

SANJA ROMIĆ- oboe

Sanja is a vibrant performer, educator, music coach, and content creator who transforms life experiences and inspiration into conceptual concerts and musical narratives. Her stunning tone, stage presence, and seductive musicality are widely praised by audiences around the world.

According to Zubin Mehta, “*Sanja’s musical depth and lovely tone inspire her colleagues and transcend the entire orchestra.*” At his invitation, Sanja performed as guest principal oboe on the Maestro’s final three summer tours with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2024, she brought together three countries, companies, and artists by commissioning and giving the world premiere of Nimrod Borenstein’s new oboe concerto *Légende*, written for her and kindly supported by Buffet Crampon Paris, as part of the Belgrade Philharmonic's centenary celebration.

As a soloist, her recent engagements include *Légende* with Hossein Pishkar and the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, Frigyes Hidas's *Oboe Concerto* with the Vojvodina Symphony Orchestra and Srboľjub Dinić, the gala opening of the Al Bustan Festival in Beirut with Cimarosa's *Oboe Concerto* and Gianluca Marcianò, Mozart's *Oboe Concerto* with the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra under Michal Nesterowicz, and Vaughan Williams's *Oboe Concerto* with the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra and maestro Howard Griffiths. She has also performed *Sea Meditation* with the Zagreb Soloists.

Influenced by the turbulent political landscape of her upbringing in the Balkans, she shaped the program for her debut CD *Melodies of Nations* in 2017, promoting the idea of music as a universal language that connects diverse cultures. The album features lesser-known pieces for oboe and piano and was recorded with Irish pianist Fionnuala Moynihan. It was released under the London labels Hedone and Metropolis Music. In 2021, she released two neoclassical singles with Croatian composer and pianist Antonija Pacek for the Australian label Yellow Rose Records.

Sanja actively explores and champions new repertoire for the oboe. Composers such as Nimrod Borenstein (UK), Airat Ichmouratov (RU-CAD), Svetozar Saša Kovačević (SRB), and Miloš Raičković (SRB-USA) have dedicated works to her.

A passionate chamber musician, Sanja is part of the NSChamber Ensemble, which brings together some of Serbia’s finest musicians in various formations.

In 2025, she is preparing recording project *Romances & Identity* with Croatian pianist Danijel Detoni. Her other collaborations include work with Serbian guitarist Zoran Anić, harpist Milana Zarić, Quintologia woodwind quintet, Ventus Quintet Salzburg..

Sanja is currently an Associate Professor of Oboe and Orchestral Studies for woodwind instruments at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad, Serbia. She regularly gives masterclasses in Hungary, Ireland, Slovenia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Romania.

Her first online oboe masterclass, *Back to Basics*, was released in Serbian in June 2023 and in English in 2024. Interested in movement and body mechanics, Sanja advocates for ease of playing through a holistic approach that emphasizes the synergy between body and mind and promotes musicians' health. This philosophy is the foundation of her teaching concept *Playing & Living with Ease*, also the name of her podcast, which embraces her educational methods and professional coaching practices.

From 2011 to 2024, Sanja served as the principal oboist of the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra. Before that, she held the same position at the SNG Opera and Ballet Ljubljana in Slovenia.

As an orchestral musician, she has toured the USA, Europe, and China, performing under renowned conductors with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, Salzburg Chamber Soloists, Kremerata Baltica, Opera and Ballet Ljubljana, Prague Chamber Orchestra, and Holland National Youth Orchestra. She also participated in the *No Borders Orchestra* project, which resulted in a CD released by Deutsche Grammophon.

Sanja shares her passion and extensive orchestral experience as a mentor and coach for woodwind players in international youth orchestras such as the Orchestra Academy of the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, the Al Bustan Festival Youth Orchestra in Lebanon, the West Balkan Youth Orchestra (WBYO), and FAME'S European Orchestral Performing Institute.

Sanja's creative drive has led to numerous successful projects. Since 2016, she has led the mentorship program *Playing with Ease*. In 2018, she founded the Oboe Fest in Belgrade, serving as its artistic director from 2018 to 2024.

In 2019, she collaborated with UAE-based fashion designer Jelena Bin Draï in the project *Music & Style*, performing in Jelena's custom-designed dresses.

In 2020, Sanja launched the educational platform *Music Stories*, which has since evolved into a series of curated, intimate classical concerts that connect music with various life themes.

Born and residing in Serbia, Sanja holds dual Serbian and Slovenian citizenship, the latter earned in recognition of her artistic achievements during her years of work and residence in Slovenia.

A recipient of the Soros Foundation Scholarship, Sanja graduated with honors from the Liszt Ferenc Academy in Budapest, studying under Peter Pongratz and Gábor Dienes, and later from Mozarteum University in Salzburg with Professor Stefan Schilli.

Sanja is a Buffet Crampon Paris artist and plays the *Légende* model oboe.

She views music as inspiration—the wheel of life and an art form that connects the inner and outer worlds. When not performing, she recharges in nature, engages in discussions on music and personal growth, and enjoys dancing Argentine tango.