

Biography

Dr Lydia Buttigieg PhD

Dr Lydia Buttigieg is a professional and well-sought-after professional musician, recording artist, educator, researcher and musicologist in Malta – specialising in solo harp performances and chamber/orchestral music. She is regularly engaged in prestigious events, orchestral concert performances, solo recitals and premiering solo and orchestral works by Maltese and foreign composers.

Dr Buttigieg's harp playing has taken her to perform at ambassadors' state dinners, prestigious ceremony awards, the inauguration of grand openings organised for the EU Maltese Presidency 2017 and Arraioloas Malta 2022. Such events were hosted at the President's Verdala Palace, Auberge de Castille (the Prime Minister's office), San Anton Residence (under the then Presidents of Malta Prof Guido de Marco, and Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, and Dr George Abela), St. John's Co-Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral of Imdina to name a few. Dr Buttigieg has performed several times with the UK's foremost concert organist and conductor Mro Wayne Marshall OBE and for His Imperial Royal Highness Sandor Archduke of Austria - Prince of Tuscany and Her Imperial Royal Highness Herta Margarete Archduchess of Austria - Princess of Tuscany.

As part of her musical performances, Dr Buttigieg participates in various voluntary organisations, to raise funds for the Community Chest Fund, Puttinu Cares and Hospice Malta.

Apart from performing in various European countries, such as the United Kingdom, Scotland, Greece, Germany, and Poland. Dr Buttigieg is the only harpist who performs regularly as principal harpist, with various Maltese orchestras and wind

bands, including the St. Paul Metropolitan Orchestra, the Philharmonic Wind Orchestra of Luqa and the St. Peter Philharmonic Wind Orchestra of Birżebbuġa. She has also been appointed by resident conductor Mro Anthony Cassar as Principal Harpist with the Malta Police Band.

Dr Buttigieg is the founder member of the Venus Harp Trio, gaining a steady reputation in Malta by presenting concert performances of a high calibre. Her musical versatility has taken her to team up with a professional Maltese pop artist Fiona Cauchi where they form part of a duo, Classique Meets Pop Duo. Their reputation has taken them to perform in various prestigious venues in Malta, including the Notte Bianca 2018, the Archbishop's Palace, Natalis Notabilis, Casino Maltese, and fund-raising restoration projects, since they are the only professional harp and guitar duo on the island.

Apart from her hectic performing schedule, Dr Buttigieg's academic achievements have taken her to pursue in record time a Doctorate from the University of Durham, UK, specialising in Musicology, Theoretical Analysis and Aesthetics. Dr Buttigieg's doctoral thesis focused on the life and works of Maestro Carmelo Pace (a prolific Maltese composer: 1906-1993) and was highly recommended by Professor Harry White, a professor from Dublin's College University to publish her thesis as a monograph. Her traditional education in classical music and the unexplored wealth of music that is stored in Malta, amalgamated with her experience in performing, created the basis for her main research interest. Dr Buttigieg is currently investigating and publishing academic peer-reviewed articles on twentieth-century Maltese music literature and music education. The Janatha Stubbs Foundation sponsored part of her doctorate research studies. In 2016 Dr Buttigieg completed a post-graduate certificate in Music Psychology in Education from Sheffield University. As part of her academic lecturing, she supervises advanced students specialising in musicology, historical and theoretical

analysis and educational research.

Graduating from one of the most prestigious universities in the UK, she holds several performance diplomas, in both piano and harp, from Trinity College of London and London College of Music. She also obtained a Fellowship diploma from the London College of Music in piano accompaniment and was highly recommended by the then examiner to perform during the annual graduation ceremony, held in November 2011 at the Casino Maltese.

Her recent publication is the first CD, *Silent Night*, where the proceeds went towards restoring St. Marija Church of Ta' Doni Rabat Malta and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem.

Dr Buttigieg was invested as Dame by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, held at St. John's Co-Cathedral and presided over by the Grand Master Cardinal Fernando Filoni in November 2021. On behalf of the Balzan Local Council, Dr Buttigieg was awarded *Gieh Hal-Balzan*, recognition for her musical achievements, on an international level. The award was given by Dr Angelo Micallef, Balzan mayor.

