



SORIN ZLAT

Jazz Pianist | Composer | Arranger | Yamaha Artist

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Born in the city of Bacău, on May 7, 1985, into a family of musicians, Sorin grew up surrounded from an early age by the sounds of classical and jazz music.

Continuing the family tradition, he began studying violin and clarinet. At the age of 13, he debuted as a soloist with the Bacău Philharmonic Orchestra "Mihail Jora". In 2009, Sorin graduated from the "George Enescu" University of Music, Iași, Clarinet Department.

During his college years, Sorin began to experiment with jazz music. First as a self-taught musician, he studied pieces by artists who had a major influence on jazz history such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Keith Jarrett, Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Chick Corea, etc. During this process, Sorin discovered the piano as the right instrument for developing his career as a jazz musician and it opened new horizons for him towards composition and orchestration.

In 2011, he graduated from the Master's degree at the University of Music in Bucharest, Jazz Department, Instrument: Piano, in the class of Professor Mircea Tiberian, where he founded the Sorin Zlat Trio, with which he is still active today.

Sorin quickly developed a repertoire of his own compositions and jazz standards re-orchestrated in his own way that brought him instant recognition on the national and international jazz scene. In 2009, he won the Grand Prix at the International Jazz Competition in Târgul Mureș, followed in 2010 by the Grand Prix at the International Jazz Competition in Sibiu. From this point on, Sorin's career continued to rise, currently holding over 20 national and international awards, including the Grand Prix at the EuropaFest Jazz Competition (2011), the Best Band and Best Soloist Award at the Getxo Jazz Competition in Spain (2011), the Best Band Award at the Johnny Răducanu

International Jazz Competition (2013), and the Grand Prix and Audience Award at the Monaco International Jazz Competition (2013).

His success reached one of its highest peaks in the spring of 2015 when he represented Romania at the International Jazz Competition held in Jacksonville, Florida, United States of America. Out of over 500 applicants worldwide, only 5 finalists were selected. Sorin won the Grand Prize, becoming the first non-American pianist to win the trophy in the competition's over 30-year history.

His talent continued to be recognized with the Musician of the Year Award at the Bucharest Jazz Gala for two consecutive years (2014, 2015), the Jazz Award offered by the Romanian Composers and Musicologists Union (2017), the title of Honorary Citizen of the city of Bacău (2019), and in 2020 he was awarded the highest title offered by Yamaha, "Yamaha Artist Worldwide".

He is currently the leader of the Sorin Zlat Trio with which he performs on national and international stages.

The artist has collaborated and shared the stage with renowned artists from the world of jazz such as Howard Levy, Ashley Pezzotti, Rick Margitza, Gianluca Renzi, Gianni Gagliardi, Woody Witt, Dennis Marks, etc. In Romania he has collaborated with Cătălin Milea, Alex Man, Sebastian Burneci, Luiza Zan, Nadia Trohin, George Dumitriu, Iulian Nicolau, Răzvan Cojanu, Laurențiu Ștefan, Michael Acker, Big Band-ul Radio, etc.

In 2017, Sorin was invited as a headliner to perform with his trio opening for the late jazz pianist Chick Corea at the Jacksonville Jazz Festival U.S.A.

Among the stages where Sorin has performed, there are the following clubs: Birdland and Smalls in New York, Vortex, Pizza Express, Ronnie Scott's in London, Nardis Club in Istanbul, Jazz Café Club in Montreux, B-flat Club in Berlin; festivals such as Jacksonville Jazz Festival U.S.A., Izmir Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Getxo Jazz Festival, Jazz Weekend Brussels, London Jazz Festival, Rocella Jazz Festival, Berlin Jazz Fest, Sibiu Jazz Festival, Jazz Napocensis Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest Jazz Festival, Timișoara Jazz Festival, Gărna Jazz Festival, Tulcea Jazz Festival, Câmpina Jazz Festival, Csíki Jazz Festival Miercurea Ciuc, Ploiești Jazz Festival, Danube Jazz Festival-Galați, Bacău Jazz Festival, Jazz Compass, Perra Festival, Istanbul, Turkey, Jazz Hoeilaart, Belgium, Enter Music Festival, Poland, Baku Jazz Festival, Azerbaijan, etc.

In 2018, he was invited by the "Rimbaud & Verlaine" Foundation to the renowned King's Place Hall in London to compose music in memory of the two poets, reflecting their works on the sounds of jazz music. The concert was acclaimed by the press and London music critics.

In addition to the numerous concerts held in Europe and the U.S.A. in prestigious clubs such as Blue Note, Birdland and Smalls in New York, Vortex, Pizza Express, Ronnie Scott's in London, Nardis Club in Istanbul, Jazz Café in Montreux, B-flat in Berlin, etc., Sorin Zlat has also dedicated himself to musical education, organizing workshops for students and big bands from various jazz universities.

From 2017 to the present, he has been employed by the Paul Constantinescu Philharmonic in Ploiești, as a solo pianist in the jazz section, where together with Răzvan Cojanu and Laurențiu Ștefan they have performed numerous concerts under the name Ploiești Jazz Trio and recorded an album in 2021 entitled "ROJAZZ50".

In 2023, Sorin was accepted as a full scholarship holder to the prestigious Royal College of Music in London, England, where he studied the Artist Diploma in Film Music Composition. This achievement highlights the diversity of his talent and his continued desire for development and exploration in different musical genres.

Over the years, he has performed with his trio as an opening act for great jazz artists such as Chick Corea, Dave Weckl, Lee Ritenour, Kenny Garrett, Bill Evans, Ravi Coltrane, Branford Marsalis, Joey Calderazzo, Avishai Cohen, Yellowjackets, etc.

He was awarded a full merit scholarship for doctoral studies at the National University of Music in Bucharest, jazz piano musical interpretation section, and he is in the position of University Professor at the same university, where he teaches jazz piano to students.

EDUCATION

- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MUSIC, Bucharest, Romania | 2025 | Doctor of Music, Jazz Piano
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, London, United Kingdom | 2024 | Artist Diploma, Composition for Screen
- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MUSIC, Bucharest, Romania | 2011 | Master's Degree, Jazz Section, Piano
- UNIVERSITY OF MUSIC "GEORGE ENESCU", Iași, Romania | 2009 | Bachelor of Music, Clarinet
- ARTS COLLEGE "George Apostu", Bacău, Romania | 2004 | Graduate, Clarinet

AWARDS

- 2020 | The title of "Yamaha Artist"
- 2019 | The title of "Honorary Citizen" of the city of Bacău
- 2017 | The Jazz Award from UCMR
- 2017 | International Lifetime Achievement Award, Romanian Cultural Institute, Jazz Awards Gala, Muzza Foundation, Bucharest, Romania
- 2015 | Grand Prize, Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition, Jacksonville, Florida, United States of America
- 2015 | Musician of the Year Award, Jazz Gala, Muzza Foundation, Bucharest, Romania
- 2015 | Nomination, "People of the Time", "Public Diplomacy" Section, Bucharest, Romania
- 2014 | Special Jury Prize awarded by pianist Leszek Możdżer at the Montreux Jazz Piano Competition
- 2014 | Musician of the Year Award, Romanian Composers and Musicologists Union, Bucharest, Romania
- 2014 | First Prize and Audience Award, International Jazz Piano Solo Competition, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2014 | Finalist, International Jazz Competition "Made in NYC", New York City, United States of America
- 2014 | Finalist, International Jazz Competition for Solo Piano, Nottingham, England
- 2013 | Special Jury Prize, "Golden Trophy" International Jazz Competition, Lille, France
- 2013 | Grand Prize and Audience Award, Monaco International Jazz Competition
- 2013 | Best Band Award, Johnny Răducanu International Jazz Competition, Brăila, Romania
- 2012 | Special Jury Prize, International Jazz Competition, Hoeilaart, Belgium
- 2011 | Grand Prize for Best Solo Performance, Grand Prize for Best Trio, and Audience Award, International Jazz Competition, Getxo, Spain
- 2011 | Grand Prize, EuropaFest International Competition, Bucharest, Romania
- 2011 | Special Jury Award for Overseas Activity, Jazz Awards Gala, Bucharest, Romania
- 2010 | Grand Prize, International Jazz Competition, Sibiu, Romania
- 2010 | Confirmation of the Year Award, Jazz Awards Gala, Bucharest, Romania
- 2010 | Best Band Award, International Jazz Competition, Târgu Mureș, Romania
- 2009 | Debut Award, Jazz Awards Gala, Bucharest, Romania
- 2009 | Grand Prize, International Jazz Competition for Students, Târgu Mureș, Romania

DISCOGRAPHY

- 2015 | ENDURANCE
- 2021 | ROJAZZ50
- 2022 | THE LAND OF DREAMS
- 2023 | AT THE END OF JULY