Neven Šobajić, pianist

Neven Šobajić was born in Belgrade, in 1979. At the age of sixteen, he enrolled in the Faculty of Music Art at the University of Belgrade, in the class of Prof. Jokut Mihailović, graduating with distinction in 2003. Doing his postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Music in London from 2004 to 2006, in the class of Prof. Niel Immelman, he also took chamber music and conducting courses mentored by the members of the Chilingirian Quartet and maestro Neil Thomson. After a specialisation course at the Faculty of Music Art in Belgrade in the class of Prof. Lidija Stanković, he completed a doctoral programme under the mentorship of Prof. Jokut Mihilović, receiving his PhD at the University of Belgrade in 2013.

Neven Šobajić has participated in master classes given by eminent pedagogues such as Sergei Dorensky, Andrew Ball, Ronan O’Hora, Steven Savage, Bernard D’Ascoli, John Lill, Leon Fleisher, Lewis Kaplan, John Butt, and others.

He won the First and the Special Prizes at the Yugoslav Republic and Federal Competitions, respectively, the Second Prize at the International Competition in Moncalieri, Italy, and the Third Prize at the International Competition in Stresa, Italy.

As a soloist he has performed at different venues across Serbia, and mainly in Belgrade – the Kolarac Concert Hall, the Belgrade City Hall, the Belgrade Culture Centre, the Russian Culture Centre, the Crystall Hall at the Hyatt Hotel, the Guarnerius Fine Arts Centre, the Students’ Culture Centre, the Parobrod Culture Centre, the Gallery of the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences in Belgrade, as well as at the City Halls of Novi Sad and Subotica, the Culture Centres of Pančevo, Smederevo, Pirot, etc.

He took part in the 20th Budva City Theatre Festival and the 20th Barski Ljetopis Festival in Bar, and performed at the Park Theatre in Herceg Novi – in Montenegro. He has also given recitals at the Banski Dvor Hall in Banja Luka in Republika Srpska, the Serbian Culture Centre in Paris, and at Guy’s Chapel in London.

He was one of the performers at the Homage to Messiaen at the Kolarac Concert Hall in Belgrade, as well as at the concerts dedicated to Chopin’s and Liszt’s anniversaries in 2010 and 2011, respectively, organized by the Belgrade Culture Centre, and at the Chopin Fest in Belgrade in 2014.

Among his other pianistic activities, Neven Šobajić has also collaborated with mezzo soprano Olja Dakich, performing at the Kolarac Concert Hall in Belgrade and at the Berlin Concert House in 2010.

Besides pursuing a career as a solo pianist, Neven Šobajić has also been active as a piano pedagogue, currently teaching at the Slobomir P University in Republika Srpska.