

George Tanchev – Biography

Dr. **George Tanchev** was born on **April 3, 1969**, in **Sofia**, into a family of professional musicians. His mother, **Eli Tancheva**, graduated from the Music School and the Conservatory with piano as her major, considering the legendary pianist **Velichka Savova** as a key figure in her musical education. His father, **Hristo Tanchev**, graduated from the **Bulgarian State Conservatory (BDK)**, specializing in conducting and composition in the class of the distinguished musician and pedagogue **Professor Konstantin Iliev**.

Honoured guests in the Tanchev household were some of the most renowned Bulgarian musicians, including **Zdravko Manolov, Professor Benyamin Eliezer, Dimitar Chipiliev, Andrei Drennikov, Simeon Shterev, and Kamen Goleminov**. The family's circle also included world-class performers and composers. Encounters with **Academician Marin Goleminov**, whose villa in Bistritsa the Tanchevs often visited, were frequent and memorable.

George was deeply impressed by the absolute dedication to music displayed by all the musicians with whom his parents had professional and personal relationships. Evenings were often spent around the piano, analysing and enjoying musical masterpieces across different genres — such as the brilliant folk arrangements by **Krasimir Kyurkchiyski, the fugues of J.S. Bach, Chopin's nocturnes, songs by The Beatles, and jazz improvisations by Oscar Peterson, Joe Pass, and Ella Fitzgerald**.

A fortunate and fateful encounter for George was meeting **Professor Dr. Dobri Paliev** at **Balkanton**, where George's father was working on tape editing for another record following a session by the **National Ensemble for Percussion Instruments "Poliritmiya."** Eight-year-old George was fascinated by the opportunity to meet "Uncle Dobri," whose voice he had often heard while his father worked on tape edits.

Over the next three years, under Professor Paliev's personal mentorship, George courageously pressed the red button on the tape recorder — an act that symbolically marked the start of his own long and multifaceted professional path in music.