

About the authors

RAMUNĖ BALEVIČIŪTĖ is a theatre scholar, doctor of humanities and vice-rector of art and research at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. She is also an associate professor in the Department of Art History and Theory at the same institution. Balevičiūtė has published a study on actor Henrikas Kačinskas (2006) and a monograph titled *Rimas Tuminas: Theatre More Real Than Life* (2012). Together with Ramunė Marcinkevičiūtė, she co-authored the book *Contemporary Lithuanian Theatre: Names and Performances* (2019), which has also been translated and published in South Korea and Georgia. She is actively involved in artistic doctorate processes and the dissemination of artistic research and has prepared scientific publications addressing issues in artistic research theory. Additionally, she works in the field of interdisciplinary research. Since 2023, she has headed the Performing Arts Research Centre at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre alongside Rūta Stanevičiūtė-Kelmickienė and organises the international research symposium IMPACT.

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ALMA BRAŠKYTĖ is a theatrologist and theatre critic, and is also a translator of fiction from Swedish. She graduated from Vilnius University with a Bachelor's degree in Scandinavian studies, later she received a Bachelor's degree in theatre studies and a Master's degree in art studies from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. She worked as the author and presenter of the programme "Kviečia teatras" on Lithuanian National Radio (2004–2006) and was responsible for public relations at Oskaras Koršunovas/Vilnius City Theatre and Vilnius International Theatre Festival Sirenos (2007–2009). Since 2009 she has been a lecturer at the Centre for Scandinavian Studies at the Institute of Baltic Languages and Cultures of Vilnius University. She publishes theatre critiques in *7 meno dienos*, *menufaktura.lt*, *Kultūros barai*, *Nemunas*, *Krantai*, *Teatro žurnalas* and she was one of the creators of the Lithuanian Theatre Showcase of the 2024 Sirenos festival. Currently she is preparing a dissertation on directorial adaptations of canonical drama at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.

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VINCENZO DE MARTINO is a graduate of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, where he was awarded a Master's degree in piano performance in 2017 and he also completed his artistic doctorate in 2021 under the supervision of Prof. Jurgis Karnavičius and Prof. Dr Lina Navickaitė-Martinelli with the research project "Interpreting Primitivism in Piano Music of the Twentieth Century". As a pianist, he has given concerts in Italy, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg and in the Baltics, both as a soloist and in collaboration with other artists. As a researcher, he has presented the results of his work at several scientific and artistic research conferences ("Doctors in Performance", 2018, 2021, 2025; "Typologies of Music Signification: Retrospective and Perspective", 2021)

and has published a number of articles (*Ars et Praxis*, 2019, 2020; *Menotyra*, 2025). He is currently engaged in the research project “Interpretations of the Lithuanian Pianistic Canon”, funded by the Research Council of Lithuania.

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RASA DZIMIDAITĖ-MANKAUSKIENĖ graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LMTA) with a degree in solo singing (class of Aušra Stasiūnaitė). In 2014–2015, she studied at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre under the Erasmus student exchange programme. The soloist has won numerous awards at international competitions, including second place at the Nehama Lifšicaitė International Singing Competition in 2025. The singer actively participates in opera productions, concerts and academic activities. She has performed in Estonia, Austria, Spain and Georgia. In 2022, she made her debut in the role of Nella in Giacomo Puccini’s opera *Gianni Schicchi* with the Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra conducted by Martynas Stakionis. Since 2022, Rasa Dzimidaitė-Mankauskienė has been engaged in artistic doctorate research on the topic “*Sprechgesang* in the works of Lithuanian composers from the second half of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century”.

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KRISTUPAS GIKAS is a Lithuanian flutist, sound artist and record producer, performing on wind instruments, turntables and electronics. He studied classical, contemporary and electroacoustic music at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and is currently pursuing an artistic doctorate in contemporary electroacoustic music at LMTA. As a performer, he has participated in festivals such as the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), Jazzdor Festival (FR), Vilnius Jazz (LT), Gaida Festival (LT), MAMA Jazz (LT) and Café OTO (UK), collaborating with artists including Liudas Mockūnas, Marc Ducret, Lorena Izquierdo, Anna Clementi, Anton Lukoszevieze, Marijus Aleksa, Arturas Bumšteinas, Vladimir Tarasov, Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis, Kazimieras Jušinskas and Manfredas Bajelis. His creative work spans solo performances, interdisciplinary art projects and ensemble collaborations (Fleity 3, Artisans, Ferry Good Company). Kristupas is also active in sound art, composition and curatorial practice. His works have been presented at venues such as die Raum (Berlin), Contour Art Gallery (Vilnius) and the Impuls Festival (Graz). He regularly curates experimental music projects, organises international tours and hosts the podcast series *Virpesiai*, dedicated to emerging Lithuanian creators in music and sound art. He is currently in the final stage of his doctoral research titled *Capturing Uncertainties Before, During and After the Performance: Cases of Studio Work, Improvisatory Stage Presence and Shifting Artistic Identity*, which investigates the phenomenon of uncertainty within creative processes, studio practices and improvisatory performance, as well as the fluidity of artistic identity. His research interests include improvisation, the exploration of uncertainty within creative processes, remediation as an improvisational strategy and the study of autonomy and interaction in electroacoustic music. Through his innovative approach, cross-disciplinary collaborations and unconventional instrumental practice, Gikas has become a significant figure within Lithuania’s experimental music scene.

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AIRIDA GUDAITĖ-ŽAKEVIČIENĖ is a professional dancer, choreographer and educator, and one of the most active female choreographers in Lithuania. She is the artistic director of the urban dance theatre Low Air, whose work has significantly contributed to the integration of hip-hop and urban dance into the professional performing arts scene. The debut production of Low Air, *Feel-Link* (2012), became the first urban/hip-hop dance performance in Lithuania and was nominated for the Lithuanian theatre award – the Golden Stage Cross. The choreographer's subsequent works have been repeatedly recognised with national and international awards. For their successful research and development of new stage forms combining urban dance and theatre, and for pedagogical work that has reshaped the landscape of contemporary dance in Lithuania, Airida Gudaitė and her creative partner Laurynas Žakevičius were awarded the Borisas Dauguvietis Earring (2016) and the Vita Mozūraitė Prize (2023), named after the dance critic, book scholar and Doctor of Social Sciences Vita Mozūraitė. Since 2017, Low Air has operated as the Vilnius City Dance Theatre. In her artistic practice, she explores the transforming vocabularies and textualities of hip-hop dance within urban cultural contexts, seeking to reveal its artistic potential. Her works have been presented at festivals including *Tanzmesse* and *Westwind* in Germany, *SIDance* in South Korea, *One Dance Week* in Bulgaria, the *Suzanne Dellal Centre* in Israel, the *Cannes Dance Festival* in France and many others.
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BEATA JUCHNEVIČ-TAMULEVIČIENĖ is a composer, performer, educator and music critic. She is an active participant in the contemporary music scene, collaborating with various performers and ensembles, including *Synaesthesia*, *Twenty Fingers Duo*, *Ensemble Adapter* (Germany), *Sofia-vokalensemble* (Sweden), *Paleasis* and others. Her works are performed both in Lithuania (at festivals such as *Gaida*, *Druskomanija*, *Muzika erdvėje*, *Muzikos ruduo* and more) and abroad (Poland, Sweden, Austria, Estonia, Belgium, etc.) and are regularly selected among the top fifteen works of the year. In 2020, as artistic director and conductor, she founded the contemporary music ensemble *Fluorescence*, with which she carries out a variety of projects. She is currently an artistic doctorate student at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, where she conducts research on compositional aspects regarding the articulation of noise in acoustic academic music.
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LORA KMIELIAUSKAITĖ is a Lithuanian violinist whose work focuses on contemporary music performance and interdisciplinary artistic practices, including theatre and film. She is currently pursuing an artistic doctorate at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre with an artistic research project titled *Searching for the Group Genius: The New Music Performer in Collaborative Situations*. Since 2023, she has held the position of researcher in the Excellence Cluster “Improvisation and Creativity in the Performing Arts” (Performing Arts Research Centre, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre). She is the co-founder of and performer in the contemporary music ensemble *Twenty Fingers Duo* and the art organisation *Tarp tylos*.
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JEKATERINA LAVRINEC holds a PhD in the humanities and works as an urban researcher and practitioner in urban space revitalisation, employing participatory art forms to analyse and revitalise urban environments. She co-founded the Laboratory for Urban Games and Research, which since 2007 has been implementing non-formal education initiatives and neighbourhood- and public-space revitalisation programs, and has developed game-based cultural routes for World Heritage sites, the openings of European Capitals of Culture and other cultural occasions (e.g., the centenary of the Great Union of Romania). In 2016, she became the Lithuanian ambassador for the EU Urban Agenda. In 2020, together with cultural organisations, foundations and municipalities operating in the Baltic Sea region, she co-founded an international network dedicated to cultural urban planning. She is a co-author of the Creative Industries study programme at Vilnius TECH and the author of Urban Studies modules taught at Lithuanian universities. Since 2009, she has curated the annual urban research and intervention week priARTink!, during which students explore and revitalise overlooked urban spaces. Her research and creative projects focus on users' experiences and their physical and emotional relationships with urban environments.
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RAMINTA NAUJANYTĖ is a doctoral student in the Arts at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, a lecturer in the Composition Department, the vice-chairperson on the board of the LATGA association and is a well-known songwriter and performer. Naujanytė completed her Bachelor's degree in academic composition (2015) and her Master's degree in electronic composition (2019) at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. She achieved success in choral composition in her academic work, winning prizes in the Vox Juventutis competition (2012, 2013, 2014) and having her work performed at song festivals (2016, 2022) and various choir competitions. In 2019, after Erasmus studies at LHI University in Iceland, Naujanytė's attention turned to new technologies in music. While completing her Master's degree, she and her team created sensor-based prototypes for gesture-controlled musical performance. Continuing her research in interactive playing systems, she is exploring non-tactile gesture-controlled musical performance and creation devices in her doctoral studies (supervised by Prof. Dr Lina Navickaitė-Martinelli and Prof. Dr Mārtiņš Viļums). Naujanytė has presented her original works in Norway, Ukraine (2013), Switzerland, the USA (Chicago), Iceland (2018), Japan and South Korea (2019). She further developed her musical knowledge at Bobby McFerrin's courses (2011), the Interdisciplinary Involvement and Community Spaces project (2013), RigaLive (2018) and EEMA courses (Eastern European Music Academy, 2020).
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KAMILĖ RUPEIKAITĖ is a musicologist and a doctor of humanities. She completed her Master's degree studies in music history at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in 1999, studied at European Jewish Institute PAIDEIA in Stockholm in 2004–2005 and defended her doctoral dissertation in humanities (art research, musicology) on “Semantics of Musical Instruments in the Bible” (supervisor Jūratė Gustaitė) in 2006. Since 2007 (with a break from 2019 to 2022), she has been teaching at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, and since 2010 she has been an associate professor. Rupeikaitė has been working at the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute since 2012, where she has been a senior researcher as of 2022. In 2023–2025, she was the scientific

secretary of the scientific journal *Menotyra* published by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. Has been a member of the Lithuanian Composers' Union since 2014. Rupeikaitė's research interests include the multicultural contexts of music, symbolism of musical instruments and the musical culture of Lithuanian Jews. She has published over twenty scientific articles and read papers at international conferences in Lithuania and abroad. She is the author of the monograph on the renowned Lithuanian contemporary composer Anatolijus Šenderovas (2020, in Lithuanian).
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ŽILVINAS VINGELIS is a theatre director, interdisciplinary artist, cultural project coordinator, Artistic Director of the NGO Kosmos Theatre, a freelance XR content creator and a lecturer at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LMTA); he holds an artistic doctorate degree, and, since 2025, he has been Acting Head of the Department of Acting and Directing at LMTA. Vingelis completed his Bachelor's and Master's studies in theatre directing at LMTA and, from 2021 to 2025, has been pursuing doctoral studies in arts, he received his Doctor of Arts degree in 2025. His research field encompasses visual theatre, media art, montage and strategies of intermedial theatre-making. In his pedagogical practice, he teaches courses in visual theatre, puppetry and object theatre at LMTA and supervises students' master-level artistic research projects. Outside of the LMTA, he has given lectures and presentations in Croatia (International Puppet Theatre Review LUTKOKAZ, Academy of Arts and Culture, Osijek), Estonia (Visual Theatre Festival Tallinn Treff, Tallinn), Latvia (International Puppet Theatre Conference Contemporary (Puppet) Theatre. Where To Go?, Riga), France (International Puppet Theatre Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes, Charleville-Mézières) and Finland (Festival of Puppetry and Animated Forms TIP-fest, Turku), as well as at professional events organised by the associations UNIMA, ASSITEJ, and the international network of higher education theatre schools Alexandria Nova. Since 2019, he has served as the Artistic Director of the annual international visual theatre workshop Kosmos LAB. From 2021 to 2023, he coordinated the Contemporary Puppetry and Object Theatre Laboratory SurReality Check at the State Vilnius Puppet Theatre Lėlė. Since 2023, he has been curating the artistic programme of the annual interdisciplinary art platform ConTempo OFF. Over more than a decade in professional theatre, he has directed a dozen performances (LILA: The Demiurge's Secret Game, Kafka Insomnia, #Protest, Orpheus, The Dilettante, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat) and more than several dozen interdisciplinary projects and virtual reality experiences. His productions were nominated for the Golden Stage Cross award in various categories in 2021, 2022, and 2025. In 2021, he received the Golden Stage Cross for the online performance #Protest. Vingelis theatre productions have been presented in Finland, Portugal and at dozens of theatre and arts festivals across Lithuania.
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