

**MASTER CLASSES**  
**HOW TO CREATE DRAMATIC OPERA CHARACTERS**  
**1.7.-14. 7. 2025 Jelsa, Hvar, Croatia**

The aim of the Master Classes How To Create Dramatic Opera Characters is to help aspiring opera singers feel natural and relaxed on stage in specific dramatic situations. They will be able to develop their vocal skills and master the basic craft techniques of opera.

The course will focus on technical and movement improvement according to the individual needs and level of development of the participants. Emphasis is also placed on teamwork on stage, including the use of props and costumes. When it comes to character creation, we will focus on articulation, timbre and facial expression, as well as other important aspects. It is very important for young singers to gain confidence and a clear understanding of character and character development as they perform each musical number. They will gain skills how to approach the study of an opera role and all its demands.

The workshop is designed for singers who wish to perform not only opera, but also song literature or sacred music. Participants will have the opportunity to perform in several concerts: Songs, Musica Sacra, Famous Opera Melodies and the final performance of Opera Fragments. Selected participants will be able to take part in a project in cooperation with the Banská Bystrica State Opera. The Master Classes will take place at the Music School and Theatre in Jelsa, a picturesque seaside town on the island of Hvar in Croatia.



**Pedagogical leadership**

**doc. Mgr. Klaudia Račić Derner, ArtD.-** singing - character on stage  
Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica

**Mgr. art. Jana Juričková, ArtD.-** singing - vocal preparation  
Music and art academy of Ján Albrecht Banská Štiavnica

**Lucia Vráblicová-** acting, actors' training

**Mgr. art. Daniel Simandl, ArtD.-** conductor, music preparation  
Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica, Banská Bystrica State Opera

**Mgr. art. Peter Pažický, ArtD. -** piano - study of opera parts  
Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica

**Mgr.art. Peter Dekrét-** piano, music preparation  
Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica

**Mgr. art. Zulfizar Zázrivá, PhD., ArtD.-** piano, music preparation  
Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica

**Supported using public funding by Slovak Arts Council- main project partner**





**Klaudia Račić Derner** completed her studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, where she also received her doctorate in Music under the guidance of doc. Magdaléna Blahušiaková. While still a student, she was engaged by the Slovak National Theatre and made her debut in the opera *La Bohème* as Mimi. She has been a soloist at the Slovak National Theatre for 25 years, performing in numerous productions. Her leading roles are mainly from the Slavic repertoire. She has won numerous prizes at various international competitions. She was awarded the International Thália Award and the Alfréd Radok Prize in the Czech Republic for her performance in a leading female role. She has participated in numerous workshops and courses, mainly in Italy under the direction of Maestro Carlo Bergonzi, as well as with Gabriela Beňáčkova and Margaret Honig. She has also worked with Eliška Pappová, Miloslava Sopiřova and Zlatica Livorova. At the request of a Japanese manager, she created a number of performances of opera and operetta (*Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *La Traviata*, *Elisire d'amore*, *Die Csárdásfürstin*...), which were successfully toured in Japan, where she herself tried to introduce young opera singers. For several years, she lectured at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava on How To

Create Dramatic Opera Character. This experience led to her developing a deeper relationship with young musicians, which she continues to enjoy. She is an active professor and leads several educational programmes. She continued with the idea of providing opportunities for young artists and promoting their work by inviting them to various performances. Currently, she works as a professor at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica.



**Jana Jurířková** The Slovak soprano-coloratura was a long-time soloist of the Slovak National Theater Opera. She studied singing at the Academy of Music in Bratislava under the guidance of doc. Magdalena Blahušiaková.

During her studies, she made her debut at the Slovak National Theater in Bratislava as Blonde in Mozart's opera *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* in 1999. Since then, she has appeared in several roles, including Norina in Donizetti's *'Don Pasquale'*. Adina (*L'Elisir d'amore*) and Lucia di Lammermoor, Mozart's Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*), Gilda (Verdi:

*Rigoletto*), Oscar (Verdi: *Ballo di Maschera*), Zerbinetta (R. Strauss: *Ariadne auf Naxos*) ... At the National Theatre in Brno she guest-starred in the roles of Terinka (Dvořák: *Jakobin*), Verdi's Gilda, Puccini with Musetta (*La Bohème*), Mozart's Queen of the Night - (she performed this role in the Czech Republic, Japan and Germany) 2010. It is performed at the Opera of the National Theatre in Prague as Olympia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and as Armida in Handel's *Rinaldo*. Since 2016 she is teaching voice at the Conservatory in Bratislava. Currently, she is a professor at the Ján Albrecht Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Banská Štiavnica.



**Lucia Vrábřicová** is a graduate of the Bratislava Conservatory. She has performed in numerous theatres. She has appeared on the stages of the Astorka Theatre (*Romeo and Juliet*, *The Castle*), the Malá Scéna Theatre (*For Lunch*), the Aréna Theatre (*Point 0*), the City Theatre (*Woody Allen*) and the Slovak National Theatre (*The Broken Jug*).

Her many productions at the New Stage include the musicals *Madame de Pompadour* (*Soubrette*), *Blood Brothers* (Lyonsova in the first and second performances), *Grand Pierrot* (Georges Sadořá), *The Client of Fools* (Maria Moriaková), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (*Putifarka*), and *Paganini* (the innkeeper). *The Hospital on the Brink* (Sister Rařtonová), Shakespeare

(*Death*), *Agent Kroviak Intervenes*, *The Count of Luxembourg* (Countess Kokozova), *Lemonade Joe* (Buffalo Bill's Widow), *Fidlovačka* (Jenta), *Don't Take Our Princess* (Governor), *Rebels* (Teacher), *Some Like It Hot* (Sweet Sue), *Kubo* (Bečelová) and *Crazy Scissors* (Mrs. Hagyariová, Donaha, *The Idiot for Dinner*, *Everything's Screwed Up*, *8 Women*, *The Beatles* (Eleanor Rigby), *Mrázik* (Ivan's mother), *Charlie's Aunt* (Charlie's aunt), *Gypsies Are Going to Heaven* (Izergil), *The Prince and the Evening Star* (queen), *The Shop on the Korzo* (Ruřena Kolkocká), *The Servant of Two Masters* (Dolly), *Drink Tea, My Love!* (Director Klara), and the musical *Madame de Pompadour* (Queen Marie Leszczyńska).

She acted in the films: *Joan's Secret*, *The Miraculous Nose*, *Vojtech*, *Love on a String*, *The Broken Promise*, *The Song and the Queen Harmony*. You could see her in the TV series: *New Life*, *The True Face*, *The Office in the Rose Garden*, *Mafstory*, *The Zoo* and *Behind the Glass*.

She is also known for her deep voice in dubbing and radio work, with which she often and regularly collaborates.



**Daniel Simandl** graduated at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava at the Department of Orchestral conducting. His teachers were renowned conductors Ondrej Lenárd and Peter Feranec. Afterwards he continued his studies with Jiří Bělohlávek in Prague and additionally graduated from the Summer Academy at Mozarteum University in Salzburg under the supervision of German conductor Bruno Weil. At the Opera of Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava, he was conducting several ballet performances as Dubovský's *Mystery Key* and Minkus' *Bajadera*. He has collaborated with Orchestra of the Slovak Radio, the State Philharmonic Orchestra Košice, the State Chamber Orchestra Žilina, the Metropolitan Orchestra Bratislava, the Orchestra Camerata Novisoliensis and Il

Cuore Barocco. He worked at the opera festival in Gars am Kamp in Austria, in the Opera of the Janáček's Theatre in Brno and in the Prague National Theatre. Daniel Simandl has been cooperating with Viennese Arnold Schoenberg Chor. Together with the State Chamber Orchestra Žilina he performed Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Donizetti's *Elixir of Love* and Don Pasqual, Smetana's *Stolen Bride* for younger audience and Ryba's "Czech Christmas Mass". He introduced the F. Lehár's operetta *Count from Luxembourg* at the Nová Scéna Theatre in Bratislava. Daniel Simandl is the founder of the singer ensemble *Danubius Octet Singers*, with whom he made a profile CD "A Cappella Pur", a DVD recording to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ľudovít Štúr and the CD - Slovak song. He was conducting the ensemble on the *Mitte Europa*, *Janáčkovy Hukvaldy*, *Musica Sacra 2014*, *Nitra Musical Autumn*, Budapest, Vienna, International festival of the choirs in Pécs, International festival of chamber music *Konvergencie* and at Smetana's Litomyšl. He introduced the Gaetano Donizetti's opera "Rita" at the Chamber Opera in Bratislava and also has become the conductor of the Prague Children's Opera. From the season 2020/21 he works on the position of assistant conductor and chorus master at the State Opera in Banská Bystrica, where he leads also Opera Studio at the Academy of Arts.



**Peter Pažický** completed her studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, in the class of prof. Marian Lapšanský, with whom he also completed his doctoral studies. He attended performance classes with Halina Czerny-Stefańska, Eugene Indjić and Lazar Berman. A two-time winner of the Competition for Slovak Conservatory Students, he also won the Smetana Competition in Hradec Kralove, and was a three-time winner of the Chopin Competition in Mariánske Lázně. At the Ministry of Education Interpretation Competition in Banská Bystrica, he won the prize for best interpretation of the sonatas of W. A. Mozart. And at the Second International J. N. Hummel Competition, he won the Slovak Music Fund prize for the best Slovak participant.

In partnership with the pianist Aleš Solárik, he won major awards for piano duo at several Slovak and international competitions: first prize in the Competition for

Slovak Conservatory Students and in the International Schubert Competition for Piano Duos in Jeseník; first prize at the International Competition "City of Marsala" in Italy; and first prize at the international competition focused on 20th century music, the Valentino Bucchi Prize in Rome. The Slovak piano duo was subsequently introduced to many Slovak and European concert halls - in Austria, Germany, Italy, Russia and Denmark, - as well as domestic and foreign festivals. They made a recording, with the Danish percussion duo Safri, for the British company Chandos.

Mr. Pažický has performed with the State Chamber Orchestra of Žilina, the Slovak Radio Orchestra, the Austrian Youth Philharmonic, the Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, the Bohdan Warchal Chamber Orchestra in Bratislava and the State Philharmonic in Košice. He has given recitals at home and abroad, and recorded for Slovak Radio, Unison Records Pavlik Records and the Slovak Music Fund. Chopin takes a significant place in Mr. Pažický's repertoire. On the occasion of the Chopin Jubilee, he performed the complete Chopin Waltzes at the International Festival "Chopin Spring," and in the fall of 2010 he presented recitals at the EXPO in Shanghai.

In addition to his concert activities, he teaches at the Conservatory and the High School of Musical Arts in Bratislava. As a piano teacher he was lector of Master courses of Samick Musical Instrument co, Incheon-Korea in Kosice. He leads educational lectures for piano teachers, for example for Slovak section of EPTA.

Recently, he prepared several important works of Slovak composers for the promotion of significant known and unknown works of Slovak composers.





Workshop Opera Operetta Fukushima 2018



Workshop UNI Ostrava 2022



**Peter Dekrét** - a young pianist who graduated from the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica and is currently continuing his doctoral studies at the same institution. In addition, he works at the Department of Piano Collaboration of the Academy of Arts and as an accompanist in the Opera Studio where he collaborated on several productions - W. A. Mozart: *Le nozze di Figaro* 2025, J. Strauss: *The Bat* 2024, Ch.W. Gluck: *Orpheus and Eurydice* 2022, *Fragments* 2022- 2024. He has already had several collaborations at the international level, for example Master Courses - *Creating a Dramatic Character Croatia-Hvar* 2022- 2024, Slovakia-Banská Bystrica 2022, Hvar 2023 and Devín 2023... In classical music circles he is a well-known and sought-after partner for chamber and solo concerts. As an accompanist he collaborates with the State Opera in Banská Bystrica.



**Zulfizar Zázrivá** studied piano in the class of renowned professor Jelena Zabolocka at the Eleven-Year Music School in Dushanbe. She won 3rd prize at the Sergei Prokofiev State Piano Competition. She continued her studies at the Music and Pedagogical Faculty of the Ural Pedagogical University in Yekaterinburg in the piano class and in the department of choral conducting and singing. She completed her doctoral studies under the guidance of prof. Zuzana Niederdorfer. She studied singing at the Bratislava Conservatory under the guidance of doc. Magdaléna Blahušiaková and at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica, where she is currently a doctoral student with prof. Mária Tomanová, and also works there as an assistant professor in the department of piano cooperation. At the Opera Studio, she studied the following operas: Antonio Vivaldi: *Juditha triumphans*, Henri Purcell: *Dido and Aeneas*, Giovanni Battista Pergolesi: *La serva padrona*, Christoph Willibald Gluck: *The Reformed Drunkard*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, Don Giovanni, Gaetano Donizetti: *The Marriage of Figaro*, Antonín Dvořák: *Rusalka*... and many fragments of operas and operettas.



Carmen- Osaka



after Performance Maritza and Zauberflöte Japan



Elisire D'amore – Fukushima



Workshop Opera Operetta Fukushima- the Final concert



Die Csárdásfürstin - Japan

Don Giovanni – Japan





Workshop Devín 2023



Workshop Hvar 2023



Workshop Devín 2023





After the performance Opera fragments, Jelsa 2024



Costumes preparation, Jelsa 2024