

Raimondas Sviackevičius is 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 Tuva 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 Ciurlioniu, 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 ContemporoAcco 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.