

Ionut Pascu - baritone

Ionut Pascu was born in Constanta on September 6, 1977. After graduating from the Energetic High School in 1994, he was encouraged by his future wife, Madeleine Pascu, to pursue professional music study, which had previously been just a hobby. His ten years with the youth ensemble “Rapsodia Mării” in Constanta, where he actively performed as an accordionist, bore fruit when he competed for admission to the Bucharest Conservatory against peers who had dedicated themselves to formal musical training from a young age.



After just one year of private singing lessons with renowned Constanta soloist Aida Abagief (whose name is now carried by their daughter, Aida Pascu, a 24-year-old opera soloist awarded the title of Young Artist of the Year by the International Classical Music Awards in 2024), Ionut was the top male candidate accepted into the Vocal Department at the University of Music in Bucharest, under the tutelage of the late tenor Dorin Teodorescu. He graduated five years later with the highest average among all university music departments that year, recognized not only with the title of “Magna cum Laude” but also with the Excellence Diploma in Studies, awarded annually to one graduate in the arts by the Serghie Foundation.

In 2001, he completed his state license, performing two significant opera roles: the title role in W. A. Mozart’s “Don Giovanni” and Marcello in G. Puccini’s “La Bohème,” both roles meticulously prepared by the incomparable director of the National Opera of Bucharest, Hero Lupescu, and distinguished conductor Constantin Petrovici.

In the fall of 2001, Ionut Pascu was introduced to the Constanta opera audience, where he worked for three years as a contracted soloist, gaining valuable experience and roles necessary for a serious solo career. He then embarked on numerous international tours with ensembles from Romania (the Netherlands, Germany) and as a guest artist at national opera theaters in the Balkans (Sofia, Skopje, Tirana).

In 2004, he decided to pursue a long-held idea from his student days to deepen his musical studies and broaden his interpretative horizons. Thus, Ionut returned to the University of Bucharest, this time in the Faculty of Composition and Orchestral Conducting, graduating after another four years under maestro Cristian Brancusi.

Simultaneously with his “second student life” he began collaborating and later became employed by the National Opera of Bucharest (2005 – 2013), where he developed his vocal skills not only through the entire theater repertoire but also by tackling particularly challenging roles, such as Wagner’s Dutchman and Enescu’s Oedipe.

His sustained activity as a principal soloist in the opera theaters of Bucharest and Constanta, along with national and international collaborations, did not prevent Ionut from perfecting his conducting technique and understanding of orchestral scores at the “G. Verdi” Conservatory in Milan, successfully completing two years of Master Degree under maestro Vittorio Parisi.

As a soloist, he has performed successfully in Italy, the Netherlands, Israel, Canada, Australia, South Korea, China, Argentina, Belgium, Russia, Hungary, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Albania, and Germany. One of his most significant achievements was at the Sydney Opera, where he performed and recorded the Australian premiere of the monumental work “Cantata della Vita” alongside the Sydney Philharmonic, conducted by the composer, Gianluigi Gelmetti.

From 2010 to the present, he has been closely collaborating with the Tel Aviv Opera (and the Masada Festival), where he has brought to life over 20 principal roles praised by critics (Alfio/Tonio, Nabucco, Scarpia, Enrico, Miller, Renato, Gérmont, Marcello/Schaunard, etc.), under the baton of conductors such as David Stern, Daniel Oren, Frédéric Chaslin, Dan Ettinger, Daniel Cohen, and Daniele Callegari.

In 2012, he was recognized as a trainer in the StudiOpera project, carried out and concluded by the National Opera of Bucharest in collaboration with the Accademia Teatro alla Scala in Milan, where he honed his skills with

international legends of the lyrical genre, including Renato Bruson and Luciana Serra.

As a conductor, he has received favorable reviews following concerts and opera performances with the Radio Chamber Orchestra in Bucharest, the National Opera of Bucharest, the Braşov Opera, the Bacău Philharmonic, the National Opera and Ballet theater “Oleg Danovski” in Constanta, the Jena Philharmonic (Germany), the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestra dei Pomeriggi Musicali in Milan.

Recently, international audiences have seen him in G. Puccini’s operas – Manon Lescaut (alongside Marcello Giordani and Anna Pirozzi) and La Bohème (with Angela Gheorghiu and Stefan Pop), broadcasted from the Royal Opera of Wallonie in Liège on Mezzo television.

In 2013, he received the “David Ohanesian” Award from the Romanian Musical Forum for his title role in Enescu’s Oedipe (which he reprised at the National Opera of Bucharest in January 2024, directed by Stefano Poda). In 2016, he was nominated for the title of “Best Opera Soloist” for his performance of four distinct baritone roles in “The Tales of Hoffmann” at the State “Golden Mask Awards” in Moscow.

On December 6, 2018, during the Romanian Centenary celebration, Ionut Pascu made his conducting debut at the National Opera of Bucharest, as well as orchestrating many musical numbers for the Romanian program of the evening titled “Romanian,” dedicated to National Culture Day, where, alongside the orchestra, soloists, and choir of the Bucharest institution, invited soloists from all opera theaters in the country gathered. Subsequently, the pieces orchestrated by Ionut Pascu were presented by him at the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (Romanian Extraordinary Gala in 2019 and 2022, an event supported by ICR tel Aviv), as well as under the baton of conductors Iurie Florea in Alba Iulia in December 2019 or Daniel Jinga at Expo 2020 Dubai in January 2022, with the orchestra of the National Opera of Bucharest (an event also broadcast by tVR).



Since September 2019, he has been the manager and conductor of the cultural production company Aida Events (“Connecting Opera,” “Romanian Extraordinary Gala at Jerusalem Symphony,” “Acappella Project”).

Languages Spoken Fluently: Italian, English, German, French