

Alexandra Berta



"Every time I play music, sing on stage, I consider it as my personalized gift to my audience, an attempt to open one's soul and touch it by the unique language of the Hungarian folk music."

Biography

After starting her music education at the age of 10 in the local School of Arts in Paks, Alexandra Berta began developing her own style, her own voice by reaching out to as many sources of knowledge as possible. During this period she attended a number of folk music competitions winning some of the

highest prizes of folk music performance in Hungary.

She recorded her first album, *Ifjusag Gyongykoszoru (Youth, pearl wreath)*, in 2006.

Alexandra Berta graduated from the Liszt Ferenc Music Academy with a Bachelor in Folk Arts in 2010, a Master in Stringed Instruments in 2012 as well as a Folk Singing and Music Teacher diploma in 2013. Since 2012 she's a zither teacher at the Hungarian Music Academy and has classes at the Csutorás International Folk Music and Dance Summer Camp (also in Hungary). She's dedicated to spreading the joy of listening to and playing the zither, educating the younger and the older generations, the beginners and the experienced alike.

As member of the Folk Music Commission of the Association of Hungarian Choirs, Orchestras and Folk Ensembles since 2013 she's actively partaking in the organization of leading folk music events, competitions. Starting in 2013 she's employed as lecturer at the Hungarian Heritage House allowing her to gain an even deeper, closer relationship with the Hungarian folk culture and music.

In 2013 she's been awarded the Junior Prime Award – a privately founded prize in Hungary, highest in its kind honouring young talents under 30 in science, culture, education and media- for her achievements in folk music. This provided her with the motivation and ambition to record her second album, *Lélektől lélekig (Soul to Soul)*.

In the same year she's been awarded in her hometown, Paks the "Paks Culture Award".

Formations

Solo performance

Alexandra's career started off as a solo artist and she still enjoys performing in that set up today.

Multiple instruments (duets, trios)

During these lengthier performances (20-25 mins) the sound of zither is accompanied by other instruments such as the lute, tambourine, violin or viola creating a full, harmonic musical experience complete with her signature singing voice.



Band performances (30-60 mins concerts)

The 4/5 musician set up is typical for stringed instruments in Hungarian folk music. Alexandra finds it important to incorporate the sound of both Transylvanian and current Hungarian territories during these concerts. Occasional additions of instruments such as the taragot or clarinet will further enhance the experience.

Instrumental presentation for children

These occasions offer the opportunity for young children to get acquainted with the voice and taste of Hungarian folk music and its instruments in an interactive, playgroup like setting. Besides enjoying the sing-along the children will gain a better understanding of Hungarian folk tradition and folk music. Instruments introduced include different types of zithers, flutes, tambourines, harp, violin, viola and contrabass.

Press

"Next to the traditional string orchestral combinations Alexandra also pairs her vocal performance with solo instruments. Her specialty, the zither, shows up on several occasions throughout the album either supporting her singing or in the form of energetic dance music.

Her beautiful voice is present in every song and as a whole this album can be described as a dominantly vocal record spiced up with colorful, diverse instrumental elements of several regions including Matra, Bihar, Del-Dunantul, Szatmar, Gyimes, Moldva, Aranyosszek and Lorincreve. [...] One of the album's greatest merits is how Alexandra has managed to collect a fine selection of songs both in terms of sound and lyrics from the older, most traditional styles of Hungarian folk music. [...]

Alexandra's clean, pleasant voice and magnificent zither performance guarantees to deliver on her mission statement of bringing the sound of Hungarian folk closer to the wider public via a selection of her personal favorite songs."

/Sandor Balogh, Dialekton Records/



"Alexandra Berta, who's been awarded the prestigious Junior Prima prize, has always considered it her main ambition to provide a colorful insight into the art of folk music [...] She recorded her first album practically as a child, in 2006 [...] Now a seasoned, matured artist, her voice has taken a new direction too [...] Keeping the music's focus on the zither, she's experimenting with several new pairings, style combinations [...] this, however, instrument-didn't change her overall goal, which is to introduce as wide a palette of Hungarian folk music to as big an audience as possible."

<http://www.teol.hu/tolna/kultura/pakson-tartja-majd-a-lemezbemutatot-534524/>

"I've had the fortune of listening to her songs and zither music before on various occasions such as exhibitions, cultural events. Each and every time, her performance has touched me, impressed me. I've regularly voiced my awe of her music after her concerts in Paks, explaining how it sets a new artistic standard for our community. The emotional experience her 2007 record release promo concert has given me, however, is just simply beyond words."

/Lovásziné Anna, Mirror of Paks, 2007/

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