

About the authors

JOANA DAUNYTĖ-SAVICKIENĖ is a harp performance professor at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (since 2016), and from 2023 – associate professor. She studied at the Geneva High School of Music (2008–2011), the Amsterdam Conservatory (2011–2013), and completed the Soloist Diploma study program at the Norwegian Academy of Music (2013–2016). Daunytė performed as a soloist in various countries (the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, France, Ireland, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, China and the USA). She has performed solo with the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra (she is currently its artist), Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, St Christopher Chamber Orchestra, Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra, VMU Chamber Orchestra, Šiauliai Chamber Orchestra and other prominent Lithuanian ensembles. She has performed in the main concert halls of Lithuania (Lithuanian National Philharmonic, Kaunas Philharmonic, Vilnius Congress Concert Hall, Klaipėda Concert Hall, etc.). Daunytė-Savickienė participates in contemporary music projects, and is a member of the unique family ensemble Regnum musicale. Evidence of the harpist's many achievements are evidenced by the scholarships and evaluations she has received. In 2022, Naxos (the world's largest classical music record label) released Joana's recorded CD *Čiurlionis on the Harp Strings*. The performer enthusiastically fosters the popularisation of work by Lithuanian composers for the harp, many of which she has premiered: by L. Narvilaitė, V. Barkauskas, V. Švedas, A. Malcys, Ž. Martinaitytė and A. Dūdaitė.
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AKVILĖ GELAŽIŪTĖ (1990) is a fiction and documentary film director and doctoral student of Film Directing at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Her feature documentary *Deminas: The Two Towers* (2015) won the Best Student Movie of the Year at the Silver Crane Lithuanian national film awards. She is currently working as a media production lecturer at VilniusTech University and is doing research for her doctoral thesis in the arts on the topic "Absurd Humor Strategies in Cinema" (LMTA).

Filmography:

- ♦ *Standart Pressure: 34 PSI* (premiere in 2024, 15 min), short film
- ♦ *Unseen Europe* (2019, 70 min), documentary
- ♦ *Buffet* (2019, 10 min), short film
- ♦ *Deminas: Two Towers* (2015, 60 min), documentary
- ♦ *Mary, There Was no Holy Mary* (2014, 15 min), short film
- ♦ *Best in Department* (2012, 20 min), short film

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IEVA JACKEVIČIŪTĖ graduated from ballet school and later studied acting and theatre education.

She is currently studying the peculiarities of creating performances for children in her doctoral studies and is actively engaged in educational activities: she teaches early art classes for babies and children, organises training for teachers on various topics of artistic education, works with adolescents and young people, and directs performances. The artist has three children, so her choice of creative and pedagogical activities is not accidental. Together with her husband, theatre-maker Raimondas Klezys, she has combined her creative and pedagogical activities to establish the independent theatre No Shoes, where the audience is invited to come without shoes, because it is cleaner in every sense.

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MONIKA JAŠINSKAITĖ is a theatre researcher and critic. She developed an interest in performing arts when studying Arts History and Criticism (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas), which she graduated from in 2014. During her studies, in 2012 she began writing about theatre and dance for cultural media and became involved in questioning the conditions for artistic creation. She collaborated with several companies, such as the National Kaunas Drama Theatre and Artūras Areima Theatre among others, she was also working for a regional state institution, the Juozas Miltinis Drama Theatre. She contributed to several dance and theatre productions as a dramaturg. In 2018, she initiated a statistical survey on behalf of the Performing Arts Critics Association of Lithuania, titled “Lithuanian Theatre in Numbers”. Now she is a PhD student in the Literature and Culture Research programme at the University of Tartu Institute of Cultural Research.

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GAILA KIRDIENĖ is an ethnomusicologist, associate professor, and doctor of humanities. In 1990, she graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music (now the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre) with a Master’s degree in violin, and later, in 1992 – in ethnomusicology. In 1995, she undertook a one-year internship programme at the University of Göttingen (Germany). Since 1992, she has been working at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, since 2002 she has been a senior researcher, and since 2013 – an associate professor. Her research ranges from traditional instrumental music performance to the ethnocultural education of Lithuanians and people of other nationalities, including emigrants to the USA and Soviet deportees in Siberia. In 2000, she published the monograph *Fiddle and Fiddling in Lithuanian Ethnic Culture* based on her dissertation. She has published over 50 scientific articles, studies and over 50 scientific dissemination, methodological works and expert studies, as well as 8 collections of scientific sources. In 2013, Gaila Kirdienė, together with musicologist Jūratė Vyliūtė, published *Lithuanians and Music in Siberia*, the book was recognised as one of the most significant publications of the year in the field of Lithuanian musicology. In 2020, she published the monograph *Lithuanian and Latvian Musical-Cultural Communication during Soviet-Era Imprisonment and Forced Exile: Brotherhood and Unity*. She is a member of the International Council of Traditional Music (ICTM) and the European Seminar of Ethnomusicology (ESEM), and is a participant in many conferences in Lithuania and abroad.

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MARIA MIROVSKAYA was born in Kharkiv (Ukraine). She performed with a symphony orchestra for the first time at the age of eleven. In 2000 in Moscow, she graduated *cum laude* from the Russian Gnesin Academy of Music, and in 2002 she completed postgraduate studies (assistantship-internship) at this Academy as a solo concert pianist. Maria has participated in master courses with Prof. W. Blankenheim, K. Steinegger, K. Hellwig, D. Bashkirov and others. In 1998, her performances of Mozart and Chopin were recorded by Radio Bern (Switzerland). She has played on stage in chamber ensembles together with many famous musicians. She performs as a soloist with various orchestras. Ukrainian and Swiss radio and television channels have created programs about the pianist. Maria Mirovskaya regularly participates in many international music festivals. The pianist collaborates with contemporary composers from Lithuania and Ukraine, she regularly performs their new works. Since September 2011, the pianist has been living in Vilnius. In 2023, Mirovskaya has completed her doctoral studies at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.

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TAMARA VAINAUSKIENĖ is a doctor of humanities (1993), and an associate professor at the Department of Singing at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (1996). Her scientific interests include education of the art of singing (history, theory, methodics); theory and practice of vocal music performance; development of national academic singing schools; formation of the system of music teaching in Lithuania, and the activities of institutions providing music education. She has published scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, reviews on art dissemination, articles for encyclopedic publications and reviews. She has delivered scientific reports at national and international conferences and written theoretical and methodological works, including *Formation of Vocal Basics* (2004). She also co-authored the scientific monograph *The History of Lithuanian Music. The Years of Independence 1918–1940* (2009). She is the author of the monograph *Virgilijus Noreika's singing school: foundation, origins, interaction of traditions* (2016).

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NERINGA VALUNTONYTĖ is a Lithuanian pianist who is gathering audiences throughout Europe with her varied solo and chamber music repertoire. Always searching for different performance ideas, she branches out by giving conceptual concerts and giving much attention to rarely heard and modern music. Valuntonytė has given solo and chamber music performances in various festivals based in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ukraine and Germany, played with the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Lviv Chamber Orchestra Akademia, Vilnius University Chamber Orchestra and the Szczecin Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, as well as creating conceptual programs such as “Stories”, “The Waiting” and “(In)complete”. Since 2020, Valuntonytė has been pursuing a doctorate in the arts at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, where she conducts research on the topic “Creating an Academic Musician’s *Persona*: From Stage to Personal Brand”. She focuses on subjects such as the changing image of academic music, self-branding, self-management, and entrepreneurship.

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AUDRA VERSEKĖNAITĖ-EFTHYMIU has a PhD in humanities (2006), is an associate professor at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and was the head of the Department of Theory of Music (2008–2019). Since 2004, she has been a lecturer at the LMTA in the Department of Theory of Music, which was renamed as the Musicology Department in 2020. She won a scholarship to study and conduct research at Helsinki University, made presentations at international conferences in Lithuania, Finland, France, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia and the UK, and has published a number of research articles in Lithuania and abroad. Her research interests include the aspects of musical form, composition techniques, intertextuality and other issues in the music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

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