



## Benjamin Izmajlov

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### Profile

Benjamin Izmajlov (17.9.1974), a born Slovenian, is one of the successful musicians of his generation. He has accomplished himself as a **concert violinist** with more than 40 concerts per year and as an **artistic director/producer** of various successful music projects that cross borders and connect nations and cultures. He is also a **composer**, **arranger** and **conductor** of symphonic music and has many years of experience in **sound engineering** and **studio producing**.

He is the founder of: International Academy Giuseppe Tartini, Slovenian Summer Academy of Music and Slovenian Diplomatic Concert, where internationally acknowledged classical artists perform and lecture young talented musicians. He gets invited as artistic director of music festivals, as jury member of music competitions and has provided many state events with various cultural programmes. Since 2012 he has been performing as guest soloist at the Moscow Philharmonics and is, together with his wife, the holder of the highest acknowledgment for foreigners for intercultural dialogue from the Russian Orthodox Church - the Medal of "Cyril and Methodius". His repertoire is vast, ranging from chamber masterpieces to violin concertos and modern pieces for violin, where many times his orchestrations were performed.

## Experience (*some of the most noticeable projects*)

### **SLOVENIAN DIPLOMATIC CONCERT – 2015 - PRESENT**

Benjamin Izmajlov is the founder of Slovenian Diplomatic concert, supported by many ambassadors. The first concert took place at Ljubljana castle in May 2015. It was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The concert had the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Slovenia and the Mayor of Ljubljana. Along with the Minister of Culture and other Government representatives, more than 20 ambassadors, many honorary consuls, prominent public figures and top level CEO attended the concert, which also had a charity aim to help children in need. With the support of his team, Benjamin is leading the whole project - obtaining the sponsors, handling the invitations, organising the concert and the protocol, the gourmet reception, the charity auction and the PR. The next concert will take place in May 2016.

### **SLOVENIAN SUMMER ACADEMY OF MUSIC – 2012 - PRESENT**

#### **INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY GIUSEPPE TARTINI – 2015**

With the experience and knowledge of the Vila Bled Music Forum (*see below*), Benjamin organised two more international music academies, the last one founded in 2015 in the old seaside city of Piran - the birthplace of the legendary violinist / composer Giuseppe Tartini. Apart from the top level masterclasses for talented young musicians, open air opera performances were held in front of thousands of people. Verdi's Requiem (2015), La Boheme (2014, 2015) and Traviata (2013) were put on stage, starring young opera artists and instrumentalists. With the help of his team, Benjamin is in control of all the PR, commercials and arrangements with sponsors, local authorities and venues. Both Academies have a patronage of the Mayors of the cities.

### **NEW YEARS CONCERT – 2013**

The New Year Gala Concert was held at the seaside resort Portorož in 2013. Benjamin gathered and conducted his own symphonic orchestra, with internationally known soloists and made the programme of the concert. His conducting skills were proved many times also at other concerts and in the recording studio.

### **INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION IN SLOVENIA – 2013 - 2014**

Benjamin was invited as artistic director of an international piano competition in Slovenia, dedicated to F. Chopin. With his help, the number of applications grew from 20 to 55 competitors from 15 countries. He also created the finals of the competition with the symphonic orchestra and invited distinguished jury members from 6 countries.

### **GUEST SOLOIST OF THE MOSCOW PHILHARMONIC – 2012 - PRESENT**

Benjamin is appearing regularly at the Moscow Philharmonic. He is the official violinist of the Madrigal Soloists Ensemble, one of the oldest early music ensembles in the world. In 2014 they have also recorded a CD together - Libre Vermell of the Montserrat Monastery. Early European music, which has immensely strong Arabic influence, is a great love and interest for him. In 2014 he has organised a tour for Madrigal Soloists and himself through five Slovenian castles. The whole PR, commercials, press conference, co-ordination with venues and the artists was in his domain.

#### **GRAND OPENING OF SLOVENIA'S TALLEST BUILDING – 2011**

The Crystal Palace in Ljubljana was inaugurated in 2011. Benjamin was responsible for cultural programme of the Gala opening in front of hundreds of distinguished guests. He gathered and conducted his own symphonic orchestra and engaged a premier couple of the Bolshoi Theatre, the first lady of London's West End musicals and other internationally successful soloists to perform with them.

#### **VILA BLEĐ MUSIC FORUM – 2007 - 2010**

With the help of international connections with many world known artists, Benjamin started the masterclasses for talented young musicians at a luxury hotel in the Alpine resort Bled. Lectures were given by: Marina Yashvili, Natalia Gutman, Roman Simović (1st violinist of London Symphony Orchestra), Moshe Aron Epstein, Alexander Buzlov and Benjamin himself. The classes were also streamed live in the internet - for the first time in Slovenia.

#### **THE SLOVENE HEART PROJECT – 2008 - PRESENT**

Dedicated to the Slovenian Presidency to the EU in 2008, Benjamin produced and recorded the first Slovenian symphonic crossover project, for which the most known Slovenian music pieces and songs were rearranged and recorded. The CD itself became the official present of the Slovenian Government Protocol to other EU members. The project was presented through concerts in most of the European capitals and was sold in platinum sale in Slovenia.

#### **DIPLOMATIC CONCERT IN MOSCOW – 2008**

During the Slovenian Presidency to the EU in 2008, Benjamin, together with the Slovenian Embassy in Moscow, organised a gala symphonic concert, dedicated to the Presidency. The whole diplomatic corpus in Moscow was invited to the event. At this occasion he also performed the 2nd violin concerto of K. Szymanowski. Benjamin was in charge of all the arrangements with the hall, musicians and technical crew.

#### **THE SLAVIC SOUL PROJECT – 2006 - PRESENT**

The first symphonic crossover project with music of Slavic countries in the world had an overwhelming success in Europe and sold in platinum sale in Slovenia. Benjamin produced the project, played the solo violin part and composed some of the arrangements. He organised a concert tour of European cities with 90 members symphonic orchestra and 70 members choir. In the most prestigious halls of Moscow (2012) Ljubljana (2010) and Belgrade (2011) the concerts were sold out. Benjamin lead the whole project - from PR and commercials to all the arrangements with the halls, musicians and technical crew.

## Education

Moscow State Conservatory P. I. Tchaikovsky; Moscow; Russian Federation;

Bachelor and Master of Arts - violin, Prof. Marina Yashvili

Hochschule fur Musik, Wien, Prof. Evgenia Tchugaeva

Academy of Music, Ljubljana, Prof. Dejan Bravnicar

Scuola di Perfezionamento, Portogruaro, Prof. Pavel Vernikov

Secondary music school, Ljubljana, Prof. Volodja Balžalorsky

Master classes Prof. Gregory Zhislin, Viktor Tretyakov, Zahar Bron, Elizaveta Gilels

## Skills

Other instruments	Benjamin studied piano as a supplementary discipline at the Moscow Conservatory and at the Secondary Music School in Ljubljana. He is familiar with other string instruments as well, mostly classical guitar and bass guitar. Some basic knowledge of drums and percussions.
Sound Engineering	Benjamin has led, recorded, edited and mixed recordings of entire symphonic orchestras and soloists for many live and studio projects. He understands and knows the wide range of recording gear, acoustics and sound design. Works with software such as Cubase, Logic and ProTools.
Design	Design of posters, flyers, websites for the needs of events of his own organisation, using tools such as Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, InDesign etc. He also produces and edits his own promo videos.
IT computing	Extensive knowledge of computers with some basic program coding.
Languages	Fluent: Slovenian (native), English, Russian, Italian Active: German and Serbian/Croatian Passive: French and Spanish
Other skills	- Former Yugoslavian champion in electrotechnics - Sailing Skipper with trophies from regattas - Alpine skiing - courses in Philosophy

