



SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY 2010  
NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY

MASTER CLASS

# THE CONCEPT OF IMPROVISATION

# MILCHO LEVIEV

JAZZ AND CLASSICAL MUSIC



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## About Milcho Leviev

The idea of never-ending change, discovering and getting to know unexplored areas of music art, is as natural to maestro Milcho Leviev as his breathing. He was the first to combine jazz and Bulgarian folk music as a unified whole, which we now call ethno jazz. Legendary Don Ellis called Milcho Leviev the "Godfather of Balkan jazz".

Leviev is known as a virtuosic pianist, innovative composer, conductor and tutor in the field of classical music and jazz. Success on the world music scene has accompanied him since the beginning of his career:

- In 1967, with his Jazz Focus 65 Quarter, he won the Critics Award at Montreux Jazz Festival – indisputably the greatest success of Bulgarian jazz.
- He was awarded the Grammy for the arrangement of "Blue Rondo a la Turk" recorded by Al Jarreau's Grammy winning album of 1982 "Breakin' Away" and was a Grammy nominee for the Best Vocal Arrangement of Charlie Parker's, "Confirmation", recorded by Manhattan Transfer, 1981, from the album "Mecca for Moderns".
- His "Free Flight" band was declared Band of the Year by the Los Angeles Times newspaper in 1982.

### Maestro Leviev is:

- Doctor honoris causa of the New Bulgarian University, Sofia and the Academy of Music and Dance, Plovdiv.
- Bearer of the Stara Planina Order – the highest Bulgarian President's award and the Saints Cyril and Methodius Order 1st degree – the highest culture award in Bulgaria.

Milcho Leviev is the author of many jazz and classical works, performed all over the world. He also wrote numerous selections of film music: Hot Noon, Monday Morning, Diversion, The Iconostasis, Hazardous Flight, A Letter to America, Chickpeas, etc.

He has worked and works with jazz legends and famous musicians like Don Ellis, Carmen MacRay, Billy Cobham, Airto Moreira, Willie Bobo, Art Pepper, Peter Erskine, Free Flight quartet, Glen Ferris, Herbie Mann, Jack Sheldon, Dave Holland, Charlie Haden, Joe Farrel, Eddie Harris, James Newton, John Klemmer, Gerald Wilson, Bill Holman, Eddie Jefferson, Mark Murphy, Ernie Andrews, Youtis Kiortsoglou, Roy Haynes, and many others.

## Summer Music Academy

New Bulgarian University, Sofia has established the Summer Music Academy, combining the Master Classes of Milcho Leviev and Vicky Almazidu and for first year presenting the Master Class of Glenn Ferris - France. The Summer Music Academy is an opportunity for a summer semester as a temporary alternative and it's main priority is to provide an intensive training by internationally experienced and popular tutors on subjects and themes of present interest, which are not included in the standard music curriculum.

Fund "Milcho Leviev & Vicky Almazidu" founded at the New Bulgarian University supports and stimulates the participants from the Summer Music Academy by granting yearly scholarships and partially covering expenses of the best students.



## Master Class

Milcho Leviev's Master Class "The Concept of Improvisation", organised by the New Bulgarian University, is designed to provide an opportunity for young musicians from Bulgaria and from abroad to work together with a world famous jazz musician and to study the unique methods and techniques he employs.

Since 1999 the main topic of the Master Classes is jazz.

For the second time in 2010 the Master Class is focused on **the Improvisation not only in jazz, but also in classical music** widening the target group of participants to **classical and jazz musicians**.

Milcho Leviev's Master Class, "**The Concept of Improvisation**" aims to enrich the performers' technique and music culture, providing knowledge of improvisational skills and understanding Improvisation as an integral part of all human activities, interpreted through the unique author's conception.



**Audition:** September 7, 2010, 11.00 a.m., Ceremonial Hall,  
New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria

**Master Class:** September 7 – 15, 2010, Ceremonial Hall,  
New Bulgarian University, Sofia

For instrumentalists and singers, jazz and classical musicians,  
from all nationalities, without age limitations.

**Gala concert:** September 16, 2010, 9.00 p.m., Sofia Live Club,  
National Palace of Culture

With selected participants from the Summer Music Academy and  
Glenn Ferris – trombone, France, Vicky Almazidu – voice, Greece and  
Milcho Leviev - piano

The concert is organised with kindly support of Sofia Live Club.



## Registration form

Name .....

Middle name, Surname .....

Date of birth .....Nationality .....

Address .....

E-mail, web .....

Phone.....Cell .....

Music Education .....Trainer .....

Instrument/Voice .....

Profile: Classic or Jazz .....

## Repertoire:

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

### Regulations:

#### 1. Eligibility:

Instrumentalists and singers, **jazz and classical musicians**, from all nationalities,  
without age limitations, with musical theory and harmony knowledge and a good  
command of English.

#### 2. Audition is scheduled:

▶ for attendants-September 7, 2010, 11.00 a.m.,  
Ceremonial Hall, NBU, Sofia, Bulgaria or

▶ with audio-visual materials sent no later  
than September 3, 2010

• by post to:

Pavlina Velichkova  
Music Department, office 504 A  
New Bulgarian University  
21 Montevideo str., Sofia 1618, Bulgaria  
tel.+359 2 81 10 505  
cell: +359 887 51 92 65

• by e-mail: pvelichkova@yahoo.com

#### 3. Requirements for the audition:

Every participant is expected to prepare

**3 pieces in fast, medium and slow tempo,  
respectively.** The pieces could be jazz/pop standards,  
classical or original compositions.

The participant is expected to demonstrate some  
improvisational approach on at least one of the pieces.

The candidate may also consult the tutor in advance about his/her audition repertoire.



#### 4. Selection:

After the audition Maestro Milcho Leviev will select a group of **8 - 12 from all the  
participants**, who are active applicants (instrumentalists and singers). The Master  
Class is opened for course attendants, listeners and audience.

**5. The graduates** of the Master Class will receive a **Certificate** from the New Bulgarian  
University and will perform on the stage together with the world famous jazz  
musicians Milcho Leviev, trombone player Glenn Ferris, France and the jazz singer  
Viky Almazidu at a Gala Concert.

**6.** The participants agree to take part in upcoming performances on stage organized  
by the Summer Music Academy and the New Bulgarian University, after approval of  
Milcho Leviev

**7.** The best participant will be granted the **yearly scholarship** of the Fund "Milcho  
Leviev&Vicky Almazidu".

**8.** An offer for upcoming professional contracts, managed by the New Bulgarian  
University is going to be made to the best participants from the Summer Music  
Academy.

#### Application documents:

- ▶ Registration form
- ▶ Copy of diploma for completed education
- ▶ Professional CV
- ▶ Photo

**Application deadline: September 3, 2010**

### Fees:

	in euro
Audition:	20
Active participants	175
Course attendants	100



The fees for the audition and  
participation are payable at the  
New Bulgarian University or via  
bank transfer.

There are limited scholarships  
available, partially covering some  
of the participation expenses.

Bank accounts for payments:  
in EURO  
New Bulgarian University  
21, Montevideo Str.,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
Raiffeisen Bank  
5A Nikola Petkov St.  
BIC RZBBBGSF  
IBAN BG43ZBB91551460052998

For information, enrolment,  
payment, accommodation,  
details:

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