

GEORGIAN SORIN ZLAT



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“For as long as I can remember, my greatest joy has been sitting at my piano and expressing my thoughts and feelings through the music I play” - Sorin Zlat

Sorin was born on May 7, 1985, to a family of accomplished musicians. Growing up surrounded by the sound of classical and contemporary music, he started studying the violin and clarinet at the age of seven. At thirteen, Sorin won the National Music Olympics and two years later was featured as a soloist with the Romanian Philharmonic Orchestra “*Mihail Jora*.” In 2009, he graduated from the George Enescu University of Arts with a degree in classical clarinet.

During the university years, Sorin started to experiment with jazz. Beginning as an autodidact, his musical influences shifted to the work of Dizzy Gillespie, Keith Jarrett, Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Oscar Peterson, Chick Corea etc. He found the piano as the sublime instrument to reflect his innermost feelings as a composer and orchestrator and decided to perfect his technical virtuosity by pursuing a master’s in music degree at the Romanian National University of Music, the Piano Jazz Section, from which he graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2011.

Sorin’s style is a surprising fusion of jazz, Latin, pop, and classical music, which erupts into a colorful and fascinating repertoire. His talent gained him instant recognition on the international jazz scene. He proved to be a promising young musician from the beginning of his performing career, by winning the Grand Prize at the 2009 International Student Jazz Competition, in Targu Mures, Romania and the Grand Prize at the 2010 International Jazz Competition, in Sibiu, both while still a student.

Starting in 2011, he won top place at several renowned international jazz competitions. Some of them are: **The Great American Piano Competition Jacksonville, Florida – Grand Prize (2015); International Jazz Competition, Getxo, Spain - Best Solo Performance, Best Band Performance, and Prize of the Public (2011); Montreux Jazz Piano Competition, Montreux, Switzerland - Finalist Prize (2015), International Jazz Competition, Monaco - Grand Prize**

and Prize of the Public (2013); International Jazz Competition, Lille, France - Golden Jazz Trophy and Special Prize of the Jury and (2014). He was also a two-time winner of the “**Best Jazz Musician of the Year**” award in his home country and received the **Citizen of Honor Distinction** in 2018. In 2020, due to his rich track record, Sorin was honored to join the Yamaha Music company as a **Yamaha Artist.**

Sorin performed at numerous international venues, festivals, and jazz clubs either solo or with his trio/quartet. Notable festivals and clubs include **Jacksonville Jazz Festival (Florida, United States), Washington Jazz Festival, New Orleans Jazz Festival & Jazz Conference, Blue Note (New York), Smalls Jazz Club (New York), Birdland Jazz Club (New York), Ronnie Scott’s (London), Vortex Jazz Club (London), Music Village (Bruxelles), B-Flat Jazz Club (Berlin), Seoul Jazz Festival, King’s Place Hall (London), Izmir Jazz Festival (Turkey) , Nardis Jazz Club (Istanbul), Jefferson Theatre (Beaumont U.S.A), Roccella Jazz Festival (Italy), Montreux Jazz Festival, Getxo Jazz Festival (Spain), Sibiu Jazz Festival, Jazz Napocensis, Cluj Napoca, Bucharest Jazz Festival, Jazz Compass Festival, Perra Festival (Istanbul, Turkey), Jazz Hoeillart (Belgium), Enter Enea Music Festival (Poland) etc.**

He had the chance to share the stage and collaborate with great artists such as: **Jerry Bergonzi, Howard Levy, Woody Witt, Joris Teppe, Rick Margitza, Kenny Garrett, Lee Ritenour, Branford Marsalis, Lee Konitz, Chick Corea, Joey Alexander, Roy Hargrove, Chris Potter, Chucho Valdes, Sonny Emory, Jeff Ballard, Dave Grusin, Ravi Coltrane, Leszek Mazdzer,** and more.

In the summer of 2015, Sorin released his first album, entitled ***Endurance***, a work centered on the power of love and family. The album was inspired by Sorin’s younger sister who started battling cancer in 2011. It was from the pain, suffering, and turmoil that arose from those events,

that the song *Roxane* was born, a song whose melody masterfully encompasses all those emotions. With influences from the Latin, flamenco, and classical music styles combined with jazz, each song on *Endurance* reaches new harmonic and rhythmic depths that leave a lasting impression with the audience.

Sorin's latest album is entitled *The Land of Dreams*. Having had the opportunity to perform alongside numerous national and international artists, he wanted to create an album showcasing musicians coming from different generations, cultures, and schools of thought, but who are all unified by the common language of jazz. The project features artists from all over the world that Sorin collaborated with in recent years, with each of them bringing his unique style to the table: Gianni Gagliardi - sax (Spain), Gianluca Renzi - bass (New York), Iulian Nicolau - drums (Romania), Woody Witt - sax (USA), David Craig - bass (USA), Daniel Dufour – drums (USA), Riley Lonergan - sax (UK), Mikele Montolli - bass (UK), Andy Trim – drums (UK), Catalin Milea - sax (Romania), and Michele Acker - bass (Romania). With styles ranging from cool jazz to post-bop, Latin, flamenco, funk, and avant-garde, *The Land of Dreams* is the realm of all the musicians and music is its universal language.

Please see the next page for notable achievements.

NOTABLE AWARDS AND ACHEIVEMENTS

- ✚ 2020 - Yamaha Artist
- ✚ 2020 Euroradio International Jazz Competition, Bucharest, Romania
 - Grand Prize
- ✚ 2019 City of Bacau, Romania
 - Honorary Citizen – Awarded the City Key for Outstanding National and International Performance
- ✚ 2018 Jazz Gala, Muzza Jazz Association, Bucharest, Romania
 - Best Band of the Year Award – “Groove Garden” Jazz-Funk Project
- ✚ 2017 Romanian Composer and Musicians Society, Bucharest, Romania
 - Best Jazz Musician Award
- ✚ 2017 Jazz Gala, Muzza Jazz Association, Bucharest, Romania
 - Award for Outstanding International Career – Awarded by the Romanian Cultural Institute
- ✚ 2015 Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition, Jacksonville, Florida, United States
 - Grand Prize
- ✚ 2015 Jazz Awards Gala, Muzza Foundation, Bucharest, Romania
 - Best Musician of the Year
 - Best Band of the Year “Sorin Zlat Trio”
- ✚ 2015 Nominee for the Public Diplomacy Award and Most Important People of Our Time (Oamenii Timpului), Bucharest, Romania
- ✚ 2014 Romanian Composers and Musicians Society; Bucharest, Romania
 - Best Jazz Musician of the Year
- ✚ 2014 Montreux Jazz Piano Competition, Montreux, Switzerland

- Special Prize of the Jury
- ✚ 2014 International Jazz Piano Competition, Vilnius, Lithuania
 - Second Place and People's Choice Award
- ✚ 2014 International Jazz Competition, Lille, France
 - Special Prize of the Jury and *Golden Jazz Trophy*
- ✚ 2013 International Jazz Competition Johnny Raducanu, Braila, Romania
 - Best Band Award
- ✚ 2013 International Jazz Competition, Monaco
 - Grand Prize and People's Choice Award
- ✚ 2012 International Jazz Competition, Hoeillart, Belgium
 - Special Prize of the Jury
- ✚ 2011 International Jazz Competition, Getxo, Spain
 - Best Solo Performance, Best Band Performance, and People's Choice Award
- ✚ 2011 Europafest International Jazz Competition; Bucharest, Romania
 - Grand Prize
- ✚ 2010 International Jazz Competition, Sibiu, Romania
 - Grand Prize
- ✚ 2010 Jazz Awards Gala, Bucharest, Romania
 - "Confirmation of the Year" Award
- ✚ 2010 International Jazz Competition, Târgu Mures, Romania
 - Best Band Award
- ✚ 2009 Jazz Awards Gala, Bucharest, Romania
 - Best New Artist Award

 2009 International Jazz Competition for University Students, Târgu Mures, Romania

- Grand Prize