

Maestro Marin Nasturica Biographical Sketch

Born to a musical family in Romania, world acclaimed Marin Nasturica, son of an exacting violinist, began to play the accordion at 4 years of age, when his grandmother presented him with a tiny accordion. He soon learned to accompany her while she sang. His father introduced him to violin and piano studies, both of which he studied formally as part of his musical education. Of all the instruments, he discovered that he could achieve maximum musical expressiveness with the accordion, and focused intensely on mastering the instrument. Without a music school that offered formal studies in accordion, he eagerly absorbed technical nuances from two private mentors: Gicu Cofler and Costel Stingaciu, and his father was influential in setting high practice standards.

So focused was his study and advancement, that, by age of 10, he began appearing in cafes, and by 16, he was regularly performing with some of the great popular singers of Romania, notably Gica Petrescu, in live performances and on radio/television. Prior to emigrating from Romania, he served as a lead musician in a national protocol orchestra that performed for the world's visiting dignitaries (royalty, presidents, prime ministers, etc.).

By the time he was 19, he had established a fantastic touring career around the world, not only as a superb accompanist for world-class voice and instrumental artists, but also showcasing his own talents as a brilliant soloist. His artistic reputation became established in countries such as Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Italy, Turkey, Greece, USA, Egypt, Israel, Russia, ex-Yugoslavia, Hungary, Japan, and Hong Kong. Throughout his touring career, exceeding 4 decades, Maestro Nasturica has performed before several well-known international personalities, including the first astronauts who travelled to the moon!

In 1987, after his 7th tour to Canada, and with the encouragement of Michel Buruiana, a notable arts promoter in Quebec, Maestro Nasturica settled in Québec, where he has been performing with the finest orchestras and major jazz musicians of the country, and in numerous festivals. A sample of prestigious musical events in which he performed includes:

- 2008 - Jazz Festival Tour: Toronto, Ottawa, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Victoria, Vancouver, Montreal, Sackville, Halifax, St. John's, Lévis
- 2007 - Toronto Jazz Festival
- 2005 - Festival Saint-Zénon-de-Piopolis
- 2005 - Festival de Lanaudière
- 2004 (2003, 1997, 1996) Montreal International Jazz Festival
- 2003 - OFF Jazz Festival Montreal
- 1995 - Alma's World Festival Accordion
- 1993 - Toronto's Big Squeeze World Accordion Festival
- 1992 - Grande Fête de l'Accordéon
- 1989 - World Accordion Carrefour

Orchestral performance and recording commissions include:

- 2004 – Film sound track of "*Triplets of Belleville*" (produced by Benoit Charest)
- 2003 - Orchestre Symphonique de Québec (conducted by David Bowser)
- 2001 - "Simfonia" of Lanaudière (conducted by Stéphane Laforest)
- 2001 - Orchestre Symphonique de Trois-Rivières (conducted by Gilles Bellemare)
- 2001 - Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal – Film score of opera "*Brundibar*" (conducted by Charles Dutoit)
- 2000 - Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal – Film score of "*Varian's War*" (conducted by Charles Dutoit)
- 1999 – Cirque de Soleil – *Dralion* sound track (produced by Sylvain and Dominique Grand)
- 1990 – Orchestre Symphonique de Laval (conducted by Paul-André Bolvin)
- 1987 - Metropolitan Symphonic Orchestra, invited by Oliver Jones (orchestra conducted by Agnès Grossman)
- 1986 - Metropolitan Symphonic Orchestra, Montreal (conducted by Marc Bélanger)

Needless to say, Marin Nasturica is viewed by critics as one of the world's premier virtuosi of the accordion.