



## Judit Váradi & Levente Puskás – BIO

**Judit Váradi** is a pianist and associate professor. She completed her secondary and tertiary studies in Debrecen. She obtained a degree as a piano professor, music teacher, choir leader, répétiteur, and cultural manager at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music and Eötvös Loránd University. She received her PhD in 2010 at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. The title of her dissertation is: How to educate an audience to acquire a taste for classical music?

She lectures at the Faculty of Music of the University of Debrecen since 1988. She was vice dean between 2013 and 2017. Since 2016, she is a lecturer at the Partium Christian University in Oradea in concert pedagogy, her main research interest. Since 2015, she is supervisor, lecturer, and head of Hungarian and international research projects at the Doctoral School for Humanities of the University of Debrecen. Since 2000, she is art manager for the Faculty of Music of the University of Debrecen and the Foundation for the Art of Future. She is art director for the Young Musicians' Summer Academy and Kodály Zoltán World Youth Orchestra.

She has performed various concerts internationally as a chamber musician, contributor to international professional competitions, and collaborative pianist for choirs (United States, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Poland, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain, Slovakia).

She was awarded the Artisjus Prize in 2010 and the Prize for the Culture of Debrecen in 2019.

Players of instruments which are less frequent and have a relatively short history in music often face the question as to whether they should perform transcribed versions of popular pieces which are certain to enjoy success or choose original but lesser-known works. The saxophone is such an instrument, and this record rather represents the second option.

**Levente Puskás** is a clarinetist, saxophonist, associate professor, and saxophone professor at the Faculty of Music of the University of Debrecen and at the Béni Egressy Secondary School of Music in Budapest. He was taught by Péter Schadl at the King Saint Stephen Secondary School of Music and by Tibor Dittrich at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music. He won second prize in clarinet at the Young Artist Competition in Chicago in 1994. In 1995, he founded Budapest Saxophone Quartet with his friends, which has since toured the world (United States, Canada, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Israel, Mauritius, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy). After having won six prizes in various Hungarian and international competitions, the group was awarded a contract in 2001 to advertise the instruments of SELMER, the world's leading saxophone manufacturer based in Paris.

Under the supervision of László Hadady, Puskás obtained the most prestigious diploma for chamber musicians in France at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. At the Conservatoire National de Musique et de Danse de Montreuil, which is also located in Paris, he received a degree as a saxophone artist and professor under Professor Jean-Pierre Baraglioli's direction. In 2014, he was awarded a doctorate at the University of Banská Bystrica (Akadémia Umení v Banskej Bystrici Fakulta Múzických Umení), with Alexander Stepanov as his supervisor. He has held master courses in Bratislava, Piacenza, Split, Antwerp, and Japan. He has published 10 records with Budapest Saxophone Quartet. He has also created a record with the title *Saxon*, assembled from Hungarian composers' works with his permanent chamber partner, Judit Váradi. He has received the Artisjus Prize.