

# ***INTRODUCTION OF MUSICIANS***



**MAG. ART. ŠPELA KRŽAN** graduated with honour at University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where she studied flute with prof. Hansgeorg Schmeiser. As an exchange student she also studied at „Conservatoire national superieur de musique et de danse de Paris“ with Vincent Lucas, Sophie Cherrier and Philippe Bernold. In Dec. 2011 and Jan. 2012 she was a soloist with Israel Chamber orchestra, where she performed Bach Suite for orchestra No. 2 in b-minor. In September 2009 she competed and won first place at „Haifa International Flute Competition 2009“ in Israel. She also competed successfully at many other competitions - ARD competition in Munich, Jeunesse Musicales in Romania, Böhm competition in Munich, Domenico Cimarosa in Italy. She attended many festivals and took lessons from distinguished professors like Philippe Boucly, Hevre Hotier, Luisa Sello, Aurelle Nicolet, Davide Formisano, Jan Ostry, Karl Heinz Schütz, Natalie Rozat, Aleš Kacjan, Gaspar Hoyos in others. Špela Kržan continues her concert career as a soloist and member of many chamber groups - Musica Calamus (flute - organ), Duo Fla-Via (flute - violin), ChiliArtQuartet, Flute quartet Flautistica and a flute - harp duo. Occasionally she cooperates with Wiener Volksoper, with which she toured Japan in December 2010 and January 2011. In February 2008 she attended a tour in Bombay with Wiener Jeunesse Orchester and she also worked with Symphony Orchestra of India and Mondo Musicale Orchestra. During her studies she was a regular member of Webern Orchestra. In August 2009 she held a summer masterclass for flute in Radlje ob Dravi. She is currently employed as a flute teacher in Vienna (Austria) and in Private music school in the monastery of Saint Peter and Paul in Ptuj (Slovenia).

**BARBARA UPELJ, M. M.** graduated from Academy of Music in Ljubljana in 2006, where she studied with professor Rok klopčič. In 2006 she was accepted to a postgraduate program at The University of Texas at Austin, Texas, where she studied with Dr. Eugene Gratovich. She completed her studies with honors in May 2008. Barbara competed in several national and international competitions and achieved high rankings. She attended music festivals in Europe (Saint Petersburg, Russia; Burgos, Spain; Viana do Castelo, Portugal) and the USA (Austin, Texas), where she also had solo recitals. In 2008 she was honored by the University of Texas at Austin for an outstanding master's recital. She was one of the first members of Austin Pops, the leading Austin orchestra for popular music. During her time at the UT at Austin she was also a member of String Project, an organization for educating children in string instruments. She was also Dr. Eugene Gratovich's teaching assistant. She is currently employed as a private violin teacher in Graz, Austria and is also active as a solo and chamber musician. In the summer of 2009 she organized the festival Glasba v Kloštru, which had a great response and has been an important part of Ptuj's cultural life ever since. She is a co-founder of Duo Fla-Via and ChiliArtQuartet, her musical engagements also include Terrafolk, rock group Avven, the A la Fetish project and many other classical and non-classical projects. She continues her studies in the field of musical pedagogy at Edgar Willems Center in Ljubljana.

**ŽIVA HORVAT** started learning piano at Music school Maribor and also sang in MPZ Maribor choir (now Carmina Slovenica). She continued her studies at the Conservatorium for music and ballet in Maribor and later at University of Pedagogy in Maribor in the field of musical pedagogy.

She is interested in music in all its diversity. During her studies she started collaborating with artists from different genres as a pianist, accompanist, back-vocalist, choir singer and choir director. She worked with Carmina Slovenia choir, Tadeja Vulc, Anika Horvat, Zoran Predin, Laibach and many singing choirs. She was a member of vocal group Canticum, led by Jože Fürst. With them she performed on many venues, festivals and recording studios in Slovenia and abroad.

She is currently employed as a piano teacher and accompanist at Private music school in the monastery of Saint Peter and Paul in Ptuj and as a ballet accompanist at the Music school Slovenska Bistrica. She participates with her students on many competitions in Slovenia and abroad. She is active as a choir accompanist and a member of many classical and non-classical groups. She is interested in continuing her studies, especially in the field of musical pedagogy.