**Prof.Mr. Blerim Grubi, Violist (1965)**

He started his first violin lessons in his hometown, where he attended the elementary and high school of music "Ilija Nikolovski Lluj" in the class of prof.P. Nikolov. After he continued his viola studies at the Faculty of Musical Arts in Skopje in the class of Prof. L. Gospodinov, where he graduated in 1989. He continued his postgraduate studies in viola at the same faculty, which he completed in 1999.

In addition, Blerim Grubi attended the perfection course for two years at the Chigiana Academy in Sienna, Italy, in the class of Yuri Bashmet in 1994/5.

After graduation, he joined the Philharmonic Orchestra of North Macedonia. In the 80s he was the leader of the viola group in the Orchestra of the Chamber of Musical Youth in Skopje under the direction of conductor A. Shurev.

Blerim Grub's activity includes appearances in numerous concerts as a soloist and participant in various chamber ensembles. Thus he is involved in important activities of musical life in Kosovo and North Macedonia. Among them it is worth mentioning the concert-recitals within the "Days of Music of Northern Macedonia" (in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 2001 and 2003) "Days of Kosovo Music" and within the Festival at FAM in Skopje (in 1989). In the same year, Blerim Grubi was the representative of North Macedonia in the meetings (at the level of the then Yugoslav federation) of talented young bowed instrumentalists in the SFRY in Osijek-Croatia at the "Franjo Krežman" event, which began with important international concerts. Dedicated to UNICEF with a recital and presented two recitals at the international festivals "Skopje Summer" and "Ohrid Summer" 1989.

In the early 90's Grubi appeared with recitals in many countries of the region. He soon started performing as an orchestral soloist, one of the first performances was in 1994 in a solo concert with the North Macedonia Philharmonic, under the direction of conductor Shurev. The same year followed the solo concert in Tirana with the Tirana Opera and Ballet Symphony Orchestra, conducted by E. Krantja. At this time he completed his postgraduate studies in Skopje, crowning his graduation with a successful recital. That year Grubi also performed in the field of chamber music, where it is worth mentioning the collaborations with the ensemble "Couperin" in Strasbourg as well as many other performances in the region.

In 1996 in Skopje B. Grubi performed in a solo concert with the North Macedonia Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by O. Balaburski.

In the second half of the 90's B. Grubi appeared in several musical manifestations: recitals at the Festival "Song echo" in Struga (in 1997, 1998 and 1999), the Festival "Schubertiada" (on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Schubert's birth ) in Skopje in 1997, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Faculty of Music in Skopje. He also performed a recital at the "Brahms Evening" in 1997. The same year (1998) B. Grubi also performed a solo concert with the Student Symphony Orchestra in Skopje, conducted by S. Nikolovski.

A special turn in the musical creativity of B. Grubi (as well as all other artists) was marked by the normalization of the cultural life of the region in 1999. At this time he presented solo concerts with the Tirana String Orchestra, with conductors A. Leka (in Tetovo and Skopje) as well as with the conductor R. Tiseon in Prishtina.

B. Grubi has held many solo concerts, among them - with the North Macedonia Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra (in Skopje) with conductor B. Canev and with the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra (Pristina) with Le Fi Fi conductor. Meanwhile, in Detmold, Germany, he held a concert with the Chamber Assembly - Detmold and the soloist E. Fischer. He also played as a soloist with the North Macedonia Philharmonic (in Skopje) with conductor B. Canev. Participated in the Macedonian Music Days in Skopje as a soloist with the North Macedonia Philharmonic, with conductor C. Van Alphen, as well as with two solo concerts: in Skopje with the "United" Philharmonic under the direction of conductor A. Leka and in Pristina with the Philharmonic of Kosovo and conductor Bujar Llapaj, Le Fi Fi, Toshio Yanagisava, Gregory Charette.

Blerim Grubi has developed important musical activities in Kosovo by participating in the revival of cultural life after 1999. Together with colleagues S. Badivuku, M. Kaçamaku and V. Kajtazi he founded the Ensemble "Vivendi" with which he has given many concerts in Kosovo and abroad. Among the various concerts it is worth mentioning the concert of the ensemble "Vivendi" in the framework of the manifestation "Bach Week" in Prishtina (1999), then in the Festival of Kosovar culture "Plataforma X Kosova" in Barcelona (2000), in the Festival of contemporary music "Muzifest" in Ljubljana (2000). The ensemble has regularly participated in the International Chamber Music Festival in Prishtina, since the establishment of the festival in 2000 until today. During these concerts B. Grubi collaborated with well-known international and local instrumentalists such as Marija Vrshkova, Maja Kastratovic, Pavel Vernikov, Derek Han, Boris Previsic, Kevin Kenner, Sihana Badivuku, Roland Xhoxhi, Lejla Haxhiu-Pula, Xhevdet Sahatçiu, Arian Paqo, Antonio Gashi, Aristidh Prosi, Fraim Gashi, Mihailo Kufojanakis, Vladimir Barley, Dino Mastroyiannis, Boris Previsich,, Pierluigi Camicia, Francesco de Zan, Bertrand Giraud, Alfredo Oyaguez, Desar Sulejmani, Yesim Gokalp, Stephen Prutsman, Frank S.Dodge Naomi Niskala, Alexander Sitkovetsky, Olsi Cinxo, Mihi Kim ,Smerald Spahia,Bledar Zajmi, Pierre Laurent Boucharlat, Miltiadis Cassaras, Eric Courreges. He has performed in various international festivals such as Ohrid "Summer Festival", "Days of Macedonian Music", "Contemporary Music Festival" in Tirana, "Remusica Festival" -Prishtina, "InterFest" in Bitola, "Varna Music Festival", "Concerti of Altamarca ”–Treviso (Italy),“ International Music Festival L’Escala-Empúries ”,“ de s'Agaró ”-Spain,“ Deia Music Festival ”-Palma de Mallorca, Festival“ Grieg in Bergen ”, Festival“ Syracuse "Festival" Sardenija ", Festival" Armonie della sera in Kosovo "," Anteprima Festival "," Festival international Edesa "," Festival Sasari "and many festivals of chamber music and recitals in Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Turkey, Bulgaria, Germany, Japan, Greece, Slovenia, Portugal, France, Croatia, Bosnia, Austria, Slovenia, Norway and USA.
He has been a member of the jury in several competitions in Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania, and France. Participant in the European String Congress Dresden "ESTA" -Germany, compiler of many programs for the String "New Millennium International Competition" in Skopje, and "ArsKosova Young Musicians Competition". Invited as a professor of viola at the International Summer Music Academy of Colombes in Paris and Flaine-France, giving master classes in viola and chamber music.

Participated in the "SPECTRUM CONCERTS BERLIN", in the series of concerts in the chamber hall of the Berliner Philharmonic, a project that was founded and directed by American-German cellist Frank S. Dodge.

He is also the founder of "Trio Harkor Kosova", one of the founders of the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra and the founder of "ArsKosova Foundation" which deals with the promotion of young talents and the development of musical activities in the country.

B. Grubi is one of the first initiators in post-war Kosovo of the International Chamber Music Festival "KosovaKamerfest" in Prishtina, founder of the Association of Albanian Music and Ballet Artists in Macedonia and founder of the "Multi Kulti" Festival in Skopje. Member of the artistic council of the International Festival "Ohrid Summer" (2005-06), from 1992-2004 engaged in the National Philharmonic - Skopje, is also the founder and member of the Council of the Albanian Foundation for Scholarships of North Macedonia, founder of ESTA-European Association of String Teachers - with branches in Kosovo. Founder of the association “Muza” in Skopje and the international chamber music festival “SKUPI KamerFest”, was the leader of violists in the North Macedonia Philharmonic, from 2000 – 2012 is a leader of violas at the Kosovo Philharmonic, on of the founders of the “All-Albanian Philharmonic Orchestra” in Tirana 2011. Recoded 3 CD Albums which he promoted in the three capital cities: Prishtina, Tirana, and Skopje (2006 – 2016 and 2018). He is a full-time professor and founder of the viola department since 1994 at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Prishtina - "Hasan Prishtina”. Founder of the quartet “Albanian Excellence”. In the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Prishtina – “Hasan Prishtina” is employed from 1994 with the title Lecturer, in 1999 claims the title Professor Assistant, in 2008 claims the title Associated Professor, and in 2018 claims the title Regular Professor, is a founder of the viola department from 1994, and is involved at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Tetova "Fadil Sulejmani"

In 2016, for his contribution in the field of culture and education, he was decorated by the President of Kosovo with the "Presidential Medal of Merit".