

Ivan Josip Skender rođen je u Varaždinu 1981. godine. Nakon mature na Srednjoj glazbenoj školi i Općoj gimnaziji u Varaždinu, 1997. godine upisao je studij kompozicije na Muzičkoj akademiji u Zagrebu, u klasi prof. Željka Brkanovića kao najmlađi student kompozicije u povijesti Akademije. Godine 1999. upisao je paralelni studij dirigiranja u klasi prof. Vjekoslava Šuteja. Od 2010. do 2012. pohađao je dvogodišnji postdiplomski studij orkestralnog dirigiranja u Beču u klasi prof. Uroša Lajovica. Skladbe su mu izvođene u gotovo svim zemljama Europe, te u SAD, Kanadi i Meksiku. Godine 2011. je skladao svoje najopsežnije djelo, operu *Šuma Striborova* koja je praizvedena u Hrvatskom narodnom kazalištu Ivana pl. Zajca u Rijeci u sklopu Muzičkog biennala Zagreb, te je doživjela brojne izvedbe u samo godinu dana svog postojanja. Bio je prvi skladatelj - predstavnik Hrvatske na europskom multimedijском festivalu MusMA 2012. Laureat je stipendije "Rudolf i Brigita Matz" za mlade skladatelje.

Kao dirigent surađivao je sa brojnim hrvatskim i stranim orkestrima i zborovima (Simfonijski orkestar austrijske radiotelevizije, Canadian Sinfonietta, operni ansambl Staatsheatera u Braunschweigu, Hrvatski barokni ansambl, Zagrebačka filharmonija, Varaždinski komorni orkestar, ansambl Nacionalne Opere i Baleta Tirana, Dubrovački simfonijski orkestar, Karlovački komorni orkestar, Zagrebački orkestar mladih, Zbor i orkestar HRT, Akademski zbor Bazilike Srca Isusova u Zagrebu Palma). Od 2005. do 2014. zaposlen je u Operi Hrvatskoga narodnog kazališta u Zagrebu na mjestu zborovođe. U bečkom Musikverein u debitirao je 2011. godine, a u Operi Hrvatskoga narodnog kazališta u Zagrebu 2012. s operom Ljubavni napitak Gaetana Donizettija. Debitirao je u Staatstheateru u Braunschweigu 2016. godine izvedbom opere "Tosca". Vršio je dužnost umjetničkog ravnatelja Opere HNK u Zagrebu za opernu sezonu 2013./2014. Od sezone 2014./2015. zaposlen je na funkciji dirigenta Opere HNK u Zagrebu. Na Muzičkoj akademiji zaposlen je na mjestu docenta na odsjeku za dirigiranje, udaraljke i harfu. Dobitnik je nagrade "Stjepan Šulek" za kompoziciju 2017. godine za skladbu "Phantasmagoria".

Ivan Josip Skender was born in Varaždin in 1981. After graduating from the Secondary School of Music and Varaždin High School, in 1997 he enrolled a composition studies at the Music Academy in Zagreb, in the class of prof Željko Brkanović as the youngest student of the composition in the history of the Academy. In 1999 he enrolled in a parallel study of conducting in the class of prof Vjekoslav Šutej. From 2010 till 2012 he has attended a two-year postgraduate study of orchestral conducting in Vienna in the class of prof Uroš Lajovic. His compositions were performed in almost all countries of Europe, and in the USA, Canada and Mexico. In

2011 he composed his most extensive work, the opera of Stribor's Forrest, which was premiered at the Croatian National Theater Ivan pl. Zajc in Rijeka as part of the Music Biennale of Zagreb, and has performed numerous performances in just one year of its existence. He was the first composer - a representative of Croatia at the European Multimedia Festival MusMA 2012. He is laureate of scholarship "Rudolf and Brigita Matz" for young composers.

He worked as a conductor with numerous Croatian and foreign orchestras and choirs (Symphony Orchestra of the Austrian Radio and Television, Canadian Sinfonietta, Staatsheater Opera in Braunschweig, Croatian Baroque Ensemble, Zagreb Philharmonic, Varaždin Chamber Orchestra, National Opera and Ballet Ensemble, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, Karlovac Chamber Orchestra, Youth Orchestra of Zagreb, Choir and Orchestra of HRT, The Palm – Academic Choir of the Basilica of the Heart of Jesus in Zagreb).

From 2005 to 2014 he was employed at the Opera House of the Croatian National Theater in Zagreb as a choir-leader. He was debuted in Vienna Musikverein in 2011 and at the Opera House of the Croatian National Theater in Zagreb in 2012 with the Gaetano Donizetti's opera L'elisir d'amore. He debuted at the Stadttheater in Braunschweig in 2016 with the performance of the opera "Tosca". He held the position of Artistic Director of the Croatian National Opera in Zagreb for the opera season 2013/2014. Since the 2014/2015 season he is employed as the conductor of the HNK Opera in Zagreb. At the Academy of Music he is employed at the position of docent at the conducting, percussion and harp department. He was awarded the "Stjepan Šulek" award for the composition in 2017 for the piece "Phantasmagoria".