

Milica Pap: my work is my life



PHOTO YY

MILICA PAP'S PROFILE

Age: 38
Born in: Sarajevo
Family: Husband
Motto:
 Do my business very well
Favorite writer: Kafka
Phrases most overused: Vodka

Favorite occupation:
 Playing piano, training in gym
Quality most liked in men: Ability to be a real grown-up man who is not afraid of taking responsibility
Idea of perfect happiness:
 Continue living my life as it is

Quality most liked in women:
 Sincerity, ability not to be afraid to speak the truth
The nearest dream:
 To celebrate New Year with all my family in Belgrade in our beautifully decorated apartment

THE LIST OF MILICA PAP'S FUTURE CONCERTS

March 2012
 Concert hall of the Ural State Conservatory "M. P. Mussorgsky"
 Yekaterinburg: "Symphonic bridges" – The music of France and Russia

April 2012
 3 concerts in the Ural Philharmony, Yekaterinburg:
 L. van Beethoven – Concerto N°2 for piano and orchestra in B flat major, op.

Interview with Milica Pap, concert pianist, music teacher, piano accompanist

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YY: I learnt from your biography that you had visited many countries and cities. Now you're in Russia, Yekaterinburg. Have you ever planned to visit our country and this city in particular?

MP: I've planned: actually not Yekaterinburg but Russia. I finished my studies in Serbia and we (students) had a scholarship to go to the Tchaikovsky conservatoire in Moscow or any other conservatoire in Russia to continue our studies. But because of the war we couldn't travel until 1998. If you had a lot of money you could get out of the country, but for me, as a student, it was impossible. What could I do? Russian professors were coming and I had master classes, I tried to organize every possible concert or master class with Russian musicians, but I never got a chance to visit Russia, Moscow. So when my husband in France asked me what country I would like to go to next, America or Russia, I immediately agreed on Russia. He told me that it is not Moscow. "So what? – I asked, – Is it Russia? Then go!" Imagine that I've been waiting for 25 years to visit Russia.

YY: How do you feel living in Yekaterinburg?

MP: You know, for now when I've visited Moscow and St Petersburg, I prefer to live every day here, in Yekaterinburg. The same as in France: for me it is better to live every day in small cities, not in Paris. When you need to do your business, then go to Paris or Moscow, but it's better to live everyday life here and go with your closest friends to rynek (market). I can have concerts here and visit the Opera Theatre in Yekaterinburg. Also I can visit Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, but I spend several days there and then come back. I was in Paris and had a chance to have concerts there. I know how Paris' everyday life looks – it's not a real life: you don't have time to have coffee and don't have contact with people. So I like living in Yekaterinburg.

YY: You mentioned that you visit Opera Theatre regularly. Have you already managed to perform on Yekaterinburg stages?

MP: Yes, I performed with my colleague who is a French violinist on the 4th of October, and I gave a concert with my mother in the Hyatt on the 20th of January. I also had a solo concert in Nizhny Tagil, and I will have a concert next year, in March in Mussorgsky conservatory.

YY: Having seen a lot of wonderful places, where do you feel yourself mostly comfortable?

MP: I will tell you the truth – it's Belgrade (the place where Milica studied and lived for a long period of time – ed.). I feel myself myself.

YY: I read from your biography that your father was a polyglot speaking seven languages. How many foreign languages do you know?

MP: Of course, English. During my studies I learnt French. My mom told me to learn French and then I really needed this language as I lived in France and I'm married to the Frenchman. Also I know Russian: if you're in this job (a pianist), you need to speak Russian. I understand German but it's not enough. What is missing is that language because I need to be able to present myself.

YY: Did you have any difficulties in learning Russian?

MP: No, I didn't. Your alphabet is very similar to ours. Of course, I'm not very good in Russian grammar, but for everyday life it's ok, because this language is natural for me. On the streets people ask me how to find this or that street, as I'm native. But in France everybody thought that I came from Russia.

YY: You perform solo, with an orchestra, with a violinist or some-

body else. So what is your favorite way to perform?

MP: I don't know what to tell you. I like everything. Everything makes me happy. I think I feel more comfortable, and it's easier for me playing with somebody else because you're sharing your responsibility. But playing solo is also great: it's a challenge.

YY: You were teaching music in France and Yugoslavia. Do you plan to teach here, in Yekaterinburg?

MP: I would like to and I'm planning. Actually I'm open to every possibility: teaching in music schools, having private lessons at my home, accompanying. I would like to have not only concerts, but also teaching lessons: my work is my life.

YY: Who are your favorite musicians among classical and contemporary ones?

MP: I'm a russkophil (Russophile: a person who loves Russian culture – ed.). I would name Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Scriabin. In our family we had records with only Russian musicians. When I was in France and I tried to buy a CD and asked for Nikolai Pletnev, for example, and they offered me someone French, I refused and bought Russian albums. I have seen all the Russian movies about Petr I, Yekaterina II, Romanov, and in our library (bibliotheca) there were only Russian authors – Pushkin,

Tolstoy, etc. Also I listen to other music. For example, I really like funky music, as well as Madonna, Britney Spears, Shakira, Beyonce.

YY: You have already recorded your first CD called "Récital du Printemps". Do you plan to continue creating your own music? What will it be like?

MP: Yes, I want to have my second CD, but before that I would like to have my video clip. I want to make it modern from classical music, as you have to think in terms of each market that your production is published in. And I'm not against, I'm for this.

YY: As you lived in France and for now in Russia for a long period of time, what can you say about cultural differences these two countries have?

MP: You know, here, in Yekaterinburg, I regularly come to Opera and for every occasion I dress well, put on evening make-up, do my hair... and it's normal for Russia. There, in France, they never change their clothes to go to the Theatre, or the Opera, etc. French women's hair is usually cut short, they always wear jeans. Yes, for everyday life it is ok, but they choose the same jeans when they go out. I felt myself very uncomfortable in this way and even asked my friends in Paris not to wear everyday clothes to my concerts.

YEKATERINA BARANNIKOVA