

Ana Marija Ilić

Laginjina 38, 51000 Rijeka, Croatia

ana.marija.ilic@gmail.com | +385 916122856

Ana Marija Ilić is one of the most distinguished Croatian pianists, recognised for her artistic engagement with Croatian musical heritage, women composers, and interdisciplinary approaches to music. She began her musical education at the Ivan Matetić Ronjgov Music School, where she laid the foundations of her pianistic and artistic development, before continuing her studies at the Zagreb Academy of Music, graduating in the class of Vladimir Babin.

During her secondary education, she received numerous awards and gave a wide range of performances throughout Croatia. While studying at the Academy of Music, she achieved remarkable artistic results that led to frequent concert appearances both in Croatia and abroad, including performances in the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and several African countries. Alongside her formal education, she attended masterclasses with internationally renowned pianists and pedagogues such as Arbo Valdma, Konstantin Bogino, Michael Rezek, Eugen Indjic, and Marine Ambokadze.

In parallel with her performance career, Ana Marija Ilić developed a strong interest in scholarly and interdisciplinary research. During her university studies, she engaged in scientific work focused on new perspectives of musical interpretation through the lenses of sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies. Her research on Croatian classical music within the broader context of Croatian cultural identity was awarded first prize at the Symposium of Human Rights in Rijeka, marking an early recognition of her analytical and research-driven approach to music.

A landmark achievement of her artistic career is that she became the first pianist in history to record the complete piano works of Croatian composer Ivan Matetić Ronjgov. This recording represents a major contribution to the preservation and contemporary reinterpretation of Croatian musical heritage and has established her as a leading interpreter of Ronjgov's piano oeuvre.

Ana Marija Ilić is a freelance pianist and cultural journalist whose professional activity unfolds at the intersection of performance, research, and critical writing. Her artistic focus is directed towards Croatian composers, women composers, and neglected repertoires, approached through carefully curated, research-based programmes characterised by strong contextual awareness and long-term interpretative commitment.

She is currently recording a new album dedicated to Croatian women composers, further expanding her research-driven artistic practice and contributing to the visibility and contemporary reinterpretation of women's musical heritage. Her current artistic and research work is closely connected to ongoing doctoral research based in Amsterdam, within an international academic and performance context.

Alongside her performance and research activity, she is actively engaged in cultural journalism, writing essays, reviews, and interviews on classical music, opera, and broader cultural topics for leading cultural platforms and publications. Her writing combines musical expertise with critical depth, situating artistic works within their wider historical, social, and cultural frameworks.

