**Antonio Gashi** *- violoncello*

The first of Antonio Gashi violoncello classes are provided by prof. Carlo Bermel and Dimitar Stojanov.

Antonio started his studies in Novi Sad (1986) with Istvan Varga, to continue further with graduation in Zagreb with Valter Deshpali during period 1989 - 1991.

Further, the post - graduate studies he finished in NORDWESTDEUTCHE - MUSIC ACADEMY DETMOLD - Germany. Initially he received a diploma in Artistic Exam (1991 - 1995) and then he graduated in MA in Chamber Music Studies also (1996 - 2000) with Professor Karinne Georgian and afterwards with Marcio Carneiro.

Continuously, from the graduation until today Antonio Gashi is a pedagogue at the Faculty of Arts - Music Branch (Pristina) where he teaches on violoncello as well as chamber music. Antonio delivered concerts as a soloist, as well as with different orchestras and ensembles in Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Macedonia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Peru, Japan etc. Further, he was also a member of the Philharmonic of Kosovo, The Philharmony of Zagreb, Detmold chamber orchestra , Kolner chamber orchestra, and Northwest German Philharmony.

Finally, from 2000 - 2003 he was the general director of Philharmony of Kosovo, whereas from 2004 - 2009 he worked as the executive producer in RTK and from 2009 - 2010 as the general director of RTK.

Since 2011, Antonio is a member of chamber ensemble “Celebre” and 2018 Trio BALKANIKA, performing in Kosovo and abroad.

Currently he continues his music activity as a professor at the Pristina University – Faculty of Arts, Art Music Department, teaching Cello and Chamber Music , and as principal cellist in Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra .

While asking Antonio Gashi why he chose this instrument (cello) he added: “Why this exact instrument, simple – the most beautiful sound in the world”.