

About the authors

INGRIDA ALONDERĖ graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (BA in Choral conducting and MA in Music theory and criticism). At present, she works as a director of Vilnius city professional chamber choir “Jauna muzika” and keeps on expressing herself as a music critic, writing about cultural life in newspapers and online platforms. Currently, Alonderė is a PhD candidate at the joint doctoral programme of the Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute, and Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. The topic of her dissertation is “(Re)Interpreting Choral Tradition: Lithuanian Choirs in the Context of the 21st Century Performance Practices”, supervisor – Prof. Dr. Lina Navickaitė-Martinelli. The object of the study is interdisciplinary choir art as a distinctive and multifaceted phenomenon in the field of musical performance practice, sociology, and aesthetics of the present era.
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AGNĖ DŪKŠTAITĖ is accordionist, currently she is an artistic doctorate student at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and lecturer at the Department of Accordion. Agnė graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre with a bachelor’s (2014) and master’s (2016) degrees in accordion classes with professors E. Gabnys and R. Sviackevičius. The musician participated in internships with famous accordion performers I. Alberdi (Spain), J. Rättyä (Austria) as well in many other master classes. Agnė is a laureate of international competitions, and a participant in festivals in Lithuania and abroad. One of the areas of activity is performing new premieres with the ensembles Classic+, ContemporAcco. She has already taken part in scientific conferences in Poland, Austria, and Lithuania. In 2019 published a methodological book *The Book of the Little Accordionist. First steps*. Interests of research: the peculiarities of sound control with bellows, research of interpretations, original and modern repertoire for accordion.
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DARIUS KUČINSKAS – professor at Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania), musicologist at Lithuanian National Martynas Mažvydas Library, an international expert of European Higher Education (MusiQuE, Belgium). In 2002 he defended dissertation on genesis of Čiurlionis piano music (2002), reconstructed, edited and published for the first time many of Čiurlionis compositions, prepared and published urtexts of piano and organ music, compiled a complete catalogue of Čiurlionis musical heritage. Since 2010 he is researching Lithuanian music for player piano. Compiled a *Complete Catalogue of Lithuanian Piano Rolls* (2014), edited monograph *Ethnic Piano Rolls in the United States* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2021), had presentations at international conferences in Europe, USA, Japan. In parallel, Kučinskas is conducting research on musical culture and the archives of the Lithuanian diaspora. He edits and publishes discovered music by Lithuanian composers.
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AUSTĖJA KUSKIENĖ (b. in 1990) is a film journalist, working as an editor and creator of radio shows at LRT Klasika radio station. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism at Vilnius University (2012) and a master's degree in art theory (film studies) at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (2021). Since year 2020, she has been involved in the implementation of Cinema Culture Research in Tauragė County organized by Meno Avilyš. This project is the first of its kind in Lithuania with the purpose to research cinema's position in the cultural history, daily life and leisure of Lithuanian regions. Also, it investigates the role of cinema in the search for regional identity. Austėja Kuskienė also contributed to Meno avilyš' installation-research "The Projection Booth. Cinemas in Regions" (2021). Her plan is to continue working on the topic of her master's thesis – research on dialogues in Lithuanian cinema. Research interests: contemporary Lithuanian cinema, interfaces between sociolinguistics and film dialogues, verbal language in film dialogues. austeja.kuskiene@gmail.com

MARGARITA MOISEJEVA – Doctor of Humanities, she defended her doctoral dissertation in the field of Humanities (Ethnology) entitled "Orthodox Liturgical Chanting in Lithuania: Tradition and Change" in 2020 at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Since 2021, she works at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Department of Folklore Archives. Since 2021, she is a member of the International Society for Orthodox Church Music (ISOCM). She has published scientific publications in Lithuanian and foreign peer-reviewed scientific journals, presented papers at international scientific conferences in Lithuania and abroad, participated in international programs (IPEDAK in Norway, ERASMUS at the Ionian University in Greece, Orthodox Chanting Academy in St. Petersburg), and did internships at the Belarusian State Academy of Music. Research interests: religious music, orthodox chanting, orthodox chanting in Lithuania. moisejevamargarita@gmail.com

LINA NAVICKAITĖ-MARTINELLI is a Full Professor and Senior Researcher at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. She holds a PhD in musicology from the University of Helsinki (Finland). She has been giving keynote lectures in international conferences, organizing scientific events and taking part in national and international research, education and cultural development projects. She is the founder (2013) and curator of the LMTA Hub of Artistic Research and Performance Studies (HARPS). Navickaitė-Martinelli's books *A Suite of Conversations: 32 Interviews and Interludes on the Art of Music Performance* (Vilnius: Versus aureus, 2010) and *Piano Performance in a Semiotic Key: Society, Musical Canon and Novel Discourses* (Helsinki: Semiotic Society of Finland, 2014) have been awarded as the best Lithuanian musicological works of the respective years for innovative research into music performance. She focuses her research on various aspects of the music performance phenomenon, mainly approaching it from the semiotic perspective. More information at linamartinelli.wordpress.com. lina.martinelli@lmta.lt

VYTIS NIVINSKAS – jazz bassist, at first has studied music privately, later fascinated with jazz he traded studies of philosophy at Vilnius University to double bass studies at Vilnius Conservatory. From 1996 to 2000 he studied at Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LMTA). After local music studies he continued abroad – in 2000 at Det Fynske Konservatorium in Odense, Denmark

and from 2001 to 2003 master studies at DePaul University in Chicago, USA. He was one of co-founders of *Baltic Asteroids*, *Saga*, *Baisios Stygos*, *CinAmono* and *Užribis* bands, *Coltrane Impressions* and *Strange Doors* projects. He has participated in various music projects in twenty countries with *Riot*, *Giedrė & Jazz Miniatures*, *Outside In Trio*, *Trapeze*, *Baked Beans*, K. Wollesen, L. “Butch” Morris, D. Naujokaitis, P. Vyšniauskas, V. Chekasin, J. Maksimowicz, A. Gotesman, L. Mockūnas, V. Tarasov, O. Molokojedov, A. Anusauskas, A. Šlaustas, V. Mikeliūnas, D. Stalmokas, R. Rančys, *Milky Lasers*, *Jurga*, *Baltic Guitar Quartet*, G. Storpīrštis. He has also collaborated with different kind of artists including *Low Air* urban dance theatre, *Psilicone* theatre, dancer L. Juodkaitė, actor/singer B. Bublytė, OKT and Youth Theatre actors and many more. Since 2005 Vytis is on the faculties of LMTA and Vilnius Kolegija. Since 2007 he is on the board of Lithuanian Jazz Federation. In 2018 has started doctoral studies at LMTA (supervisors Prof. Rūta Stanevičiūtė-Kelmickienė and Prof. Anders Jormin). His academic and scientific interests are creative experiments with double bass in jazz music. As a researcher, he took part in several artistic research conferences (*Rhythm changes: Jazz Journeys*, Graz, 2019; LMTA Annual Conferences, Vilnius, 2020, 2021) and has written an article for *Ars et praxis* journal, 2020).

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JONĖ PUNYTĖ-SVIGARIENĖ, a pianist, an accompanist, and a lecturer at the LMTA Department of Accompaniment where she has been teaching since 2011. She is also on the staff at the Departments of Vocal Performance, String Instruments, and Wind and Percussion Instruments where she works as a chief accompanist. In that capacity, Jonė Punytė-Svigarienė is regularly invited to perform in international competitions in Lithuania and abroad. She is eager to share her professional experience with high school teachers and students: she is a teacher and methodologist at the National M. K. Čiurlionis School of Art. Apart from giving lessons, she also leads the research and methodology circle of accompanists for the schoolteachers. The pianist graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in the classes of Professor Olga Šteinberg and Professor Veronika Vitaitė. In 2001–2006, she continued to hone her skills as an intern at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart (Germany) with Professor Konrad Richter and Professor Cornelis Witthoefft. At the same time, Jonė Punytė-Svigarienė studied the technique nuances of playing the *hammerklavier* – the authentic early piano at the Trossingen University School of Music (Germany) under the supervision of Professor Eckart Sellheim. Jonė Punytė-Svigarienė’s participation at various competitions has been a huge success: she took the 1st place in the competition for chamber ensembles in Vilnius (2000) and the 2nd place in the 1st Vilnius International Competition for Singers and Accompanists (2005). At the 6th International Chamber Music Competition Franz Schubert and Modern Music in Graz (Austria), the pianist received the first award and a special prize for the best performed contemporary piece in the category of *Lied* (with Japanese soprano Wakako Nakaso, 2006). Jonė Punytė-Svigarienė has taken part in festivals in Lithuania, Germany, and Italy; she has appeared on the stage together with the LMTA Orchestra and Vytautas Magnus University Orchestra. The pianist dedicates herself to chamber music, especially the *Lied* genre, and has performed with singer Wakako Nakaso (Japan) and other stage partners in Germany, Austria, Italy, and Lithuania.

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ŽIVILĖ TAMAŠEVIČIENĖ completed Master's studies in musicology and the organ at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LAMT). She undertook doctoral studies in musicology at the LAMT in 1996–1999. In 2001–2006 she worked as a music programme editor for Lithuanian Radio, in 2002–2016 she was a secretary at the Lithuanian Composers' Union (LCU), and in 2012–2017 she was an editor at the LCU website Lithuania's Music Antenna. She has been the head of the Publishing Centre at the LAMT since 2013, and has been teaching at the Vilnius St Joseph Priest Seminary since 2015. Tamaševičienė has been a member of the board of the St Casimir's Gregorian Chant Studio in Vilnius from 1992 and a member of the Lithuanian Composers' Union since 2006. She has participated in international musicologists' conferences and seminars in Lithuania, Poland, Denmark and Norway. She won a Lithuanian Composers' Union prize for her book *Konstancija Brundzaitė. Dienoraščiai* (2016). Her academic interests include early and recent religious music, Gregorian chant, Lithuanian Catholic chantbooks and early Lithuanian musical writing.
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IMANTAS JONAS ŠIMKUS, doctoral student in art at University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Graduated from the symphonic conducting class of Prof. Juozas Domarkas. In his pursuit of a broader education, he also undertook studies in the humanities at Vilnius University and music pedagogy at LMTA. He has taken part in various conducting master classes (Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Lithuania, France). In 2018 he undertook an internship at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. From 2017, he has been invited to conduct at the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre. Šimkus has assisted on the première performances of operas by Donizetti, Verdi, Šerkšnytė and Sodeika, and conducted for more than 20 educational performances for children. He has been invited to continue working for the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 seasons at the LNOBT. As a conductor, Šimkus is actively involved in cultural life, records the compositions of young Lithuanian composers and has performed with Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra, Lithuanian State Wind Instrument Orchestra Trimitas, Šiauliai State Chamber Choir Polifonija, the LNOBT, as well as foreign music collectives: the Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra, Graz Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra (Austria) and the Hamburger Camerata (Germany). In 2017, he was invited by the Budapest MAV Symphony Orchestra to record a CD for Hungarian National Radio of Italian opera arias. Šimkus is also known as a choir conductor. Since 2015, he is art director and first conductor of the Vilnius sacred music choir Adoramus, with whom he conducted during the state visit of Pope Francis to Lithuania in 2018, on the occasion of the beatification of the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis in 2017 and for the visit of the Vatican state chancellor. He has appeared in concert with the choir in France, Austria, Poland and Lithuania, and recorded a CD with Adoramus of a cappella music titled *Benedicta Tu*, making his debut as a choir music creator. Among other works, Šimkus' recording of *Ave Maria* has been played on Austrian radio; the 2019–2020 concert season saw the première performances of his Mass in C Sharp Minor, *Beattitudines, Šlovinkite Viešpatį!* (Glory be to God), *Duok man save, mano Dieve* (Give yourself to me, my Lord), etc. His composition *Der Weg* made it into the finals of the young composers' competition Vox juventutis'19 and was performed by the Vilnius City Municipality Choir Jauna muzika. The conductor has also performed with the Riga State Chamber Choir Ave Sol.
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AUDRA VERSEKĖNAITĖ has a PhD in humanities (2006), Assoc. Prof. at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, the head of the Department of Theory of Music (since 2008). She is a member of Nordic–Baltic Network of Music Theory (since 2010). Since 2004 she has been a lecturer at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, the Department of Theory of Music. She has won scholarship to study and research at Helsinki University (2003), made presentations at international conferences in Lithuania, Finland, France, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia and UK, and has published a number of research articles in Lithuania and abroad. Areas of research interests include the aspects of musical form, composition techniques, intertextuality and others in the music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

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