

# Raimondas SVIACKEVIČIUS

## *curriculum vitae*



- **Birth date and place:** May 26, 1975, Vilnius, Lithuania
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- **Personal website:**  
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- **Main fields of competence:**
  - artist, accordionist, pedagogue, artistic research, music education, publishing, organizing cultural and educational events
- **Fields of interest:**  
 music, visual arts, media and cultural studies, art sociology
- **Foreign languages:**  
 English, German, Lithuanian, Russian, Polish

**Raimondas Sviackevičius** is Associate Professor and Head of the Accordion Department at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. He holds his studies Diplomas from different European schools - Lithuania, Finland, Holland and Poland. He participated in many international competitions winning many of them. As a concert artist since 1995, Sviackevičius has performed many concerts, participated in different important festivals, presented special projects dedicated to contemporary music. Work with Lithuanian composers is an important part of his activity. Performing actively as a soloist he also plays chamber music and participates in various formations and unconventional groups playing avant-garde music projects. To a lesser degree his musical inclinations also include performing free jazz and experimental music. Some experimental projects with famous musicians as composer Pauline Oliveros (USA) or Tuvan throat singer (*Khöömei*) Sainkho Namtchylak (Tuva) were highly appreciated by critics. World projects with south folk - jazz substructure are presented by BSM Trio. In 2004, he joined the contemporary music ensemble Gaida, and since 2009 has been actively involved in the Lithuanian Ensemble Network (LENsemble). As a soloist he has performed with the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, the Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, Kaunas Symphony Orchestra, St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra, the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra and Klaipėda Chamber Orchestra, Chordos String Quartet, Kaunas string Quartet, Disobedient Ensemble and many others.

He has given recitals, appeared in original programmes at the festivals Klangspuren (Austria), Venice Biennale (Italy), Utraschall (Germany), Vale of Glamorgan (G.Britain), Turning sounds, W. Lutoslawski Modern Art Forum, Musica Moderna (Poland), Gaida, Muzikos ruduo, Permainu muzika, Is arti, Jauna muzika, Sugrįžimai, St. Christopher Festival, Druskomanija, Druskininkų vasara su Čiurlioniu, Bayan i Bayanisty in Moscow, accordion festivals in Sanok, Czestochowa, Lublin, Bielsko-Biala (Poland), Chelyabinsk, Ufa (Russia), among others. He has performed with great success in Germany, Italy, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Denmark, Poland, Holland, Sweden, Austria, the USA and Russia.

Sviackevičius closely collaborates with Lithuanian composers, commissioning and performing new works for accordion. In 2004, he released his first solo CD entitled A Farewell to arms after Nomedas Valančiūtė's work written for him. In 2006, he commissioned and premiered the first Lithuanian Concerto for accordion and chamber orchestra Breakthrough

by Žibuoklė Martinaitytė. 2007, he gave first performance of Promise, the first Lithuanian Work for accordion and symphony orchestra by world renowned composer Feliksas Bajoras, at the Gaida Contemporary Music Festival. Several Concertos by Jurgis Juozapaitis, Giedrius Kuprevičius, Arvydas Malcys, Anatolijus Šenderovas, Remigijus Merkelys were performed later.

As a pedagogue Sviackevičius has been giving masterclasses and guest lectures in Lithuania, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Russia, Slovakia etc. He has often masterclasses at various European Academies including Copenhagen Danish Royal Academy, London Royal Academy, Rome Santa Cecilia Conservatory, Linz Anton Bruckner University, Tallinn Music Academy, Gdansk Academy, Warsaw Chopin University, Vicenza, Trieste, Pula, Kragujevac Academies of music. He has held Masterclasses at Summer schools Giardini Naxos in Sicily, Santa Severina South Italy, Penderecki Cultural Center in Lusławice, Poland and other places. Since 2000, Sviackevičius has been on a faculty at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Many of his students are winners of various international competitions, appear in various festivals, and are actively involved in concert life where they are recognized as contemporary music adepts. He is also a pedagogue at the Vilnius J.Tallat-Kelpsa Conservatory.

He has participated in various international conferences and seminars presenting accordion methods and specific of contemporary music. Sviackevičius also has published articles in journals. he is editor of *Akordeonija* magazine. Collaborating with lithuanian composers he has prepared and edited more than 70 works for accordion, some were published by different editions.

He has been a member of jury at various national and international competitions including most prestigious accordion contests *Der Internationale Akkordeonwettbewerb Klingenthal* in Germany or *Premio Citta di Castelfidardo* in Italy and many other competitions in Poland, Serbia, Italy, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, China, New Zealand, Hungary, Austria, Croatia etc. He regularly organizes international events in Lithuania. International accordion festivals and competitions organized by Sviackevičius are world known events with high reputation between professionals.

Since 2004, his concert activity has been funded by Ministry of Culture and Culture Council of Lithuania. He also have been awarded Special Diplomas as the teacher who prepared winners of various international competitions by President of Lithuania and Prime ministers.

Recently, beside his performing career Raimondas Sviackevičius has been actively involved in organization of various accordion events, and since 2008, he has been an artistic director of International Accordion Festivals in Vilnius and Palanga. Since 2011 he is heading also International accordion competitions in Vilnius as artistic director. Sviackevičius is the founder and coordinator of the Youth projects *New winds*, which involve all country young generation accordionists to collaborate sharing their professional experience. At the LMTA he also founded contemporary music ensemble *ContemporAcco* which collaborated with lithuanian composers, premiering new works and doing experimental concerts. He focuses his research on various aspects of the contemporary music performance phenomenon.

From 2010 Raimondas Sviackevičius is the President of Lithuanian accordionists association (established in 1986). Association as biggest and oldest accordion organization in Lithuania is responsible for main international accordion events, collaborations between other associations, methodical, pedagogic and professional exchange in all levels and degrees from music schools to academies.

## ***Education***

- **2013-present** Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, 3rd cycle, Artistic doctorate. Thesis "Acoustical specificities of contemporary accordion in the context of modern music"
- **1999-2001** Royal Conservatoire in the Hague (Koninklijk Conservatorium Den Haag), Netherlands. Accordion solo and chamber music Postgraduate studies under Prof. Friedrich Lips and Johan De With.
- **1999-2000** Sibelius Music Academy in Helsinki (Finland), solo and chamber music studies under Socrates/Erasmus programme with Prof. Matti Rantanen.
- **1998-1999** G & K Bacewicz Academy of Music in Lodz (Poland), solo studies under accordion professor and composer Bogdan Dowlasz.
- **1999** Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Master degree in accordion. Studies under Professor Zita Abromavičiūtė.
- **1997** Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Bachelor degree in accordion. Studies under Professor Zita Abromavičiūtė.
- **1994** Juozas Tallat-Kelpša College of Music in Vilnius, Graduation Certificate of Secondary Education and Diploma in Accordion and Conductor.

## ***Professional experience***

### **Full-time position**

- **Since 2015 - present** Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Contemporary music department, member of founding board, programme coordinator, selected teacher.
- **Since 2014 - present** Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Head of Accordion department.
- **Since 2014 - present** Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Member of Academy Council.
- **Since 2001 - present** Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Teacher, Subjects - accordion, chamber music, instrumentation, pedagogics.
- **Since 2002 - present** Juozas Tallat-Kelpša Conservatoire, College of Music, Vilnius
- **1994 - 2013** Karoliniškių music school, Vilnius, teacher, expert category
- **1997 - 2002** Choral music school "Liepaitės", Vilnius, teacher.

### **Organization of artistic and cultural development events**

- **Since 2001-** International accordion festival organized by Lithuanian accordion association, member of organizing committee, programme coordinator.
- **Since 2006** - International accordion festival, organizer, concert conception coordinator.
- **2008 - present** - International accordion festival, Artistic director.
- **Since 2001** - International seminar in Palanga, organizer, tutor, coordinator
- **2008 - present** - International seminar in Palanga, Artistic director, Masterclasses teacher.
- **2013 - present** - International Masterclass session at the Lithuanian academy of music and theatre, Organizer, program coordinator, teacher.
- **Since 2005** - International accordion competition in Vilnius organized by Lithuanian accordion association, member of organizing committee.
- **Since 2009 - present** International accordion competition in Vilnius, Artistic director.
- **2009-2015** Founder and organizer of National project "New winds"
- **2009** - International conference "Keeping the accordion tradition, problems and development" at the Lithuanian academy of music and theatre, organizer, participant.

## Masterclasses, seminars, workshops and public lectures

- **February 6-8, 2017** Masterclass session and presentation of lithuanian new music a the solo recital. Erasmus+ teaching visit at the A.Bruckner University in Linz, Austria.
- **November 22-26, 2016** Masterclass session, public lectures session at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.
- **November 16-18, 2016** Workshop at the International Accordion festival in Poprad, Slovakia
- **July 22-29, 2016** Masterclasses at the International seminar in Palanga, Lithuania
- **July, 2016**, Seminar during Harbin International festival, Harbin University, China.
- **July 11-17, 2016**, Masterclasses at the K.Penderecki Cultural center in Luslawice, Poland.
- **May 9, 2016**, Live internet Masterclass with Copenhagen accordion students. session between LMTA and Royal Danish Academy of music in Copenhagen
- **March 7-9, 2016**, Masterclasses at the Royal academy of music in London, Great Britain
- **February 22-26, 2016**, Masterclasses and seminar "Lithuanian contemporary music aspects" at the Royal Danish Academy of music in Copenhagen
- **November 17-21, 2015** Masterclass session, public lectures session at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.
- **August 1-7, 2015** Masterclasses at the International seminar in Palanga, Lithuania
- **February 18-21, 2015** Erasmus+ teaching visit, Masterclasses at the S.Moniuszko music academy in Gdansk, Poland
- **November 11-21, 2014** Masterclass session, public lectures session at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.
- **December 14, 2014** Workshop at the Kragujevac Music University, Serbia
- **September 15-18, 2014** Masterclasses at the S.Cecilia Conservatory in Rome, Italy
- **August 1-7, 2014** Masterclasses at the International seminar in Palanga, Lithuania
- **March 5-7, 2014** Masterclasses at the G.Tartini Conservatory in Trieste, Italy
- **April 22-26, 2014** Masterclasses at the Pula Academy of Music, Croatia.
- **November 15-16, 2013** Conference at the Chopin University in Warsaw. Seminar-workshop
- **January 2-8, 2013** Winter Campus di Giardini Naxos – International music masterclass, Sicily, Italy
- **August 1-7, 2013** Masterclasses at the International seminar in Palanga, Lithuania
- **October 9-12, 2012** Masterclasses at the Pedrollo Conservatory in Vicenza, Italy
- **August 1-7, 2012** Masterclasses at the International seminar in Palanga, Lithuania
- **July 20-26, 2012** International summer school Campus AFAM, Masterclasses, Santa Severina, Calabria, Italy
- **March 14-16, 2012** Masterclasses at the S.Moniuszko music academy in Gdansk, Poland
- **August 1-7, 2011** Masterclasses at the International seminar in Palanga, Lithuania
- **May 16-19, 2011**, Masterclasses at the Royal academy of music in London, Great Britain
- **February 20, 2011**, Seminar "Lithuanian accordion education, development and problems" at the Tallinn music academy, Estonian accordion association seminar.
- **September 14-16, 2010**, Workshops and seminar "Lithuanian composers tendencies" at the Royal Danish Academy of music in Copenhagen
- **August 1-7, 2010** Masterclasses at the International seminar in Palanga, Lithuania
- **July 19-24, 2010** Masterclasses at the International project intensive programme "Crossing borders/Innovative approaches to music education and cultural management"

## **Critics on Raimondas Sviackevičius:**

*[...] Recital of accordionist Raimondas Sviackevičius [...] was exactly what is needed for the performer in order to cultivate his own audience. [...] Sofia Gubaidulina's De profundis was performed with utmost virtuosity (the composer used gliding quartertones, while the performer transformed the timbre of his instrument in such a way that the listener had to rely on his visual sensation in order to believe that accordion is capable to produce such sounds) as was her In Croce (accordion and cello duo) or petulant and capricious Alone by Finnish Erkki Jokinen. Mihail Bronner's Dream Garden, in which cello and accordion intertwine in a delicately nostalgic waltz, was not the only composition on the programme evoking such vivid visual associations. – Literatūra ir menas, 2003.*

*Seriously seasoned musician presented an interesting and 'cool' programme – contemporary music for accordion in a church. The programme was devised in such a way that the accordion music and the possibilities of an instrument received a manifold representation. [...] Technically it is a very flexible instrument and at the same time amazingly rich in terms of sound possibilities – accordion has an astounding array of timbres! After all, by simply blowing air one can produce the sound of flapping of bird wings! [...] Certainly, all that is only feasible to a master. – Muzikos barai, 2003.*

*Saxophonist Janas Maksimovičius, accordionist Raimondas Sviackevičius and percussionist Arkady Gotesman presented programme of free jazz in a church. Their ability to rivet the attention by only a few sounds or create a specific atmosphere attested to obvious potentials and mastery of a new alliance. [...] Is it possible to better present the relation between contemporary improvised and academic music, which was so perfectly embodied by Maksimovičius and Sviackevičius duo? The young accordionist has inspired a number of contemporary compositions, and earned a reputation of an outstanding virtuoso of new music. – Lietuvos rytas, 2004.*

*The festival's programme was enhanced by two 'lighter' concerts: ...somewhat different...improvisation... (participants – G. Skerytė, V. Mikeliūnas, R. Sviackevičius and M. Bačkus) and music and film project Cinemusique. Charlie Chaplin XXI. [...] astounding was the ability of musicians to react to the minutest energy vibes of the colleagues, 'live' and expressive continuous dialogue. Truly, it was interesting to observe or even to become part of musicians' improvisation: the listeners had a chance to feel the momentum of creative process. – 7 meno dienos, 2008.*

*[...]...Thematic strands abound in this year's Vale of Glamorgan festival, some of which are updates of familiar territory. On the opening night, virtuoso accordionist Raimondas Sviackevičius flagged up the Baltic connection and composer-pianist Graham Fitkin celebrated turning 50, but it was the introduction to featured composer Sebastian Currier that stood out. – The Guardian, 2013*

*[...]...The event began with introductions and a snap-shot of other things to come in the festival. Lithuanian accordionist Raimondas Sviackevičius gave a short but treasured glimpse into an astonishingly versatile instrument with a rich new music heritage; two pieces by Feliksas Bajoras and Žibuoklė Martinaitytė, encompassing note-cluster bursts, whistling lines and some almost organ-like colours, were performed from Sviackevičius' forthcoming recital on May 14th – which I am frankly envious of anyone who was able to attend. Graham Fitkin then presented four of his own, characteristically engaging, highly rhythmic and often exuberant tonal works. After the quite lovely Powder Trap for lever harp and electronics, touchingly played by his partner, the renowned harpist Ruth Wall, Fitkin himself performed three affecting pieces at the piano...[...] – Steph Power, Wales arts review, 2013*