

Curriculum Vitae



“Mr. Hafizi is one of the most gifted young instrumentalists that I have had the pleasure of working with, one whose abilities promise a wonderful future in the world of music.”

John McLaughlin Williams

(Grammy award-winning American conductor and violinist)

Martin Hafizi was born in 23.09.1993 in the city Sofia. He started learning classical percussion from six years old. In 2000 he became a student in Maria Palieva’s class in the National School of Music “Lyubomir Pipkov”, Sofia. He has been taking part in many competitions and has won the following prizes:

- **1st prize** - Second national competition for percussion instruments “Pendim” 2001, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

- **1st prize** - Third international competition for percussion instruments “Pendim” 2003, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

- **1st prize** - International festival “Culture of the wine” 2003, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **2nd prize** - Twelfth national competition for soloists and singers “Svetoslav Obretenov” 2004, Provadia, Bulgaria

- **1st prize** - First international competition “Young virtuosos” 2004, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **Grand prize** - First national music competition “You and me” 2004, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **2nd prize and special prize for best performance of Dobri Paliev’s piece** - Fourth international competition for percussion instruments “Pendim” 2005, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

- **2nd prize** - Thirteenth international competition for soloists and composers “Music and Earth” 2005, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **1st prize** - First international competition for young performers Ribarroja del Turia 2005, Valencia, Spain

- **1st prize** - Third international competition “Young virtuosos” 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **2nd prize** - Third international competition “Young virtuosos” 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria - with percussion ensemble “The Virtuosos”

- **3rd prize** - Fifteenth international competition for composers, percussion ensembles and soloists “Music and Earth” 2007, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **3rd prize** - Fifth international competition for percussion instruments “Pendim” 2007, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

- **1st prize** - Twenty-first national competition for soloists and singers “Svetoslav Obretenov” 2008, Provadia, Bulgaria

- **3rd prize** - Drumset Competition 2008, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **2nd prize** - Fifth international competition “Young virtuosos” 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **1st prize** - Fifth international competition “Young virtuosos” 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria - with percussion ensemble “3+3”

- **2nd prize** - Seventeenth international competition for soloists and composers

“Music and Earth” 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **1st prize** - Sixth international competition for percussion instruments
“Pendim” 2009, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

- **2nd prize** - Fifth international competition for composition and percussion instruments 2010, Cannes, France

- **Award “Star academic Dmitriy Sergeevich Likhachov” and prize of the composer Andrei Petrov** - Fifteenth International Competition “Созвездие талантов” 2010, Saint Petersburg, Russia

- **3rd prize and the audience prize** - International Percussion Competition Luxembourg 2015 - with percussion quartet “4EXAMPBLE”

- **Winner** - Fifth competition “Keep an Eye The Records” 2018, Bimhuis, Amsterdam, The Netherlands - with his own project Half Easy Trio.

2005 - **soloist of the Sofia Symphony Orchestra** in Christmas concert in Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2006 - participated with percussion ensemble "3+3+1" in the Festival Riba-roja de Turia, Valencia, Spain

2006, 2007 - participant in the tour of the **ESYO**, conducted by **Igor Coretti-Kuret**

2008 - participated in the 48th International Festival "March Music Days" as a timpanist in the orchestra International Academy "LET'S PLAY ORCHESTRA" in Rousse, Bulgaria conducted by **Sir Neville Marriner**

2008 - **soloist of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra "Sofia"**, conducted by Deyan Pavlov in Rome, Italy

2009 - became a member of the percussion ensemble **Youth Percussion Pool**, directed by **Tatiana Koleva**

2010 - participated in summer school of **EUYO**

2010 - **soloist of the Plovdiv Philharmonic Orchestra** in Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2011 - performance with Classic FM Orchestra, conducted by **John McLaughlin Williams**

2011 - nominated for a crystal lyre in category **“Young performer of the year”** in Sofia, Bulgaria.

2012 - became a member of the percussion ensemble **“POLYRHYTHMIA”**

He has been taking part in many different master classes - Brad Mehldau, Kneebody, Dirty Loops, Gilad Hekselman, Panagiotis Andreou, Mark Guiliana, Meshell Ndegeocello, Nate Wood, Matt Penman, Jochen, Rückert, Aaron Goldberg, Jorge Rossy, Brian Blade, John Patitucci, Danilo Pérez, Becca Stevens, Snarky Puppy as well as Tatiana Koleva, Alexander Kamenarov, Georgi Varbanov, Nebojsa Zivkovic, Igor Lesnik, Li Biao, Trilok Gurtu, Hristo Yotsov, Emil Handjiev, Kalin Veliov, Hakim Ludim and others.

He has numerous appearances in concerts organized by NSM "Lyubomir Pipkov", Sofia.

In 2016 Martin Hafizi obtained his Bachelor degree in the Jazz department of "Codarts" in the class of **Hans van Oosterhout** and **Joost Patocka**.

In 2018 Martin obtained his Master degree in the Pop department of "Codarts" in the class of **Hans Eijkenaar** and **Martijn Vink**.

During the years, Martin had the chance to share stages with world-renowned musicians such as: **Billy Harper**, **Tineke Postma**, **Franz von Chossy**, **Niti Ranjan Biswas**, **Tamara Lukasheva**, **Georg Breinschmid**, **Antoni Donchev**, **Tatiana Koleva**, **Dimitar Bodurov**, **Simeon Shterev**, etc.

Martin has been touring in Europe and Asia and has played venues and festivals such as:

- **Bimhuis** (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- **Lantaren Venster** (Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
- **De Doelen** (Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
- **TivoliVredenburg** (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- **Paradox** (Tilburg, The Netherlands)
- **JazzDock** (Prague, Czech Republic)
- **Taichung Jazz Festival** (Taichung, Taiwan)
- **InJazz** (Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
- **Jammin' Juan** (Antibes, France)
- **Plovdiv Jazz Fest** (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
- **A to Jazz Festival** (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- **Grachtenfestival** (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- **Urbano Dejanje** (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Currently he is involved in different projects such as: Half Easy Trio, Franz von Chossy Quintet, Mehmet Polat Quartet, Zhivko Vasilev Quintet, Chi Quartet, Ildo Nandja Trio, The Percussion Pool, etc.