



Pianist **URBAN STANIČ** is the winner of the Slovenian selection for the Eurovision Young Musicians 2014 and runner-up at the final contest in Cologne.

Currently he studies in the class of professor emeritus Dubravka Tomšič Srebotnjak at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana.

He has performed with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra at the New Year concert in the Gallus Hall in Ljubljana, under the baton of maestro Uroš Lajovic. With the Concertino for Piano and Strings from the Slovenian composer L. M. Škerjanc, he has performed in 2013 with the Chamber String Orchestra of the Slovene Philharmonic and again with them in 2016. He has recorded the third movement of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Slovene Radio and Television Orchestra and performed with them the third movement of Schumann's Piano Concerto. He performed the Schumann concerto in Gallus Hall with the Academy in Ljubljana's Symphonic Orchestra, and has also played with the orchestra of the Conservatory in Ljubljana.

He has given recitals at various festivals and concert cycles, such as Imago Sloveniae, Ljubljana Festival (Young Virtuosi) and The International Holland Music Sessions; in June he collaborated again with Imago Sloveniae at the opening concert of the festival "Summer in Old Ljubljana".

He has won first prize and first place at the international Competition for Young Musicians in Povoletto, Italy four times in a row. At the international Zlatko Grgošević 2014 competition in Zagreb, he won absolute first prize and special prize for the performance of a classical sonata. At the international 2014 Young Virtuosi Competition in Zagreb, he has won second prize and special prize for the best performance of a virtuosic etude. In 2013, he was laureate of the national competition (TEMSIG) in his age category with the first prize, and in 2016 again, adding a special prize for best interpretation of a Scarlatti sonata.

Urban started learning piano at the age of three, at a private music centre. He studied at the Moste-Polje Music School in Ljubljana in the class of prof. Lilijana Žerajčič until 2011, where he was laureate of a international competition, in Povoletto, for the first time, then he studied at the Conservatory for Music and Ballet Ljubljana in the class of prof. Lidija Malahotky Haas, parallelly also being a student of Gimnazija Bežigrad. He has perfected his piano playing and musicianship with professors such as Natalia Trull, Andreas Frölich and Konstantin Bogino.

According to the opinions of critics, Urban might be the most distinctly rising pianistic star in Slovenia. His musical successes notwithstanding, he has considered study in other fields as well; although in the end music prevailed, he was twice national champion in mathematics and five times in logic, and in his younger years also, in his age category, national chess champion.

**Grande polonaise brillante, op. 22 E-flat major by Frédéric Chopin.**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAOf9riO4MQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAOf9riO4MQ)

**GRANDE POLONAISE BRILLANTE, op. 22 E-flat major by Frédéric Chopin.**

## MUSIC

The Grande polonaise brillante is a work for piano and orchestra, although the piano part is often played on its own. The Andante spianato (spianato means "even" or "smooth") for solo piano was composed as an introduction to the polonaise after Chopin received a long-awaited invitation to perform in one of Habeneck's Conservatoire Concerts in Paris. This was the only time Chopin had ever used the term spianato as a description for any of his works.

Chopin's first work, written at age seven, had been a polonaise. The Grande polonaise brillante of 1830–31 was to be the last such he would compose for several years. It preoccupied Chopin in his final months at Warsaw. It was finished at Vienna in 1831. The grande polonaise brillante is Chopin's most technically demanding piece. The Roman Polanski's 2002 film **The Pianist** concludes with this polonaise.

## MOVEMENTS

**Andante spianato** in G major

The quiet rippling effects of this introductory section are borne in a gentle 6/8, rounded with a chordal trio, and a more processional 3/4. The serene middle section (in G major) is not a trio, but only a contrasting episode to complement the overall texture of the movement.

**Grande polonaise brillante** in E-flat major

The polonaise opens in fanfare and moves into an ebullient dance form. In 1836, it was arranged as a piano quartet and, two years later the solo piano work known today.