

Saša Gerželj

Po začetku študija na **Konservatoriju za glasbo in balet Maribor** v Sloveniji je Saša pri šestnajstih letih uspešno opravila sprejemni izpit za študij klavirja na **Univerzi za upodabljajočo umetnost in glasbo v Gradcu**, kjer je pri dr. Walterju Kamperju zaključila dodiplomski (BMus) in magistrski študij (MMus). Nato je odšla v Kanado, kjer je s polno štipendijo študirala **Artist Diploma** pri Johnu Perryju na **Glenn Gould School** pri **Royal Conservatory of Music v Torontu**, kjer je sodelovala in se dodatno izpopolnjevala tudi pri Leonu Fleisherju. Njeno izobraževanje so obogatili mojstrski tečaji pri Pascalu Rogéju, Rudolphu Kehrerju, Marcu Durandu, Robertu McDonaldu, Julianu Martinu, Evelyne Brancart in drugih.

Med študijem v Avstriji je nastopala kot solistka z **Ensemble for New Music Graz** ter gostovala na številnih mednarodnih prizoriščih in festivalih, med drugim na **World Music Days**, *Ciclo de Primavera Boadilla del Monte* v Madridu, *Lange Nacht der Musik* v Gradcu, **International EPTA Luzern**, **Roy Thompson Hall** v Torontu, *Rising Stars Toronto*, *Yamaha Canada Showcase ROM*, **Festival Lent**, *Mozart Gala RCM Toronto*, **Glasbeni september**, *National Hall Maribor – Orkestrski cikel*, *Studio 14 RTV Slovenija*, *Piano Marathon Rogaška*, *Minoriten Saal Graz* ter na **Fringe Festivalu v Edinburghu**. Izvajala je Straussovo *Burlesko, op. 1* z **Rotterdamskim komornim orkestrom** pod vodstvom Conrada von Alphna in z orkestrom **SNG Maribor**, Brahmsov **Klavirski koncert št. 2** s **Scottish Sinfonia** pod vodstvom Neila Mantla MBE ter Schumannov **Klavirski koncert** z **GCO**. Snemala je za več radijskih postaj: **Radiotelevizijo Slovenija**, **ORF**, **Radio Nacional de España** in **CBC Kanada**.

Med njenimi nagradami so **Zoisova štipendija** Vlade Republike Slovenije za nadarjene študente (1994–2003), **nagrada Martha Debelli** za najbolj perspektivno študentko Univerze za glasbo in upodabljajočo umetnost v Gradcu ter **nagrada Ministrstva za kulturo Avstrije**. Študij Artist Diploma na Glenn Gould School je bil financiran s **štipendijo Jun Fujimoto** (2004, 2005) in **nagrado Margaret Phillips** (2004, 2005). Bila je tudi nagrajenka **mednarodnega klavirskega tekmovanja Pianello Val Tidone**. Leta 2013 je prejela **nagrado dr. Romana Klasinca** Konservatorija za glasbo in balet Maribor za izjemne dosežke na področju glasbe.

Saša je poučevala na **Konservatoriju za glasbo in balet Maribor** ter na **Univerzi za upodabljajočo umetnost in glasbo v Gradcu**. Vodila je številne klavirske mojstrske tečaje in delovala kot članica žirij na državnih in mednarodnih klavirskih tekmovanjih po Evropi. Je **umetniška vodja Koroškega mednarodnega klavirskega tekmovanja** in **poletne akademije PAMT** za mlade pianiste.

Njeni učenci dosegajo vidne uspehe na mednarodnih klavirskih tekmovanjih.

Povabljena je bila tudi kot **članica žirije BBC Young Musician za Škotsko**, kar je bila zanjo zelo prijetna in dragocena izkušnja.

After beginning her studies at the Conservatory of Music and Ballet Maribor in Slovenia, at the age of 16 Saša passed the piano performance entrance exam for the University for Performing Art and Music Graz, where she took her BMus and MMus with Dr. Walter Kamper. She then left for Canada to study for a fully-funded Artist Diploma with John Perry at the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music Toronto, where she met and was also tutored by Leon Fleisher. Her studies were enriched by masterclasses with Pascal Rogé, Rudolph Kehr, Marc Durand, Robert McDonald, Julian Martin, Evelyne Brancart and others.

While studying in Austria, she performed as a soloist with the Ensemble for New Music Graz and went on to numerous international venues and festivals, including World Music Days, Ciclo de Primavera Boadilla del Monte Madrid, Lange Nacht der Musik Graz, International EPTA Luzern, Roy Thompson Hall Toronto, Rising Stars Toronto, Yamaha Canada Showcase ROM, Festival Lent, Mozart Gala RCM Toronto, Rising Stars Toronto, Glasbeni September, National Hall Maribor – Orchestral Cycle, Studio 14 RTV Slovenia, Piano Marathon Rogaška, Minoriten Saal Graz, and the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh. She played Strauss' Burleske, Op. 1 with the Rotterdam Chamber Orchestra under Conrad von Alphen and SNG Maribor Orchestra, Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Scottish Sinfonia under Neil Mantle MBE and Schumann Piano Concerto with GCO. She has recorded for several radio stations: Radiotelevizija Slovenija, Österreichischer Rundfunk, Radio Nacional de España and the CBC Canada.

Saša's awards include the Zois Scholarship Slovenian government programme for gifted students in Slovenia (1994-2003), the Martha Debelli Prize for the most prospective student of the University for Music and Performing Arts Graz and the Ministerium für Kultur Austria Prize. Her study Artist Diploma at the Glenn Gould School of Music at the Royal Conservatory of Music Toronto was funded by the Jun Fujimoto scholarship (2004, 2005) and the Margaret Phillips Award (2004, 2005). She was also a prize winner at the Pianello Val Tidone International Piano Competition. In 2013 she received the Dr. Roman Klasinc Award from the Conservatory of Music and Ballet Maribor– Slovenia for exceptional achievements in music.

Saša has taught at both the Conservatory of Music and Ballet Maribor and the University for Performing Arts and Music Graz. She has conducted piano masterclasses and sat on the jury for national and international piano competitions throughout Europe. She is the artistic director of the Carinthian International Piano Competition and the PAMT Summer Academy for young pianists.

Her students have been successful in winning piano competitions international level.

She was also invited as piano judge for BBC Young Musician for Scotland which was a very joyous experience.