

IONEL PETROI

BIOGRAPHY



A student of the unlikely trinity of accordion, piano and double bass, Ionel Petroi has become a prolific composer who comfortably moves between the classical and film music worlds.

Born in the former Yugoslavia of Rumanian parents, Ionel is a citizen of France. Given an accordion by his grandfather at the age of six, he toured Serbia, playing in his grandfather's folk band. This cherished experience provided him with an undisputable knowledge and love for improvisation, performing and learning about his varied audiences—all this, as a young boy!

Ionel went on to study piano, double bass and conducting at the Conservatory of Belgrade, where he majored in composition, earning both bachelor and master degrees. [His master degree is the equivalent of a doctorate in France.] During this time, he played professionally, touring European cities with the prestigious chamber orchestra “Dusan Skovran” of Belgrade, as well as becoming a well-known jazz pianist, playing numerous concerts.

After receiving the First Prize in Composition at the Belgrade Conservatory, he relocated to Paris, where he continued his studies at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique, where again, he was the recipient of the Premier Prix in Composition. At the Conservatoire, Ionel studied with many great composers, including Marius Constant, Claude Ballif, Olivier Messiaen, Iannis Xenakis, Pierre Boulez, among others.

Upon receiving the Premier Prix in Paris, he was personally invited by György Ligeti to attend his two-week composition workshop in Szombathely, Hungary. Several years later, Ionel was invited to become Composer-in-Residence at the Djerrasi Foundation in San Francisco, where he produced concerts, composed and oversaw the month-long composition workshops. The following year, he was a special guest composer at the Other Minds Contemporary Music Festival.

Ionel's work is published by Universal Music Publishing MGB France-Durand, Ricordi, Salabert and IBOX, and is continually broadcast internationally on radio and television. He has written more than 40 orchestral, chamber, ballet, opera and instrumental ensemble works.

However, it was during his years in Paris that Ionel elected to study film scoring at Ecole Normal, under the tutelage of one of the great film composers, Laurent Petigirard. Later, he continued his studies at the Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique /Musique (IRCAM), learning new technologies and pursuing innovative ways of creating fresh sounds, interesting forms and, finally, scoring films.



Residing in New York, Ionel continues his work in film music, having scored and provided music most recently for *Fancy pants* (Joshua Russell, dir.), *The Hindenburg Omen* (Frederic Colier, dir.) and *Burning Man* (Patrick Morrell, dir.), among others.



Ionel resides in New York City with his wife, Tatjana Rankovich, a highly lauded, contemporary classical pianist.



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IONEL PETROI

COMPOSER

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Citizenship: France

MUSIC AWARDS

Premier Prix in Composition

Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, France

Stevan Hristic

First Prize in Composition, Belgrade Conservatory (nee Yugoslavia)

MOTION PICTURES

FANCYPANTS

Humble Pie Films / China Bull Productions
Best Feature Film, Sunscreen Festival, St. Petersburg

Joshua Russell, dir.
Jim Poole, Daniel Hanson, exec. prods.

DINOSAUR PARK

Altered Ego Entertainment

Frederic Colier, dir.
Max Shuppert, Callen Williams, prods.

THE HINDENBURG OMEN

Altered Ego Entertainment

Frederic Colier, dir.
Max Shuppert, Callen Williams, prods.

FAMILY PACK

Banana Films / Ariztical Entertainment
Golden Bayard, Namur (France) International Film Festival

Chris Vander Stappen, dir.
Catherine Burniaux, François Charlent, prods.

CENT (100) ANS D'INDUSTRIES TECHNIQUES DU CINÉMA

(Feature Documentary)
Films du Rond Point

Giles Ades, dir.
Jean-François Besse, prod.

THE MAGIC BOX (LA BOÎTE MAGIQUE) (Co-composer)

Alya Films
Golden Tulip, Istanbul (Turkey) International Film Festival
Special Mention, Amiens (France) International Film Festival

Ridha Behi, dir.
Malik Benchehib, prod.

BURNING MAN (Feature Documentary, Additional Music)

Golden Rabbit Films

Patrick Morrell, dir./prod.

TELEVISION – TELEFILMS

ÉCOUTE, NICOLAS...
Image & Compagnie / France 2

Roger Kahane, dir.

LA COLÈRE DU DIABLE

Banana Films / RTBF

Chris Vander Stappen, dir.

L'AMOUR SUR UN FIL
TF1

Michaëla Watteau, dir.

MARIE ET TOM
MC² Productions / RDV Productions / Téléfictions Canada / TF1

Dominique Baron

LA NIUT DES HULOTTES
DEMD Productions

Michaëla Watteau, dir.
Céline Baruch, exec. prod.
Eddy Cherki, Patrick Meunier, prods.

UNE GROSSE BOUCHÉE D'AMOUR
France 2 Cinema

Michaëla Watteau, dir.
Nelly Kafsky, prod.

POUR MON FILS
Teleimages / TF1

Michaëla Watteau, dir.
Luc Delasnerie, Simone Halberstadt, prods.

FEMININ MASCULINE
Canal Plus

Michaëla Watteau, dir.

UN IMPOSSIBLE AMOUR
Septembre Productions / TF1

Michaëla Watteaux, dir.
Christophe Chevalier, exec. prod.
Jean Nainchrik, prod.

TELEVISION – SERIES

LE BAHUT (Multiples)
Capa Drama

Michaëla Watteau, dir.
Claude Chelli, prod.

MUSIC FOR ORCHESTRA

THE RAVEN for orchestra, performed by Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra
THE BEE for orchestra, performed by Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra
THE LITTLE MERMAID for orchestra and two narrators, performed by Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra
THE BALKAN BOLERO for orchestra performed by Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra
FESTIVO for string orchestra, performed by soloist of Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and Orchestre National de France (Paris)
CERCURI NO.2 for orchestra, performed by Ensemble Orchestral de Paris
LA FÊTE ANNONCE LA MORT for brass orchestra and percussions, performed by Orchestre des gardiens de la paix de Paris
KLAVIER for orchestra, performed by Ensemble Orchestral de Paris
LA MONTRE A L'ENVERS for orchestra, performed by Orchestre d'Ile de France (Paris)
PRESENTATION for solo violin and string orchestra, performed by Zoltan Veres (solo violin) and sting orchestra of CNSM (Paris)
DILDI for orchestra, performed by Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra

MUSIC FOR OPERA

FRENCH LESSONS, based on a play by Eugene Ionesco and directed by Susan Gonzalez

MUSIC FOR BALLET (ORCHESTRA)

THE MUSIC OF MARRYING AND BURYING

MUSIC FOR SOLO PIANO AND ORCHESTRA

PIANO CONCERTO NO.1
PIANO CONCERTO NO.2

MUSIC FOR ENSEMBLE

MAGIC TRIO, performed by New York trio
LIMISSA for 4 tubas, performed by the Tubas Quartet of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris
ACIFINGAM for brass quintet, performed by brass quintet Magnifica
CONCERTINO for harp and ensemble, performed by Helene Brechand (harp) and ensemble Erwartung (Paris)

WALL STREET for ensemble, performed by Helene Brechand (harp) and ensemble Erwartung (Paris) (1999)
SEIZE SCÈNES D'EXERCICES DE CONVERSATION, chamber opera for 7 singers and 5 musicians, text: Eugene Ionesco,
performed by Ensemble Erwartung and ensemble Itineraire (Paris) (1996)
LES MÉLODIES DE SANCHO PANCA for baritone and string quintet, Performed by Roderick Gomez (baritone) and the Arlekin
String Quartet with Jim Bergman (bass)
ETHNIC CLEANSING, parody grotesque for 8 cellos et 4 percussion, performed by cello ensemble of Beauvais (France)
FACES for string quartet
VINGT-SEPT PORTRAITS for string quartet, performed by string quartet of ensemble Modern (Moscow)
MHA for wood quintet, performed by string quartet of ensemble Modern (Moscow)
MUSIC FOR IONESCO for 8 cellos, performed by woodwind quintet of ensemble Modern (Moscow)
LA MUSIQUE DE L'AMOUR ET DU RIRE for violin, cello and piano, performed by the Trio of Ensemble Archaeus (Bucharest)
MATHEMATIQUES CHANTEES for 7 sopranos, 7 altos, 7 tenors and 7 basses
OPERA SANS PAROLES for harp, trumpet and trombone, performed by the trio of ensemble Modern (Frankfurt)
LA VALSE QUI RIT for ensemble, Played by ensemble Erwartung (Paris)
LE BEAU for viola, double bass and tuba, performed by the Trio of Paris
SPECTRE CONTRE SPECTRE for two trumpets, two French horns, two trombones and tuba
FALS for ensemble and electronics ((live with Macintosh computer), performed by ensemble Itineraire (Paris)
ILLUSION IMITEE for 12 cellos, performed by the cello ensemble of Beauvais (Paris)
LE CONTINENT NOIRE-BLANC for marimba and clarinet (bass clarinet)
CADRES for ensemble, performed by ensemble Itineraire (Paris)

MUSIC FOR SOLO INSTRUMENT

THE BALKAN BOLERO for one piano (four hands) or two pianos, performed by Tatjana Rankovich and Ionel Petroi
DILDI, piano version, performed by Tatjana Rankovich
THE MUSIC OF MARRYING AND BURYING for piano (29 pieces), performed by Ionel Petroi
LE PLAISIR for piano
TOCCATA for piano
SOLO for violin
SOLO for piano
SOLO for cello
SOLO for oboe
SOLO for horn
SOLO for timpani

DISCOGRAPHY

The Balkan Bolero
To Love and Be Loved
Fals
Little Mermaid
Everybody Phones
Faces
Film Music
Symphonic Techno
Paris-New York
The Music of Marrying and Burying
Exercices de Conversation
Wall Street
Musique Relative

EDUCATION AND ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Belgrade Music Academy, Doctorate of Music Arts in Composition
Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique /Musique (L'Ircam)
École Normale de Musique de Paris
Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MR. PETROI'S WORK

“Ionel’s score elevated the entire narrative, building layers of story with instruments and notes. Ionel’s gentle optimism and ingenious critical thinking made the arduous process of creative excellence feel less like a terrifying journey into a hurricane and more like a wild romp through puddles in a rainstorm.

“Without Ionel Petroi, I’m absolutely convinced that *Fancy pants* would be half the movie it is today. Ionel’s determined creativity and unbridled passion for excellence would be impossible to work with in any other person -- but in Ionel, there is remarkable balance. In him is a rare blend of humility, confidence, and creative genius. He’s absolutely wonderful to work with.”—***Joshua Russell, dir. (Fancy pants, Dog Jack, The Outlaws)***

“Ionel Petroi composes works in the vein of ‘music relative,’ which follows the rhythmic patterns worthy of Stravinsky’s.”—***Anne Rey, Le Monde.***

“Plus, listen for the Bill Evans-meets-Messiaen stride Balkan stylings of Ionel Petroi.”—***John Schaefer, Piano Workouts, WNYC New York, commenting on Petroi’s, The Music of Marrying and Burying.***

“...Ionel Petroi is a highly original composer from Belgrade via Paris ...”—***The Stone, New York.***