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# Sandro Zaninovich

## CONDUCTOR



### **Contents:**

- Biography
- Critical Acclaim
- Curriculum Vitae
- Repertoire
- References

# BIOGRAPHY

*Maestro Sandro Zaninovich* (AKA "Mr. Zee") is an internationally recognized Conductor and Composer who received wide recognition for his various contributions to the international music scene.

A native of the Republic of Croatia, **Zaninovich** graduated from the Zagreb Academy of Music (capital of Croatia) in 1961. His first professional position was the Conductor of the Zagreb Radio Symphony Orchestra. He then moved to the United States in the late 1960s where he attended UCLA and received his Master of Arts degree and Ph.D. candidacy in Music. His early musical beginnings trace back to his school days when he performed as a pianist and clarinetist, and as a bandleader with various dance bands, performing different styles with emphasis on jazz.

During his diverse musical career in the U.S., *Maestro Zaninovich* was active in a myriad of positions, ranging from a pianist with the "Mexicali Brass" band to being a guest conductor with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. In 1972 he founded the Beverly Hills Chamber Orchestra and served as its Music Director and Conductor. Internationally, he has been a guest conductor with a number orchestras in Europe.

**Sandro Zaninovich** was an instructor of music at UCLA, Los Angeles City College, and various music-learning institutions in his native Croatia.

*Maestro Zaninovich* also served as "Chairman of the Jury" for an international piano competition in 1989 in Singapore.

An award-winning composer, **Sandro Zaninovich** has written a number of works for orchestra, piano, violin and cello; chamber music, music for theatre, television, and educational video productions. His invention is a particular technique with which he composes Musical Portraits, using three different musical alphabets. The actual musical material is based on the person's name.

Among other achievements, he was the winner of UCLA's Atwater-Kent Award for "Improvisations for Twelve," as well as the first winner of the Henry Mancini Award for Composition and the Production of Music for Motion Pictures and Television Films. During the interim since 1974, *Maestro Zaninovich* has created and operated numerous musical endeavors, including his SanKor Music Publishing and Recording Corporation.

**Zaninovich's** special attention goes to his work with talented young music students. With the help of his able partner and assistant, Debbie Lincow, he organizes and directs Accompanied Recitals International (ARI), at which the young musicians perform with professionals. These events have wide support with music teachers, parents, and sponsors.

**Sandro Zaninovich** is currently working on a composition, commissioned from the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra and its current conductor Zlatan Srzic. The piece is scheduled to be performed by the end of this year (Dubrovnik is a world-famous tourist destination, as well as music festival city).

## CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Zagreb Daily:

“The performances of Kiss Me Kate and Calamity Jane in the Zagreb Theater Comedy was a considerable hit, especially because these were the first performances of these musicals.”

San Francisco Chronicle – San Francisco Chamber Orchestra – “Results were Stylish, Tasteful”:

“Zaninovich is a tall man, getting bald, and resembling on the podium a youngish Rafael Kubelik...”

“Zaninovich also led his own Pasacaglia for Strings over a twelve note melodious theme. It is a well-formed sorrowing work, not atonal but chromatic in idiom...”

“Both in his piece and in conducting, Zaninovich made a genuine musical impression, and the playing of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra reflected this.”

- R. Commanda

LA Times – Music Review – “Inaugural Concert at Greystone”:

“Conductor, Sandro Zaninovich, who led in the founding of the Orchestra contributed a sharp, stylistic sense to the program...”

“In Mozart’s Divertimento in D (K. 136) he showed how much snap and gusto a well-prepared orchestra can give a young man’s music without losing it’s balance.”

- W. Weber

LA Times – Music Review – “Concert Moves Indoors”:

“Zaninovich officiated with ease. He had an aura of professional flare and a natural look about him as he led his solid string players through Mozart’s Divertimento in F (K. 138) and the Serenade in C Opus 48 by Tchaikovsky...”

“Mozart’s youthful essay proved pleasantly tuneful and unsophisticated...”

“The conductor’s penchant for expressivity paid off in the Tchaikovsky Serenade. It’s four movements also profited from his attention to detail in tempo and dynamics.”

- W. Arlen

Free Dalmatia – Hvar Summer Festival – “Appealing Performance with Lasting Impression”:

“The performance of Verdi: Requiem took place in front of the Hvar Cathedral (Hvar is a famous tourist destination which has an attractive Summer Festival)...”

“With this performance, music making came back to this location after a number of years. The entire ensemble, orchestra, chorus, and soloists were in a very excited mood, which was transferred to the huge present crowd...”

“Maestro Zaninovich was completely in charge, leading the entire ensemble in an unforgettable performance, in spite of the limited rehearsal time.”

- M. Grgic

Free Dalmatia – Verdi: Traviata in the Split Theater:

“We are happy to say that this beautiful opera by Verdi did come alive in a completely new and different meaning, as well as different message. The entire ensemble was following the intention and expressive leadership of Sandro Zaninovich.”

Daily News – Belgrad Philharmonic:

“Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4 was performed with true enthusiasm and passion for the great composer. Sandro Zaninovich showed a deep understanding for that kind of music, and he transferred to the orchestra a particular feeling for the unique Symphony No. 4.”

# Repertoire

- **J. S. Bach:**
  - All standard orchestral pieces, cantatas, and oratorios
- **Vivaldi:**
  - All standard orchestral and solo pieces
- **G. F. Handel:**
  - All standard orchestral and vocal pieces
- **J. Haydn:**
  - Symphony Nos. 80, 85, 91, 93, 94, 97, & 98
  - Piano Concerto
  - Violin Concerto
- **W. A. Mozart:**
  - Standard orchestral and concerto repertoire
  - Operas: Don Giovanni, Cosi Fan Tutte, Requiem
- **L. van Beethoven:**
  - All symphonies
  - All concertos
  - All vocal instrumental works
- **Schubert:**
  - All symphonies
- **Schumann:**
  - All symphonies
  - Cello Concerto
- **Mendelssohn:**
  - All symphonies
  - Violin Concerto
- **Bruckner:**
  - Standard orchestral works
- **J. Brahms:**
  - All symphonies and concerto works
- **P. I. Tchaikovsky:**
  - All symphonies and concerto works
- **Rachmanyinov:**
  - All orchestral and concerto works
- **C. Debussy:**
  - All orchestral works
- **M. Ravel:**
  - All orchestral works, including Musorgsky's "Pictures from an Exhibition"
- **B. Bartok:**
  - All orchestral and concerto works
- **I. Stravinsky:**
  - All standard orchestral works
- **Shostakovich:**
  - All standard orchestral and concerto works
- **S. Prokofiev:**
  - All standard orchestral and concerto works
- **G. Mahler:**
  - All standard orchestral and solo vocal works

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Education:

Graduated from the Zagreb Academy of Music (capital of Croatia), conducting major (1961), composition major (1967), Master of Arts in Music, UCLA (1971) and Ph.D. candidate at UCLA (1972)

## Awards:

- Henry Mancini Award for Motion Picture, Television, & Films (UCLA)
- Atwater-Kent Award for "Improvisations for Twelve" (UCLA)
- Special Recognition Award by the President of the Croatian Republic, Franjo Tudjman
- Special Recognition Award by Michael D. Antonovich for Musical work in the Community, including the founding and outstanding work with the Beverly Hills Chamber Orchestra

## Professional Associations:

- Permanent Conductor of the Radio Symphony Orchestra in Zagreb, Croatia  
*1967 moves to USA*
- Founder, Music Director, and Conductor of the Beverly Hills Chamber Orchestra
- Guest Conductor with the Westchester String Symphony
- Guest Conductor with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra  
*1975 continues his activities in Europe*
- Permanent Conductor of the Opera Theater in the coast city of Split, conducting a number of operas, including Traviata, Rigoletto, Aida, Carmen, and others.
- Music Director of the Hvar Summer Festival with a well-known reputation
- A memorable performance of the Verdi: Requiem in front of the Cathedral in the festival city of Hvar
- Music Director and Conductor of the Nis Symphony Orchestra
- Guest Conductor with the Skopje Philharmonic Orchestra
- Guest Conductor with the Belgrad Philharmonic Orchestra
- In addition, Maestro Zaninovich has had successful appearances with four Polish Orchestras: the Kielce Philharmonic Orchestra, Kalish Symphony Orchestra, Bialistok Philharmonic Orchestra, and Jelenia Gora Philharmonic Orchestra.
- Guest Conductor with the Black Sea Philharmonic as a participant on the Romanian-American new music festival
- Appearance with the Croatian Chamber Orchestra at the Hvar Summer Festival
- With Jeffery Solow, cello, and the Beverly Hills Chamber Orchestra, conducts the centennial concert for Gregor Piatigorsky (2003)

**Collaborations with fellow performers include such artists as** Eugene Sarbu, Vladimir Krpan, Jeffrey Solow, Mario Feninger to name a few.

## Teaching:

- Zagreb School of Music: Orchestra (1963)
- Music and Piano Teacher in Beverly Hills, California (Private lessons) (1968)
- On the faculty at Los Angeles City College, Department of Music UCLA faculty teaching associate (1973)
- Professor of Music at the University of Split, as well as the Split School of Music (a major city on the south coast of Croatia); Courses: Instrumentation and Orchestra. (1976)

## REFERENCES

### Eugene Sarbu

- London-based Romanian violinist, internationally-acclaimed
- Phone: 011-44-207-402-1565

### Mario Feninger

- International-career pianist, based in Los Angeles
- Phone: (213) 446-2239

### Jeffrey Solow

- Internationally-known cellist (student of Gregor Piatigorsky)
- Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
- Phone: (215) 635-0809

### Vladimir Krpan

- Professor at the Academy of Music and leading Croatian pianist, internationally-known;  
Zagreb, Croatia
- Phone: 011-365-1-485-1602