18. The jury will cast their votes at the end of each round using prepared voting ballots, the validity of which shall be verified by their signatures.
19. The performances of each round will be evaluated by jurors with a score from 0 to 100 for every candidate.
20. Depending on the number of points received from the jury in the first round, six contestants with the highest number of points qualify for the semi-final.
21. Semi-finalists will have practice time at their disposal according to the schedule announced together with the results of the first round.
22. Pieces with electronic accompaniment in the semi-finals are to be performed using monitor speakers and a PA system provided by the competition.
23. Concert piano would be available for semi-finals, but it is the responsibility of Competitors to arrange everything concerning their accompanist – Competition does not cover such additional travel nor hotel expenses.
24. Competitors may use their personal instruments for practice in Semi-final and Final rounds. Rhythm-o-phonia will provide practice rooms and stage hands. Using personal instruments for the performance is permitted only in the Final round.
25. Number of points achieved in the Second round will be doubled for calculation.
26. Three highest scores of the semi-final go to Finals.
27. Finalists will have practice time at their disposal according to the schedule that shall be announced together with the results of the second round.
28. Points achieved in Finals will be tripled for total calculation.
29. The points from all rounds will be added and the winner of the competition is highest total score comprising points achieved in all rounds.
30. First prize of the RHYTHM-O-PHONIA Competition is 8.000 EUR, Second prize is 4.000 EUR, Third prize is 2.000 EUR.

# THE ZAGREB PHILHARMONIC

An orchestra with a 150 year old tradition of masterly music making in Zagreb and Croatia. A promoter of musical art throughout Croatia and cultural ambassador of Croatia in the world.

Ever since it was established, the Orchestra is bringing the best classical music to the Croatian capital, having its history written by first-rate chief conductors such as Ivan pl. Zajc, Lovro von Matačić, Milan Horvat, Pavle Dešpalj, Kazushi Ōno and Vjekoslav Šutej.

Numerous renowned soloists performed alongside the Zagreb Philharmonic - Yehudi Menuhin, Antonio Janigro, Mstislav Rostropovich, Montserrat Caballé, Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, Barbara Hendrix, Mischa Maisky, Jose Carreras, Shlomo Mintz, Ruža Pospíš-Baldani, Dunja Vejzović, Ivo Pogorelich, Renata Pokupić, Inva Mula, Garrick Ohlson, Denis Matsuev, Emmanuel Pahud et al.

The Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra holds its regular concert season in Zagreb, gives numerous successful concerts as well as distinguished guest performances in almost all European countries, from the European centres from Vienna and St Petersburg to the Far East and North America, Mexico, Japan, Oman, China, Argentina and United Kingdom. In addition, they are regular guests at leading festivals such as the Music Biennale Zagreb and the Dubrovnik Summer Festival, as well as devoted performers at various humanitarian events. Over the decades, the Orchestra has been encouraging Croatian composers by performing, premiering and recording their works.

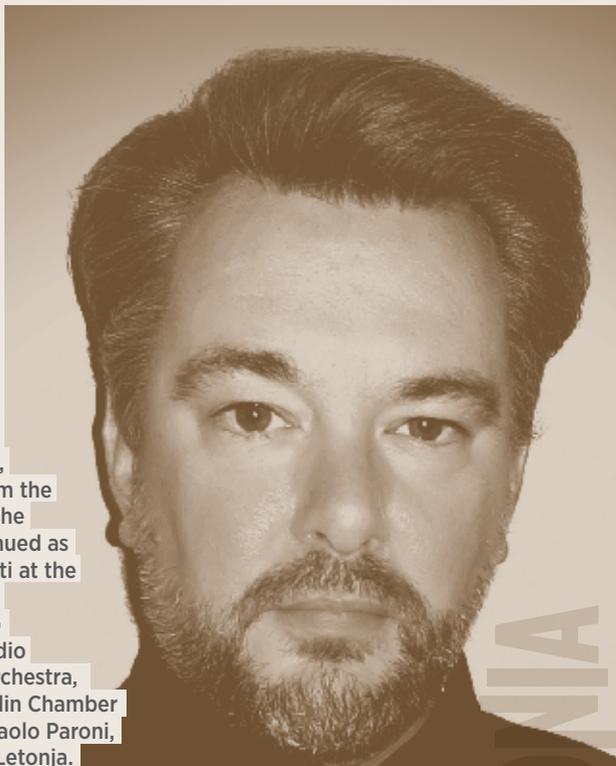
The Orchestra is also proud of its numerous recordings and CD releases recorded for renowned Croatian and international labels (e.g. Virgin Classics, Deutsche Grammophon, Naxos, Oehms Classics), which have received many recognitions such as the Croatian music award *Porin*.

Under the leadership of Maestro Dmitrij Kitajenko as Artistic Adviser and with Dawid Runtz as Chief Conductor from the Season 2020 – 2021 the Zagreb Philharmonic is continuing to host some of the great names of today's classical music scene providing countless musical experiences.



# PAVLE ZAJCEV

## CONDUCTOR



Pavle Zajcev (1976., Zagreb, Croatia) cellist, teacher and conductor, graduated cello from the University of Zagreb Academy of Music at the class of Valter Dešpalj after which he continued as a postgraduate student with Ivan Monighetti at the Music Academy in Basel.

As soloist, he performed with the Zagreb Philharmonic, Zagreb Soloists, Croatian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Croatian Chamber Orchestra, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra and Varaždin Chamber Orchestra with conductors Pavle Dešpalj, Paolo Paroni, Nicolai Alexeev, Mladen Tarbuk and Marko Letonja.

As chamber musician, he played in many ensembles with partners like Julian Rachlin, Misha Maisky, Torleif Thedeen, Edin Karamazov, Pavao Mašić, and Dmitrij Sinkovsky. As a founding member of the Zagreb Piano Trio, he attended masterclasses with renowned musicians and won numerous awards. Trio performed concerts in Croatia, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Serbia, Israel, Norway, Poland, and Canada.

From 2002 until 2010, he was the principal cellist of the Croatian Radio Symphony Orchestra. He regularly makes recordings for Croatian radio and TV. Since 2005, he is professor of Chamber Music at the Academy of Music in Zagreb.

In 2017, Pavle commenced his conducting studies in the classes of professors Mladen Tarbuk and Tomislav Fačini at the University of Zagreb Academy of Music. As a student he conducted several projects with various Academy ensembles.

He also conducted Samobor string players, Croatian Radio Symphony Orchestra, a production of a ballet *Nutcracker* P. I. Tchaikovsky at Croatian National Theatre in Rijeka and he is regularly conducting Zagreb Philharmonic, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra and Zadar chamber orchestra.

#### PRODUCTION AND COMPETITION OFFICE

Ida Szekeres, Gabriela Paradžik,  
Vesna Rožić, Petra Mitrović

#### PERCUSSION TEACHERS

Doc. Božidar Rebić,  
Doc. Marko Mihajlović  
Luis Camacho Montealegre, ass.

#### PERCUSSION STUDENT TEAM

Franko Štrbac, Lovro Baričević,  
Ivan Brigljević, Luka Mihajlović,  
Vedran Vujec

#### TECHNICAL ORGANIZER

Spektar putovanja  
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Ul. Andrije Hebranga 34  
HR-10000 Zagreb  
[www.spektar-putovanja.hr](http://www.spektar-putovanja.hr)

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[www.muza.hr](http://www.muza.hr)

FOR THE PUBLISHER  
Igor Lešnik

#### EDITOR

Igor Lešnik

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Hamper Studio  
Ivana Vučić  
Tom Jura Kačunić

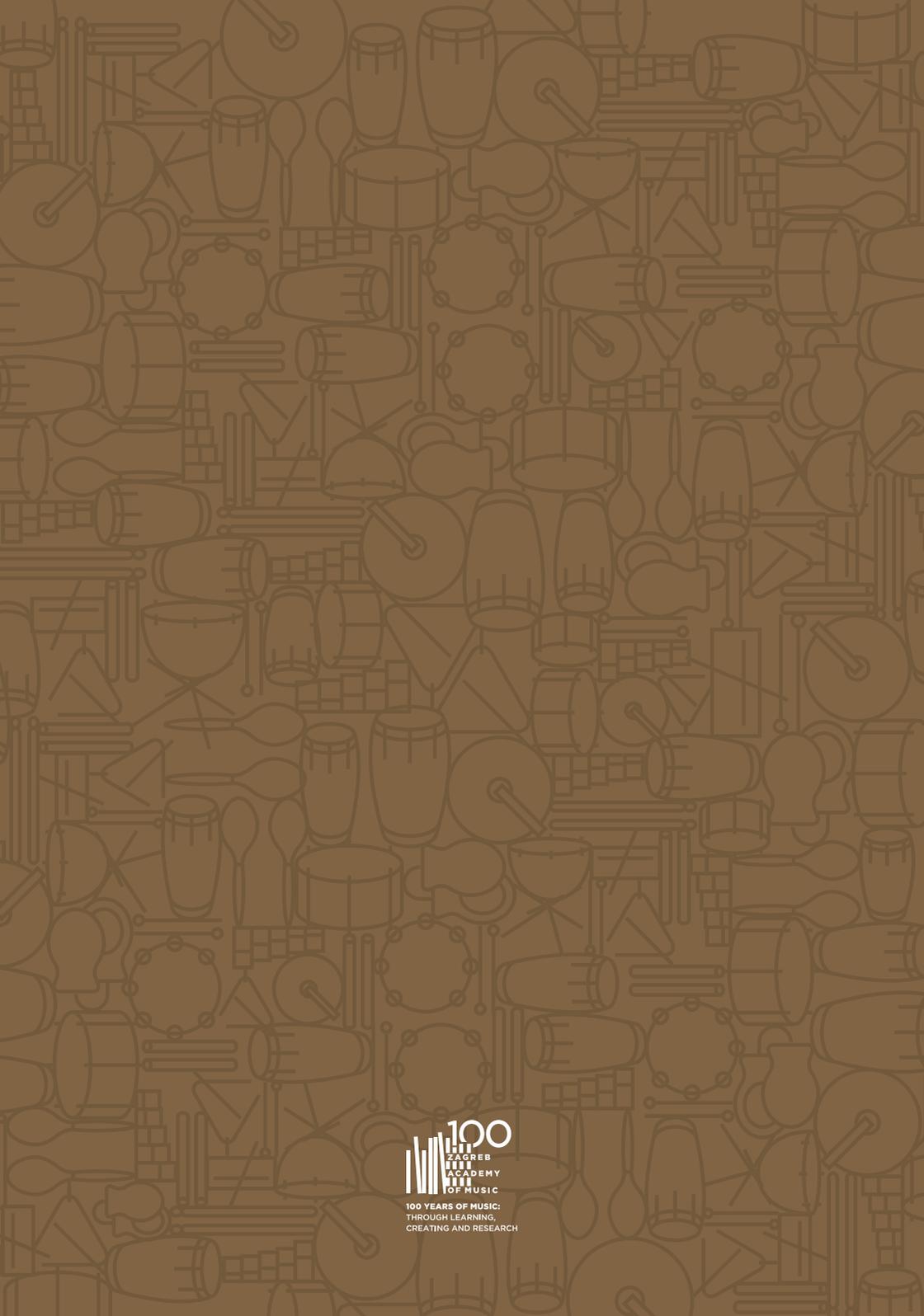
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100 YEARS OF MUSIC:  
THROUGH LEARNING,  
CREATING AND RESEARCH