

*The news that Dejan Despić (1930–2024), a member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and one of the most authoritative figures in Serbia's music life, has passed was received at the editorial board of New Sound not only with sadness due to the departure of our esteemed professor, associate, and friend, but also with the impression that in our perception this news somehow immediately acquired a form of synthesis of sorts.*

*For Dejan Despić, with his longevity and activity alike, marked an age of complex periods in our contemporary music, as one of its worthiest contributors and key cornerstones of our professional knowledge. He championed it as an inspired author with an impressively rich, aesthetically consistent, and stylistically diverse compositional oeuvre, as an encyclopaedically informed and highly creative music theorist, as a committed pedagogue, as a progressive and reliable actor in various forms of our music life. His working life consistently unfolded amid an essential interpenetration and organic synthesis of those activities, until at one point, at the beginning of the difficult 1990s in our country, it also came to include participation in the editorial board of the New Sound International Journal of Music.*

*Namely, at the very end of 1992, when it was agreed to establish the Journal, Dejan Despić answered our call to become a member of its first editorial board, with the authentic enthusiasm and optimism of a champion of the notion that the entire musical profession should enjoy a better position in a better society and a strong conviction that the idea we formulated regarding the physiognomy, role, and perspective of the magazine we initiated were well founded indeed.*

*It has been 32 years since then, with 64 issues of the New Sound built into them, with the name of Dejan Despić in the Journal's editorial board. Those issues bear the deep stamp of a harmonious professional collaboration that was accomplished in most diverse conditions of work: those shaped by war, various social upheavals and financial crises, as well as in those more serene moments that were more favourably predisposed to (music) scholarship. But regardless of those conditions, Dejan Despić was with us, actively and intensely, for as long as his health allowed, and then indirectly and discretely, in an implicitly counselling role, always with us. And he will remain with us, as a symbol of professional knowledge and the criteria that he championed at the New Sound.*

M.V.H.