

Aleksandar Sasa Spasic

Aleksandar (Sasa) Spasic is born on April 8th 1967 in Belgrade, from father Dragoslav Spasic (1935-2005) and mother Ivanka Spasic, born Grbatinic (1940-2005), he had an older brother Djordje Spasic (1960-2013).

A. Spasic finished Elementary school „France Presern“ in Belgrade and Elementary Music school „Davorin Jenko“ in Belgrade (piano department) with honours and diplomas „Stevan Mokranjac“ and „Svetozar Markovic“, as well as prizes at competitions in the Music school. He started his schooling at the Music High School „Stankovic“ at the piano department, to continue, after the third year, the schooling solely at Theory Department, which he terminated with honours, standing out in the fields of theory, conducting, composition and music history. After finishing the Theory Department, he enrolled the Strings department at the Music school „Stankovic“, where he took two years of preparation for the instrument contrabass.

Since 1987, he studied conduction at the Faculty of Musical Arts in Belgrade in the class of professor Anton Kolar and after professor Jovan Sajnovic. He got his diploma in 1996 and his master degree in 2001 in the class of professor Jovan Sajnovic with opera production „Secret Marriage“ by Domenico Cimarosa and with thesis defence from opera conducting. He finished successfully his conducting studies with the highest note 10 (ten) and average note 9,87. His master thesis (with the Opera production „Secret Marriage“ on the Big scene of „Madlenianum“ Chamber Opera, today „Madlenianum“ Opera and Theatre): „Analysis of Opera „Secret Marriage“ by Domenico Cimarosa and comparative review with Mozart’s opera opus“ was presented and defended in front of Commission composed of professor Jovan Sajnovic (mentor), professor Stanko Sepic and professor Darinka Matic Marovic.

Since 1995, he studied opera directing at the Arts Academy BK in Belgrade (today Alpha University) in the class of professor Mladen Sabljic and professor Gordan Dragovic. His final exam consisted in directing the second act of Richard Wagners „The Flying Dutchman“ at the Little scene of National Theatre „Rasa Plaovic“ in Belgrade. He finished successfully his Opera directing studies with the note 10 (ten) and average note 9,21. During studies he got the scholarships from Saint Sava’s Temple, „Polimark“, „Zepter“ and dr Keilitz from Vienna.

A Spasic passed two times admission exams and was admitted in the first promotion of doctoral studies (in 2003 and in 2007) at Interdisciplinary doctoral studies in the Rectorate of University of Arts in Belgrade (Art Theory, mentor professor dr Miodrag Suvakovic and professor Nevena Dakovic) and at the Faculty of Dramatic arts in Belgrade (Art management, mentor professor Milena Dragicevic-Sestic and professor Nikola Maricic). In both cases, he didn’t pursue his schooling in first year of Doctoral studies because of personal problems related to tuition fees and lack of assistance and scholarships.

Between 1991 and 1994, A. Spasic did some pedagogical work in Music school „Stankovic“ in Belgrade (conducting, choir, partition playing etc), in Seminary Saint Sava in Belgrade (basis of music and choir) and at the Academy of Arts in Pristina (conducting, choir, partition playing) and actually in Zvecan.

In 2006 (October 13th) he was elected assistant professor (Opera director) for Opera studio and acting class at the Faculty of Philology and Arts of University in Kragujevac.

During the academic year 2007/08, he was employed at the same Faculty as conductor and teacher of Chamber orchestra.

At the Academy of Fine arts in Belgrade, during the academic year 2008/09 he was employed as assistant professor, conductor and chief of Opera studio.

In 2011, A. Spasic was re-elected assistant professor at FILUM (14.12.2011.) for special artistic domain of Directing (Opera studio and acting) – Artistic domain: Dramatic and audio-visual arts.

In March 2012 he was engaged at FILUM (two semesters, till February 2013) for the subject Art of speaking.

In 2013, A. Spasic was elected for the Manager of Study programme for solo singing at FILUM.

In March 2014 he was engaged at FILUM (during one semester) for the subject Art of speaking. During the academic year 2014/15, he was part time teacher in quality of invited professor in Belgrade the subjects acting and then choir and conducting at the University „Slobomir“ (Bijeljina). In April 2015 he was engaged as conductor of Symphonic orchestra of FILUM in establishing (March-May). In 2015 (30.11.2015.) he was elected Associate Professor (FILUM), in specialized artistic domain Directing (Opera studio and opera acting) – Artistic domain: dramatic and audio-visual arts.

A. Spasic wrote few professional papers for music festivals as well as analysis of operas for the website and catalogues of „Madlenianum,,. As collaborator or member of editorial staff, he took part in the realization of several professional books and monographic publications. For exemple : Radoslav Lazic „Aesthetics of Opera directing,,, Richard Wagner „Opera and Drama,,, Monography of Rotary Club Belgrade (in 2012, on the occasion of 20 years of work), Viktor Novak „M.Vrhovac,, 1928/2014 and Vladimir Jovanovic „,Madlenianum Chamber Opera,, in 2014, etc.

A.Spasić took part at:

1. International Scientific Conference in Kragujevac (2011., FILUM), with the paper : „Comparative review of Eastern and Western Liturgy through an analytic and historical approach,,;
2. International Scientific Conference in Kragujevac (2012., FILUM), with the paper : „Relation between music and drama in theatre pieces with singing by Josif Schlesinger,,;
3. International Scientific Conference in Kragujevac (2013., FILUM), with the paper : „Music and Drama in „Ivkova slava,, by Stevan Mokranjac and by Stevan Sremac,,.

Since 1985, he worked as choir conductor and collaborated with many choirs, among which we distinguish:

1. With the Jewish choir „Braca Baruh,, (1987.-89.; 2003.-04.) he travelled to Israel and Greece and took part in the recording of a CD (LP) with Jewish spiritual and secular music (PGP RTS);
2. With the choir „Beogradski madrigalisti,, (2005.-07.) he got Silver diploma in Rome (Vatican - Musica sacra a Roma), took part at the Festival in Llangollen (Wales) and the Festival in Obrociste (Bulgaria), where he received the only prize – the Prize of the Audience. He opened few national Festivals on the occasion of 55 years of work of the Choir and recorded a double CD of Spiritual music (published in 2009 – circulation of 5.000 copies);
3. With Choral Society „Mokranjac,, of the Temple of Saint Sava (1988.-2000.) he was invited to many national and international Festivals. He got the First prize in Poland and the Third prize in Greece, as well as the Prize on the occasion of 2000 years of Christianity at the Festival in Nis. Along with the regular services in the church and the Temple, he realized a series of concerts, presenting the works of more than 50 Serbian composers and numerous authors were performer as premieres. In 1988, he re-established the Society and rejuvenated its singing composition, for the needs of future Memorial Temple in Vracar and in 1991 he founded the first Children Church Choir „Rastko,, at the Temple of Saint Sava. He recorded a CD with Choral Society „Mokranjac,, and Saint George’s Royal String (Natan);
4. With the Vocal ensemble „Oktoih,, (2000) as founder and conductor he organizes concerts of interreligious music, researches and records (6 CDs) unknown and new works, took part at international and national Festivals and competitions, receives prizes and diplomas „Vojislav Ilic,, (2002, 2003, 2004) for the best conductor at the Festivals „Choirs among frescoes,,; in 2005, he gets the Second prize at the Choir competition in Ankara (Turkey) and in 2008 the Third prize in the category of Chamber choirs at the Choir competition in Varna, Bulgaria (First and Second prize were not awarded). He took part at the Festivals in Pesaro in 2003, in Nuoro in 2004, in Miskolcz in 2004 and 2006, in Kragujevac in 2006, in Negotin in 2007 and in Thessaloniki in 2008. In 2009, „Oktoih,, performed in „Madlenianum,, Mass of St. John of God by Haydn. On the occasion of 10th work anniversary, „Oktoih,, performed at BEMUS, in 2010, the premier of Missa Romana by Pergolesi (on the occasion of 300th anniversary of the birth of the composer). At the same occasion was recorded the CD (Natan) with Saint George’s Royal Strings, in the hall of Kolarac Foundation. In October 2011, he started the international collaboration with the choir „Rhein Main Vokalisten,, (Germany) and realized the concerts with the support of Goethe Institut in Belgrade and Novi Sad (CD, GEMA). In 2013, the collaboration continued with two concerts in Offenbach (Germany) where the two ensembles performed together and recorded a CD containing the works of Serbian spiritual music (St.Mokranjac, A. Spasic), and especially with the collaboration of the New Philharmonics of Frankfurt, the capital work „Offenbacher Messe,,. In 2015, he gave, with Vocal ensemble „Oktoih,, a concert within the European Free Mason Conference in Belgrade.

A. Spasic is engaged in composing and research of Serbian spiritual music, but also in analysis and performing of the music of Christian churches and the studies of other religious music.

His compositions are protected in SOKOJ : 8 compositions and 25 arrangements. His works were recorded in Belgrade, Serbia, Poland, Holland and Germany.

Until now, A. Spasic has collaborated with several Chamber orchestras, as well as with almost all national Symphonic orchestra (Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, Serbian Radio and Television Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra „Stanislav Binicki,,, Nis Symphonic Orchestra and Symphonic Orchestra of Novi Sad Opera) and with foreign State philharmonic orchestras from Arad (Romania), Bialystok (Poland). Despite of embargo inflicted to Serbia (in May), A. Spasic took part, in September 1992, in the International competition of orchestral conductors in Besançon (France), where he was accepted and supported by the President of the Jury, Maestro John Nelson, conductor of Metropolitan Opera (New York, USA). During the concert season 2012-13, he collaborated successfully with Nis Symphonic Orchestra as permanent honorary invited conductor. This collaboration was crowned with the concert „Gratitude to the Maker,, on the occasion of the celebration of the Jubilee of Edict of Milan in Nis. In 2015, he accepted to be one of the founders and chief-conductor of the Symphonic orchestra of the city of Kragujevac (March-May), today FILUM Symphonic orchestra and invited conductor of the Orchestra „Schlesinger,,(Kragujevac) – on the occasion of the Jubilee of 25 years of work of the Academic Chamber Choir „Liceum,, (Kragujevac).

A. Spasic is author of music for theatre, TV and films:

„Jack, or the Submission,, (1988,JDP, directed by Nikita Milivojevic); „Vozd,, (1991, Radovanjski lug and Theater „Masuka,,, directed by Vladimir Tasic); „Full Moon over Belgrade,, (1993., MP Film production, directed by Dragan Kresoja) and „Vladimir Corovic and Society „Zora,,,, (1998.,RTS, directed by Dragan Cirjanic).

As director, A. Spasic has staged:

1. „The Stick of Saint Sava,,,stage show (1995, Serbian National Library);
2. „The Flying Dutchman,,, part of Opera by Richard Wagner (1999., National Theater in Belgrade, Little Stage);
3. „Cantate about coffee,, by J.S.Bach, stage show (2001., Chamber opera „Madlenianum,,);
4. „Dedication to the founders of Serbian music,,, stage show (2006., „Liceum,, AKH, Kragujevac);
5. „Jubilee – 30 years of SKC KG,,, stage show (2007, Kragujevac, and direction of documentary - DVD);
6. „Brahms love waltzers,, , stage show (2008, ``Liceum`` AKH, Kragujevac);
7. „Harold Pinter,, – award of honorary doctorate, stage show and scenography (2008,FILUM, hall of Rectorate of the University in Kragujevac);
8. „Secret marriage,,, opera by Domenico Cimarosa, adapation of opera and directing (2009, FILUM Opera studio and Knjazevsko-srpski Teatar (National Theatre) , Kragujevac, premiere of adaptation);

9. „Secret marriage,,, opera by Domenico Cimarosa, adaptation and directing (2010, FILUM Opera studio, on the occasion of the Day of FILUM, Kragujevac, renovation of the play);
10. „Telephone,,, opera by Gian Carlo Menotti (2011, FILUM Opera studio and American corner in Kragujevac, under the patronage of the American Embassy in Belgrade);
11. „Gratitude to the Creator,,, stage show – concert on the occasion of the Anniversary of Edict of Milan (2013, Nis Symphonic Orchestra and FILUM Opera studio, Nis);
12. „Founder Nikola Spasic, on the occasion of the religious holiday of Saint Tryphon,,, solemn academy (2014, Solemn hall of Zvezdara Clinic and center, Belgrade);
13. „In memory of M. Vrhovac,, solemn academy – stage show (2014, Ethnographical Museum of Belgrade).

Since the establishing of Chamber Opera „Madlenianum,,(today „Madlenianum,, Opera and Theatre), he took part, as resident conductor, during ten years, in the staging of all opera productions. Until 2007, he conducted operas „Signor Bruschino,, by Rossini (premiere in 2000), „Secret marriage,, by Cimarosa, „The Wise,,by Orff, „Cosi fan tutte,,by Mozart and „Hofmann’s tales,, by Offenbach. Besides numerous plays at the principal scene in Zemun, he conducted also in scenes and Festivals: in Budva (1999, City Theater, opening), Palic (1999, Nights under the Tower, summer scene), House of Aviation, Zemun (2003), Serbian National Theater in Novi Sad (2003, Big scene) , Negotin (2003, Festival Mokranjcevi dani, opening), Jugoslovensko dramsko pozoriste (2004), Smederevo (2004), Arandjelovac (2004, Festival Marbles and sound, opening).

Since 2007, as opera conductor, A. Spasic takes part in preparation of projects of FILUM Opera studio, Kragujevac ,as well as the projects of Opera studio at the Faculty of Music arts in Belgrade (in 2007 opera „Orpheus and Eurydice,, K.W.Gluck and in 2008 opera „The Marriage of Figaro,, W.A. Mozart).

A. Spasic was member of few Jurys, first and foremost at Choral Festivals and the Competition of young solo signers „Nikola Cvejic,, in Ruma. In June 2013,he was member of the Jury of the Republic Competition of school choirs and orchestras in Novi Becej, under the patronage of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia.

A. Spasic plays piano and the organ (church, accompanied by the studies of Gregorian chorals and the theory and regulations of the Western music), speaks English and Italian (he also took classes of French, German and Turkish in schools of foreign languages).

He is member of UMUS, UDUS, Association of pedagogues of Serbia, Balkan choral forum, Artistic Council of the Festival of Chamber choirs in Kragujevac, Association of friends of „Madlenianum,,, Syndicate of Opera artists, Association of born Belgradians, Association of world travellers, Aero club, Jockey club, Rotary club Belgrade, Rotary club Kragujevac, Serbian Federation of Soko – Soko Association Kragujevac, Humanitarian foundation „Good voice,,.

A. Spasic lives in Serbia, works in Belgrade and in Kragujevac. He is the father of Sofija Spasic (Belgrade, 2002) and Jelisaveta Spasic (Belgrade, 2011). He is married with Danijela Spasic, born Jovanovic (Nis, 1973., who has a daughter Anastasija Zivkovic (Nis, 1998).

Aleksandar Sasa Spasic's artistic expression covers various domains of art, spirituality, culture and media, in Serbia and abroad. By his birth, baptism and orientation, he is Serbian orthodox, he was never member of any political party (although he brought to many among them his musical assistance and helped as conductor) and, according to his personal convictions, he is engaged in favour of a better and more humane world, as well as self-cultivation and artistic and spiritual width through the collaboration and the exchange of experiences on the national and international plan.

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You Tube : Aleksandar Sasha Spasic

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo-FQjuMVotydfsI5nZIU4Q>