

Zhanna Stankovych

Composer · Classical Pianist · Photographer · Writer

Zhanna Stankovych is a composer, pianist, photographer and writer. Born in Svaljava, in the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine, she has lived and worked in Rome for nearly thirty years. Her practice moves across art forms and across cultures with rare consistency: every work is an act of listening — to places, to history, to the other.

Her musical output includes piano compositions and orchestral works. The symphonic poem *Fabula Pysanka* is available on her YouTube channel; her albums *Carnevale di Roma*, conceived for young pianists, and *Disamara — un volo in otto scene*, the original score for the documentary film *Er Forchetta*, are distributed on major international streaming platforms. Her compositions have been performed in places of extraordinary historical and cultural resonance: the Curia Iulia at the Colosseum, the Pyramid of Cestius, the Austrian Cultural Forum in Rome, the National Museum of Musical Instruments; and in international contexts including Japan and several European institutions. She has published collections of original scores, including "Gogol" at the Eternal City — Suite for piano op. 2" and a collection featuring *The Dream of the Dragon Pine Tree* and *Ukrainian Legend*.

The documentary film "*Er Forchetta — il volo di una vita al contrario*", which she wrote and directed, tells the story of Piero Patriarca — a former prisoner turned benefactor in contemporary Rome, whom Stankovych describes as the last Accattone of Pasolini's Rome. The film grew from her photographic reportage of the same name, a finalist at the Sarajevo International Festival in 2022, and from the subsequent exhibition at the Museo delle Mura di Roma. It is forthcoming and currently being submitted to international festivals.

As a classical piano teacher, Stankovych has trained students awarded at international competitions including Jugend Musiziert. Alongside her teaching, her original pedagogical method - based on learning through creative composition and documented in the volume *L'universo sul pentagramma* - has led several students to develop their

own compositional voice. One of them is currently studying composition at the Berklee College of Music.

As a writer, Zhanna Stankovych authored "Blossoming from the roots - The century-old history of Ukrainian music and its deep ties to Europe, published in Italian, English and Ukrainian. It is the first book published in the European Union dedicated to the history of Ukrainian music within the broader European tradition, from the Baroque to twentieth-century classicism, through biographies, lesser-known facts and connections with major figures of world culture. The volume includes photographs and QR codes linking to musical performances on YouTube. In 2019 she received the national Lingua Madre award at the Turin International Book Fair for her short story Quasi paradiso.

Her photography spans genres and continents. The reportage Er Forchetta was selected as a finalist at the Sarajevo International Festival in 2022. The series Garbatella — il cuore di un quartiere in 100 battiti di luce was exhibited at the Museo delle Mura di Roma to wide media attention. She has exhibited at the international festival in Arles. In 2024 she received first prize in the photography section of the national Alberoandronico Award XVII edition, in a ceremony held at the Capitoline Hill in Rome.

Her work is documented at zhannastankovych.eu