

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDATION

Ilija Milosavljević Kolarac, a Serbian merchant, bequeathed all his property to his people with the aim to spread scientific knowledge and culture in his last will and testament in 1878. In Kolarac's lifetime Literary Fund was established, and until today there have been more than 200 literary works translated and published in the field of literature, science and culture. Fund for Erecting a Serbian University where scholars would transfer their knowledge to the people was also established.

A magnificent edifice of the Kolarac Foundation, where the seat of the People's University is, was finished in 1932. The architect Petar Bajalović, having an extraordinary sense for architectural finesse, tackled the issue of the Concert Hall space. The cutting edge scientific solutions for acoustics of the time were applied, and the Grand Concert Hall has been recognised as the most acoustic hall for music performances in Belgrade, and one of the most acoustic ones in Europe. The Hall was officially opened on 4th February 1932, with the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra concert. The People's University started its programme activity on 9th October the same year.

The first President of the Board of the Kolarac Foundation, Dr. Aleksandar Belić, in his opening speech in official opening of the Kolarac People's University, clearly emphasized the role of the People's University in the Serbian society, having in mind the mission and vision of the Foundation:

Not only in our country, but also in the world, there is a need for a People's University. That is an institution that invisibly entwines into similar schools and fills the gaps other schools leave in the social education system.

Every year since 1968 the Board of the Ilija M. Kolarac Foundation has been awarding Plaques of the Kolarac Foundation, for an exceptional contribution to the Foundation programme development and the Annual Gallery Award for the best exhibition of the season.

Mission of the Kolarac Foundation is presentation and promotion of culture, science and art, development of the additional education concept, lifelong learning, and new incentives related to the the cultural and educational values of the institution.

Vision of the Kolarac Foundation is that as a modern, well-equipped institution with a concert hall of relevance for the City of Belgrade and the Republic of Serbia, it gives contribution to life enrichment through cultural and educational contents.

Basic values of the Kolarac Foundation are the tradition of knowledge, programme quality, continuance, dedication and audience trust, harmony and trustworthiness.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITY

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Today the Ilija M. Kolarac Foundation develops the programme through four basic programme units

- Music Centre
- Lecture Centre and Art Gallery
- Centre for Foreign Languages
- Publishing Centre and Aleksandar Belić Bookshop

MUSIC CENTRE

The Centre promotes artistic music and music culture in Belgrade within the widest audience, opening its doors to young and older music lovers and connoisseurs. The Grand Concert Hall holds more than 250 concerts a year, one third being in organisation of the Music Centre.

The Grand Hall is the most eminent concert hall in Belgrade, intended for, most of all, classical music concerts. Besides classical music, jazz, ethno, and world music are also performed there.

Along with the programme of the Music Centre production, the Grand Hall is the place for concerts of other organisers among which the most relevant are Music production of RTS, Belgrade Philharmonic, Jugokonzert, Music Youth, Ensemble Kolo and others.

The Music Centre concerts are organised through the cycle **The Greats of the Music Scene** and **The Rising Stars**, free of charge promenade concerts **The Kolarac Podium of Chamber Music** on Sundays, primarily aimed at raising the level of chamber music in our environment. There is a new cycle **Winners**, with internationally awarded artists performing on stage, as well as a family concert – 4 terms on Saturdays with young and talented soloists performing with the Symphonic orchestra of RTS. In addition, the programmes in the Music Gallery present artists within the cycle Jubilee, Encounter with the Artist, Music Workshop, The Chosen for the Chosen, etc.

The Music Centre also organises programmes for children of pre-school and school age within the programme **How to Listen to the Concert** and thus cultivates the future concert audience.



LECTURE CENTRE

The lecturing activity of the Kolarac Foundation is dedicated to promotion and popularisation of culture, science and art. Through organising various programmes, aimed at a wide audience, as well as the expert public, it cherishes characteristics of its own cultural identity and the identity of other nations, thus contributing to building the society of knowledge.

The Kolarac Foundation especially cherishes the concept of an Open University, mostly in the form of seminars, with an aim of sustained implementation of lifelong education strategy, which lies in the very foundation of our institution. The lecturing activity is aimed at a wide audience. It is organised through the work of 18 academic departments. Their programme is designed with the participation of expert councils of the departments and renowned university professors. The departments involved are: architecture, astronomy and astronautics, biology, history and archeology, history of art, language and speech, literature, mathematics, economics, medicine, political sciences, psychology, religion, physics, chemistry, philosophy, sociology and legal sciences.

There are over 200 lectures a year from the field of social and natural sciences, art and literature. There are also discussions, forums, literary evenings and academies held. The Kolarac Foundation cherishes the concept of an Open University, mostly in the form of seminars. International lecturers are frequent guests, but the Centre also cooperates with other foundations, scientific institutions, embassies, foreign cultural centres, publishing houses and associations.

The Lecture Centre is in possession of an exceptional selection of old audio recordings of lectures, that nowadays present a valuable testimony of many decades of the cultural and educational mission of the Kolarac People's University. Since 2012 the programmes have been systematically recorded and kept in the digital form.

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ART GALLERY

The Art Gallery of the Kolarac Foundation was established in 1964. With its exhibition and retail premises, the Gallery represents one of the most prestigious spaces of that purpose in the city. The exhibition part of the Art Gallery is used for classic art exhibitions, as well as all kinds of multimedia presentations. The exhibition programme, like all pieces of art on sale, is verified by the Expert Council of the Art Gallery. The sale consists solely of the the works of artists who had their solo exhibitions in the Kolarac Foundation.

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THE LIBRARY

The Kolarac Foundation Library contains the literary fund of over 10,000 book titles from the field of belletristic, scientific monographies, dictionaries and encyclopedias. It is currently available to the students of the Centre for Foreign Languages courses, lecturers, external associates, scholars and students of Belgrade University. The Kolarac Foundation Library still keeps the printed editions of the Kolarac Foundation and The Kolarac People's University.



CENTRE FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The oldest school of foreign languages in Serbia, established in 1933, is the first school full member of the Pan-European association of high-quality language schools (EAQUALS – Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality Language Services) and the owner of the licence for Goethe Institute exams. The Centre is accredited by the Ministry of Education for testing and issuing the certificate at C1 level for English teachers in primary schools.

The Centre for Foreign Languages organises group and individual classes of foreign languages at all levels, from A1 to C2, according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Teachers who work in the Centre for Foreign Languages are experienced, creative, well-educated, with the Faculty of Philology diploma. In the extensive offer of languages and specialised courses, there are especially significant preparatory courses for gaining English certificates of the Cambridge University, German certificates of the Goethe Institute, DALF and DELF for French, DELE for Spanish, and CILS for Italian.

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At the moment the Centre offers 17 languages: English, German, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Slovenian, Turkish, Arabian, Swedish, Norwegian, Indonesian, and Serbian for Foreigners.

Corporate clients and institutions are offered special discounts and custom-made courses. Tradition and quality have been reason enough for many ministries and companies to place trust in us and give their recommendations.

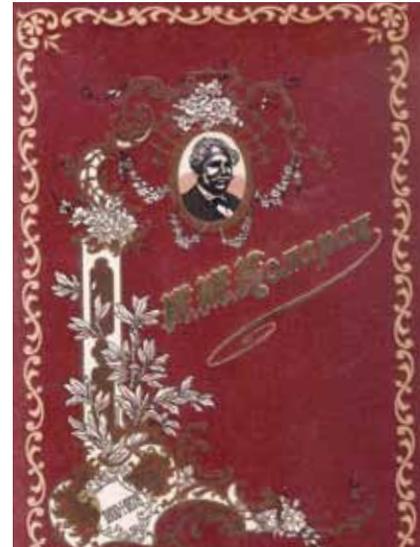


PUBLISHING CENTRE

Ever since the 1860's, with the help of Kolarac in translation and printing of eminent works, Publishing Centre and its literary fund have been being developed in accordance with historical and political changes, cultural needs and interest in topics in the Serbian society of 20th century. After the Second World War books were mostly published for the needs of the lecturing activity and the People's University.

In the previous period of the publishing activity, there have been more than 200 books from various fields of natural and social sciences published, as well as translations and textbooks.

Today, the publishing activity of the Kolarac Foundation includes academic textbooks and books for learning foreign languages, as well as publications accompanying programmes of the Lecture Centre and the Music Centre.



BOOKSHOP Aleksandar Belić

The Bookshop profile was established at the very beginning of its work. It relies on philology, linguistics, history, philosophy, social sciences and art. The Bookshop also offers the most extensive array of journals and magazines from the mentioned fields. There are also publications that accompany programmes of the Lecture Centre and the Music Centre.



Facilities

GRAND CONCERT HALL

The Grand Concert Hall is intended for various music programmes, concerts, formal academies, symposiums, expert conventions, multimedia programmes and video projections. Within the Grand Concert Hall there are also two recording studios that provide professional audio recordings of all programmes in the Hall.

Scene area: 130 m²

- 10 Stage capacity: a large mixed choir, a symphonic orchestra, two concert pianos and a cembalo.
Auditorium capacity: 883 seats

Technical equipment:

- Main stage and back stage (shell)
- Wooden and plush curtains
- Two soloist and two orchestra dressing rooms
- Video projector
- Sound reproduction (wireless and stationary microphones)
- Sound card mixer
- Sound and video recordings of programmes
- Concert Hall lighting
- Concert piano Steinway – D model
- Cembalo Neupert
- Projection screen
- Projection (portable) screen - smaller
- Choir props
- Various kinds of stage designs with elements of scene equipment: banners, rostrum, executive council desk, boards

MUSIC GALLERY

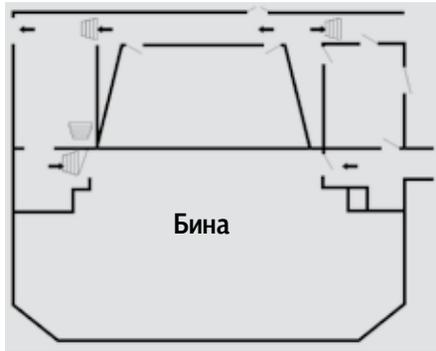
The Music Gallery space is used for exhibitions, formal gatherings, promotions, presentations and press conferences.

Gallery area: 100 m²

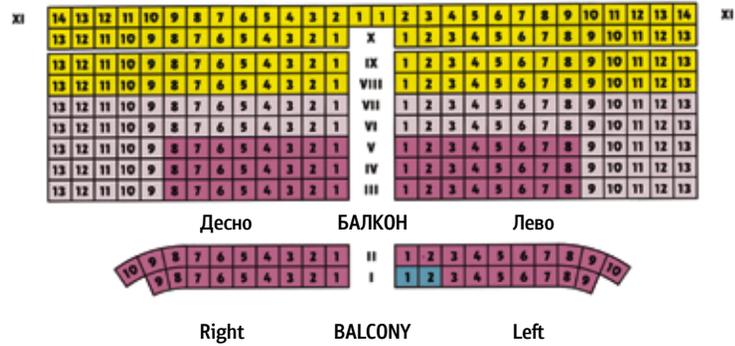
Gallery capacity: 80 seats that can be removed and the space becomes a large salon.

Technical equipment:

- Concert piano Steinway
- Equipment for setting showpieces, paintings, sculptures, boards and promotion material
- Projection equipment
- Portable sound system



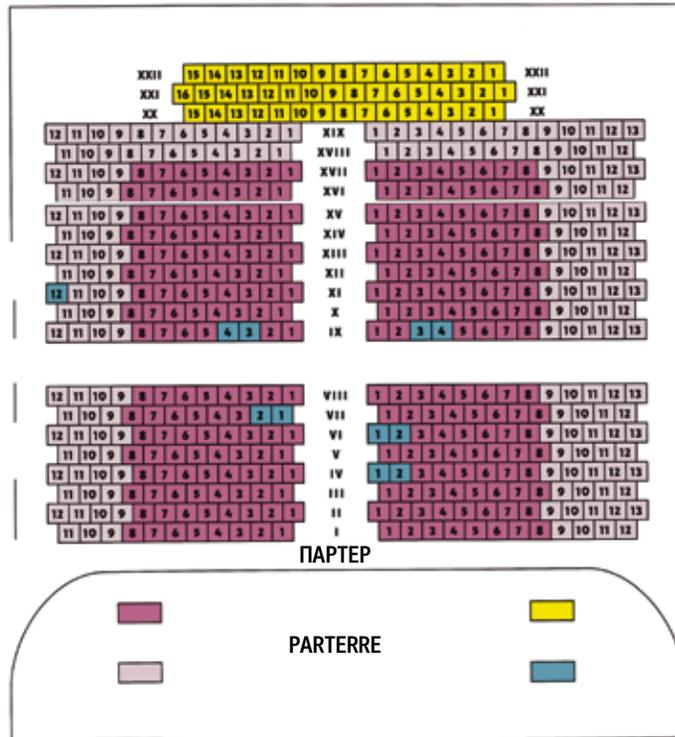
THE GRAND CONCERT HALL



Stage

Галерија

Галерија



PARTERRE



SMALL HALL WITH THE SALON

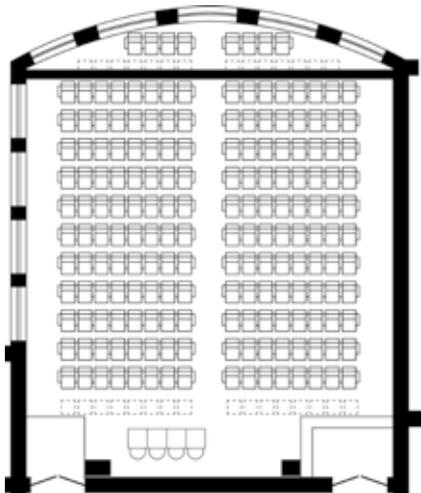
The Small Hall with the salon is located on the first floor. Today it is a multifunctional space. It is used for organising lectures, seminars, literary evenings, science and art promotions, discussions and forums. The Salon is suitable for breaks during conferences and seminars, as well as gatherings and cocktails before and after programmes.

Hall capacity: 200 seats

Salon area: 34 m²

Technical equipment:

- Desk and chairs
- Computer and video beam
- Whiteboard, projector and screen
- Sound reproduction and recording
- Technical booth with two seats for simultaneous interpreters
- Video and audio link with the Josif Pančić Hall, which increases its capacity



Josif Pančić HALL

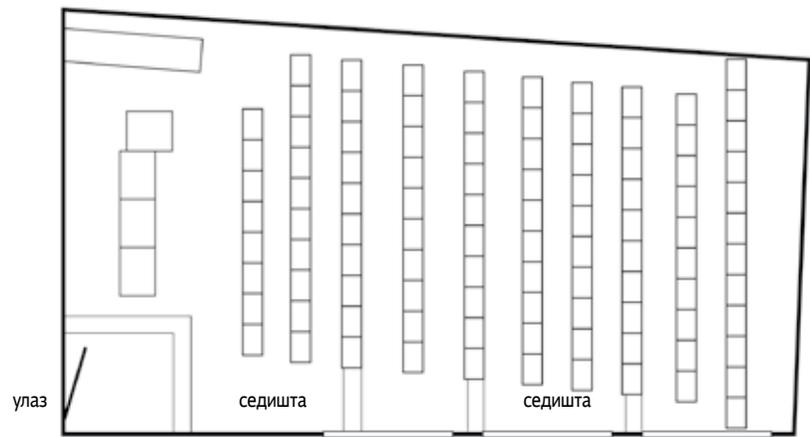
The Josif Pančić Hall is used for organising lectures, literary evenings, book presentations, public forums, expert symposiums and seminars. It is especially suitable for those who address small, expert audience, because of its smaller capacity.

Hall capacity: 100 seats

Technical equipment:

- Desk and chairs
- Computer and video beam
- Board, projector and screen
- Sound reproduction and recording
- Video and audio link with the Small Hall

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entrance

seat

seat

Milan Grol HALL

The Milan Grol Hall is used for small-scale expert councils, seminars, workshops and courses, lectures and literary evenings. The advantage is the chamber atmosphere which enables interaction and a closer contact between the lecturer and the audience.

Continuous programmes are organised here by the Belgrade Youth Office within the project Info Room – free of charge service and advice for the young, as well as various educational programmes, seminars, workshops.

Capacity: 60 seats which can be removed to adapt the space to different purposes and needs of the users.

Technical equipment:

- Desk and chairs
- Computer and video beam
- Portable sound system
- Sound reproduction and recording
- Portable projection screen

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CLASSROOMS, LIBRARY AND STUDIOS

These spaces have been adapted into multipurpose spaces. They are used for learning foreign languages, exam preparatory courses and other courses.

Library capacity: 25 seats

Classroom capacity: between 10 and 25 seats

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Technical equipment:

- whiteboard
- CD player
- Portable sound system



ART GALLERY

A special advantage of the Art Gallery is daylight illumination.

Gallery area: 90 m²

Exhibition space area: 200 m²

Technical equipment:

- Equipment for setting showpieces
- Functional lighting
- Video and sound equipment



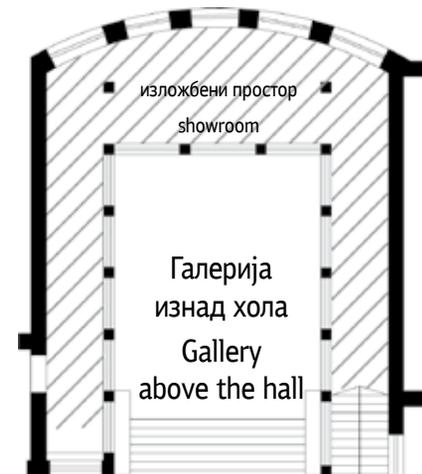
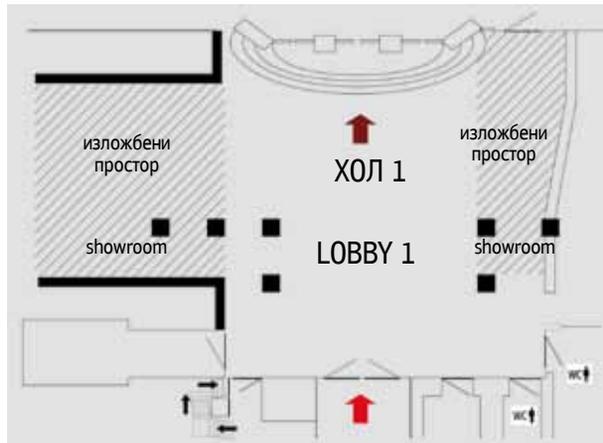
HALLS

The entrance hall in front of the wardrobe, the hall in front of the Grand Concert Hall and the gallery above the central hall of the Foundation can be used as an exhibition space.

Exhibition space area: 735 m²



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Other contents

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KOLARAC COFFEE CLUB

The Coffee club is suitable for breaks between programmes. It can also be adapted for other purposes.

Club capacity: between 120 and 150 seats



BOX OFFICE

The Box office offers tickets for all music manifestations that are held at Kolarac or free of charge tickets for a number of concerts in the year.

Working hours:

Monday – Friday: 10:00 – 14:00, 14:30 – 20:00

Saturday – Sunday: 18:00 – 20:00, before a concert

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