

Darinka Tsekova

Instrument: Gadulka

Born 23rd April 1981, Pleven, Bulgaria. At the age of seven Darinka enlists at the Children's School of Music in Trastenik with the gadulka.

1990 - 1999: soloist in the Children's (Youth) Ensemble "Nashenche" in Pleven

1994 - 2000: studies at the Panayot Pipkov Music School, Pleven

2002 - 2006: soloist in the Philip Koutev State Ensemble

2004 - 2006: member of Folk Music Orchestra of TV in Veselina

2002 - 2007: soloist in the folk band "Bulgara"

2002 - 2006: graduates with Bachelor's degree from the University of Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski, majoring in Music Education. 2006, accepted into the Graduate Studies programme at the same university, majoring in the same field

Awards:

1991: Gold Medal at the National Folk Music Dance and Arts Fair in Koprivshitsa

1994: "Yanko Petrov" prize at Gadulka Players' Fair in Galabovo (from 1992 to 1999 Darinka won all the first prizes at Galabovo).

- Two-times winner of First and Special Awards at the Varna Summer competition
- First Prize at the Second Academic Competition in Plovdiv
- Multiple times First Prize winner at the competitions in the village of Novachene
- Multiple times First Prize winner at the competitions in Pleven
- Two-times winner of the "Slavy Scholarship" - a competition for a full-year scholarship, organised in the Panayot Pipkov Music School in Pleven

Projects:

- Darinka plays twice for the music and dance show Legends, participating in the recordings for its soundtrack; participates in the presentation thereof at the Royal Albert Hall, London

- Former soloist on the Divi Yagodi show (she also takes part in the recordings of its soundtrack)

- Participates in the music soundtrack and video "Romeo and Juliet" by the Mangasaryan Brothers with which they took part in the Eurovision Competition

- Plays on ethno band Bulgara's album "Mecha Svatba" ("Bear's Wedding")

- Author of the music for the short film "Majki i Dashteri" ("Mothers and Daughters") in 2006

- April 2006 initiates the ethno project "Morains" ("Moreni"), an ethno, rock and jazz fusion for gadulka and tambura duet

- December 2006 founds the ethno band "Sharena Sol" ("Mixed Herbs") World music as main manager, composer, soloist, and arranger

Appearances:

- Participation in multiple concerts as soloist in Bulgaria and abroad

- Freelance musician since 1994, playing with many of the famous wedding orchestras, mainly from northern Bulgaria (including work in restaurants in multiple regions in Bulgaria, weddings, and other traditional and non-traditional festivities)

1996 – 1998: Founder of the Oriental Orchestra

- From 2002 Darinka tours the country and gives concerts with jazz pianist Milcho Leviev, as well as other famous musicians who take part in his concerts

2005: plays in Vlatko Stefanovski's concert at the "Plovdiv Jazz Nights" Festival

- plays with Bulgara as warm-up band for David Garfield and "The Cats", Al Di Meola, Esmá Redžepova; participation in festivals in Bulgaria and abroad; holiday and other broadcasts for Bulgarian TV stations; club shows in Bulgaria and abroad

Miscellaneous:

- Darinka is included as an example in the 1st and 3rd grade music books for children in Bulgaria

- Participation in various music and other broadcasts and films for leading national TV stations (BNT, Efir2, TV7, TV Bulgaria and others)

1996: takes parts in shots for an autobiographical film for Eurocom in Pleven

- Recordings for Bulgarian National Radio Broadcast with the Folk Music Orchestra and as a soloist

- Tours in Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Turkey, Israel, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, England

- Frequent participations in folk music programmes for foreigners, traditional restaurants in Sofia, Bulgaria