

SHQIPËRIA NË ART

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KOZMA LARA (1930 - 2019) - SONATA NR.1

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3. Andante tranquillo 2:19

4. Allegro assai 3:42

RAMADAN SOKOLI (1920 - 2008)

5. Balladë nr.4 (Ballad nr. 4) 3:41

TONIN HARAPI (1926 - 1992) SONATINA

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(The tragedy itself had lost its way)

ENDRI SINA (1967)

15. Perhaps 8:24

TOTAL TIME: 68'53

Recording by Simone Sciumbata in Telecinesound - Rome October 2018 | Producer, musical direction and postproduction Rosella Clementi

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SHQIPËRIA NË ART



ALBANIAN
PIANO
WORKS



MARSIDA KONI

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ALBANIAN PIANO WORKS

The Professional music developments in Albania started in the beginning of twentieth century. They got intensively expanded after the *Second World War*, with the return after studying in Russia or Czechoslovakia of many young people who became the founders of the first institutions such as the *Conservatory of Tirana*, the *Opera and Ballet Theater*, the *Radio Television Symphonic Orchestra* etc. Among the most important names we may mention: Ç. Zadeja, T. Harapi, N. Zoraqi, T. Daija, K. Lara etc.

The Albanian music in the communist regime got developed within the closed spaces of classical and romantic examples, with clear shapes of folk music, but after the 65's it began to try to move towards Bartók or Stravinsky's new styles and models. Among the initiators of this tendency used to be F. Ibrahimi and other musicians. Only after 1990s the Albanian composers had the opportunity to experience themselves with the demand for individual stylistics and research of contemporary techniques. Actually the Albanian music up to date, especially the piano music, counts many of examples of high levels of piano techniques and of contemporary compositional ideas.

Lec Kurti (Shkodër 1884 - Rome 1948) is an Albanian composer, diplomat and politician. He studied composition in Pesaro and Venice. After the year of 1916, he is dedicated to a diplomatic and political career as a consul, a representative of Albania or a plenipotentiary Minister. After the establishment of communism regime in Albania he left the country. He used to live in Rome when he died in 1948.

Lec Kurti has left some works for piano, chamber music, vocal accompaniment, choral works as well as an Opera "*Arbëreshja*" (1915), partly lost. His compositional style addresses examples of romantic music of the time of speaking in which it emerge the Albanian folk styles.



MARSIDA KONI

Biography

In Albania Marsida Koni is considered one of the 100 Albanian Excellences worldwide. In fact she features in the "Albanian Excellence - 100 success stories". At the age of 22 she obtained a degree in Piano at Tirana University of the Arts, where she was immediately invited to teach. In Italy she obtained full marks cum laude for both her.

Diploma in Piano and for the subsequent specialization Diploma. She then studied under recognized masters such as F. Scala, L. Passaglia (Student of A. Cortot), E. Pastorino (student of A. B. Michelangeli), E. Ashkenazy, P. Masi etc all of whom expressed their admiration for her musicianship. Today she is involved in a busy concert schedule in Europe, the USA and Asia, both as a soloist and in chamber and orchestral ensembles. She teaches at the Piano Academy that she founded in Perugia, and since 2017 she has also worked with the "F. Morlacchi" Conservatory in Perugia. In 2018 the label Piano Classics (Brilliant Classics) released her CD "Albanian Piano Music" that gets excellent reviews on Musicweb-International (UK), Pianonews (Germany) and entry on the Top ten of radioclassica.fm. In 2012 she was voted by the Albanian public as one of the 100 Albanian Career Women in Albania and abroad. In 2014 the Perugia City Council awarded her the "Grifo d'Argento" for artistic merit. In 2017 she becomes honorary Member of Albania Excellence.

In 2018 like Missionary of Peace gets, from the Diplomatic Mission Peace and Prosperity (accredited in UN, EU, USA, NATO), the title of Honorary Ambassador of DMPP.

Ramadan Sokoli (Shkodër 1920 - Tirana 2018) is an Ethnomusicologist and Albanian composer. He studied the instrument of flute at the *Conservatory of Music in Florence* (1940-1944). When being back home he started working as Musical Instructor and later as a teacher at the *Tirana Artistic Lyceum*. Meanwhile he develops an intensive work as an ethnomusicologist, organizes joint expeditions with foreigners, and publishes in scientific journals in and outside the country. He is being considered as the founder of Albanian ethnomusicology. His composition works include the small and medium-sized instrumental and vocal music genres with strong nuances of Albanian folk music and its modal systems.

Simon Gjoni (Shkodër 1925 - Tirana 1991) is an Albanian composer and conductor. He started the first contacts with music as trumpet player in the City Band. After that he used to work as a music teacher at the *Shkodra Gymnasium* and the *City Radio Orchestra*. He penned many songs that became popular very soon. He studied in 1952 at the *Conservatory* and at the *Prague Music Academy* for symphonic conduction. After returning to Albania he was entitled Conductor of the *Symphonic Orchestra of Radio Tirana* and lately a conductor next to *Albanian Writers 'and Artists' Association*. His less instrumental works is distinguished for integral contacts with the country's folk music.

Tonin Harapi (Shkodër 1926 - Tirana 1992), is an Albanian composer being awarded as "*The People's Artist*". After his first contacts with music in the "*Franciscan Band*" as a clarinetist, he studied composition at the *Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory* in 1959-1961 and graduated at the *Conservatory of Tirana* in 1964. He started immediately to work as a Professor of Composition until he passed away. His work includes all genres of music, starting from the songs to the opera and the oratorios, from piano miniatures to instrumental concerts and symphonic works. His piano miniatures are distinguished for their lyricism, melodies, classical shapes and Albanian folk musical tunes.

Kozma Lara (Durrës 1930 - Tirana 2019) is an Albanian composer and "*Meritorious Artist*". He studied piano at the *Tirana Artistic Lyceum* to continue his studies (1959) for composition at the *Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory* to become graduated in Tirana in the class of Ç. Zadeja. At the beginning he worked at the *Ministry of Education* and then at the *Academy of Arts* as a professor of Musical Form. His wide opus of works includes instrumental genres starting from miniature to piano concerts, chamber music, vocal works and scenic works. His compositional style is well-known for impressionist tendencies and for rejuvenated piano techniques.

Shpëtim Kushta (1946 Vlorë) is an Albanian composer being distinguished by "*Meritorious Artist*" title. After being graduated in the class of Ç. Zadeja (1969) he was immediately appointed as Professor of Polyphony at this institution until he get retired. His wide, mostly symphonic and instrumental works counts successful works for time they were penned, including Albanian pop song. After 1990s though on the thematic thinking processes he kept searching his style within contemporary technical research, especially in terms of reversing new metaphorical ideas of the time and technically using pentatonic modes.

Haig Zacharian (1952) is an Albanian composer, born in Durres in a family of Armenian origins. He studied composition at the *Academy of Arts* in the class of Tonin Harapi. He used to work as artistic director, of various groups and music associations in Fierza and Durrës, becoming later a professor of composition and harmony at the *University of Arts of Tirana*. His music work is articulated and ranges from instrumental, choral, to movie soundtracks etc. His musical style after the fall of communism in the 1990s is distinguished by the clear tendencies of using and experimenting contemporary technique

Aleksander Gashi (1958) was born in Shkodra (AL). He started to learn the piano since he was 5. In 1976 he also studied composition being graduated in 1982, for piano and composition. At the age of 23 he became a piano teacher at the *Academy of Arts in Tirana*, with an intense activity as a soloist and composer. In 1991, moving to Rome, as a soloist he held concerts in various Italian and European theaters. Gashi is one of the best Albanian musicians working abroad. His mostly piano work is of the New-Romantic line where it is distinguished for its imagination and improvisation typical of Albanian music.

Endri Sina (1964) He started his musical path by studying bassoon. In 1989 he got graduated in composition at the *University of Arts* in Tirana. As soon as graduated he was appointed as a professor of the same University where he got his studies. He keeps teaching composition and harmony. He kept following various specialization courses. He has penn for various music genres like chamber music, vocal, symphonic, theater and movie soundtracks and even pop music. Sina is currently one of the most active composers of Albanian artistic life. His music is almost minimalist with the demand to increase the musical expression.

NESTOR KRAJA



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