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YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

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29.04.2021. | Podgorica | 30.04.2021. | Cetinje

Podgorica, 2021.

BALKAN YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Ideja za projekat **Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra** nastala je u radionici organizacije **Jazz Art** polovinom 2019. godine. Nakon par mjeseci pružila se prilika da konkuriramo na treći poziv **Fonda za zapadni Balkan – WBF** za dodjelu granta. U konkurenciji od 290 projekata Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra je ušao u 24 nagrađena projekta i započeo s realizacijom u maju 2020. godine.

Tokom narednih dvanaest mjeseci projekat se razvijao u nekoliko faza, čemu su doprinijeli partneri u projektu: **Muzička akademija Univerziteta „Goce Delčev“ u Štipu**, Sjeverna Makedonija i **Fakultet muzičke umetnosti, Univerziteta umetnosti u Beogradu**, Srbija.

Započeli smo s otvorenim pozivom upućenim mladim muzičarima iz zemalja Zapadnog Balkana – starosti od 18 do 27. godina, a nastavili konkursom za mlade kompozitore s područja Balkana. Preko 50 zainteresovanih muzičara za orkestar i 12 kompozitora prijavilo se za učešće. Od toga smo izabrali 21 muzičara i deset kompozitora da budu dio orkestra i njegovog repertoara.

Odabrani članovi ansambla “Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra” i kompozitori imali su priliku da se putem Interneta konsultuju i sarađuju s ekspertima partnerskih institucija, prof. **Antonijom Kitanovskim** i prof. **Vladimirom Nikolovom**, i rade na pripremi repertoara.

Srećni smo što je planirana završnica projekta bila moguća i što smo uspjeli da i pored otkazivanja muzičara u poslednji čas (zbog pandemije i pratećih mjera) pronađemo nove zainteresovane i okupimo kompletan sastav Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra u Podgorici, od 24. do 30. aprila 2021.

Ovaj projekat je primjer istinske kulturne saradnje koja za rezultat ima združeni multikulturalni i prekogranični omladinski džez orkestar. BYJO je nosilac promjena i pomaže da približi mlade muzičare misiji WBF – koja se ogleda u regionalnoj saradnji, dobrim susjedskim odnosima i jačanju regionalne povezanosti unutar zapadnog Balkana.

Posebno raduje što ovaj projekat ima potencijal da bude baza za kreiranje regionalnih veza i mreža mladih džez muzičara i kompozitora, kao i osnaživanje saradnje među partnerskim institucijama, u cilju usavršavanja i promocije brojnih talentovanih muzičara i kompozitora koji žive i stvaraju na Balkanu.

Maja Popović
Jazz Art

BALKAN YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

The idea for the **Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra** project was born at the **Jazz Art's** workshop in the first half of 2019. After a few months we got an opportunity to apply for the **Western Balkan Fund's** third open call. Our project was chosen from over 290 submitted applications, as one of the 24 winning projects. The project officially took off in May 2020.

In the next twelve months, we started developing the project in few phases, with meaningful contribution of our project partners: **Music Academy "Goce Delčev", Štip**, North Macedonia and **Faculty of Music Arts, Belgrade**, Serbia.

It began with an open call for young musicians from the Western Balkan countries – aged 18 to 27, and continued with an open call for young composers from this region. We received 50 applications from musicians and 12 from composers. We ended up selecting 21 musicians and 10 composers to be a part of Orchestra and its repertoire.

The selected members of Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra and its composers had an opportunity to work on repertoire and do online consultations with professors **Antonijo Kitanovski** and **Vladimir Nikolov**, both experts from partner institutions.

We are happy we were able to reach the final phase of the project and succeeded, despite the last-minute cancelations, (due to pandemic restrictions) to find new musicians and reassemble the full Orchestra in Podgorica, from 24 to 30 April, 2021.

This project is a showcase of the real cultural cooperation and the result is a joint, multicultural and cross-border youth jazz orchestra. Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra is a beacon of change and it helps bringing closer young musicians to the mission of WBF's – which is regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations and strengthening of the regional cohesion in the WB region.

We are especially pleased that this project has the potential to be a base for creating regional connections and networks of young jazz musicians and composers, as well as for strengthening the cooperation between partner institutions, all in order to improve and promote talented musicians and composers living and creating in the Balkans.

Maja Popović
Jazz Art

BALKAN YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA SASTAV/MEMBERS

Flauta / Flute • **Laora Qose**

Alt saksofon / Alto saxophone • **Danilo Mitić**

Tenor saksofon / Tenor saxophones • **Kristijan Đorđević, Milutin Barbul**

Bariton saksofon / Baritone saxophone • **Sava Dabanović**

Truba / Trumpets • **Nikola Cvetković, Benjamin Drijenčić, Pavle Mihailović**

Horna / Horn • **Maša Tulić**

Trombon / Trombones • **Uroš Silaški, Miloš Šakić**

Glas / Vocals • **Jana Đorđević, Annabella Alleksza**

Klavir / Piano • **Bojan Cvetković, Ivan Jovanović**

Gitara / Guitar • **Stefan Stehlik**

Kontrabas / Double bass • **David Gegić**

Bubnjevi / Drums • **Dimitrije Mojsijević**

Udaraljke / Percussion • **Slaven Ljujić**

KONCERTNI PROGRAM / CONCERT PROGRAMME

Ivan Jovanović | **Domicil**

David Mastikosa | **Nucleus. Expansion.**

Vladimir Botev | **5 Chapters & an Epilogue**

Sebastian Burneci | **Behind Social Bars**

Nevena Pejčić | **Wald**

Simona Strungaru | **Ignition**

Mak Murtić | **Song of Sorrow**

Gordan Spasovski | **Virgo Diamond**

Damjan Jovičin | **Ashurbanipal**

Rok Nemanič | **Aqualand**

KOMPOZITORI



COMPOSERS



Vladimir Botev (1984) iz Sjeverne Makedonije rođen je u Skoplju. Uporedo je studirao ekonomiju i džez muziku u Štipu. Diplomirao je na Univerzitetu Goce Delčeva 2015. godine. Kao gitarista i kontrabasista svirao je u nekoliko džez ansambala. Zahvaljujući privatnim časovima i savjetima profesora Vladimira Nikolova, ovaj mladi i perspektivni umjetnik je tokom posljednje decenije napravio veliki napredak na polju aranžiranja muzike. Nekoliko njegovih aranžmana izveli su Makedonski filharmonijski orkestar i big bend Makedonskog udruženja džez muzičara. Napisao je nekoliko djela za gitaru, kamerni orkestar i big bend. Jedan od njegovih komada za big bend izveden je u Skoplju, pod upravom V. Nikolova. Botev se raduje proširenju svoga znanja u oblasti kompozicije.



Vladimir Botev (1984) from North Macedonia was born in Skopje. He studied simultaneously economics and jazz music in Stip. He received a BA in jazz guitar performance from Goce Delcev University in 2015. As a guitarist and double bassist, he played in several jazz ensembles. Thanks to the private lessons and the guidance of Professor Vladimir Nikolov, this young and perspective artist made a huge progress in the field of music arranging during the last decade. Several of his arrangements have been performed by the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Big Band of the Macedonian Association of Jazz Musicians. Vladimir wrote a few pieces for guitar, chamber orchestra and big band. One of his big band pieces was performed in Skopje, with V. Nikolov as a conductor. Vladimir is looking forward to expand his knowledge in music writing.



SEBASTIAN BURNECI,
COMPOSER

" It is an honor to compose for Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra because I find the Balkan area very offering in terms of artistic capacity and insufficiently explored in the jazz music scene. I think that attracting more and more young players to discover and perform new music is the best way to keep the tradition of jazz and also to evolve in this liberating and inspiring music genre. "



Sebastian Burneci (1983) jedan je od najreprezentativnijih muzičara svoje generacije. Rođen je u Konstanti, Rumunija, u muzičkoj porodici. Klasično muzičko obrazovanje stekao je u školi klasične muzike Kraljica Marija od Rumunije u Konstanti (2001), Rumunskom državnom muzičkom univerzitetu u Bukurešti (2006), a drugu bečelor diplomu stekao je na Odsjeku za džez Konzervatorijuma Princ Klaus u Groningenu, Holandija (2011). Osnivač je i lider Bukureškog džez orkestra (2012), prva truba i solista Big benda rumunskog nacionalnog radija. Komponovao je i aranžirao najveći broj kompozicija za CD izdanje Bukureškog džez orkestra "Priče iz Bukurešta" (Povesti din Bucuresti). Jedan od najznačajnijih projekata u njegovoj kompozitorskoj karijeri je "Unspoken Symphonic Jazz Project" izveden sa Rumunskim kamernim radio

orkestrom i objavljen u izdanju rumunske nacionalne radio-difuzne kompanije "Editura Casa Radio". Pored džez projekata, Sebastian Burneci je aktivni studijski muzičar i jedan od najsnimanijih trubača rumunske komercijalne scene. Dobitnik je najvećih muzičkih priznanja na nacionalnim muzičkim olimpijskim takmičenjima, šest godina za redom.



Sebastian Burneci (1983) is considered as one of the most representative musicians of his generation. He was born in Constanta, Romania, in a music family. His basic music training was in classical music at the Queen Mary of Romania Arts College in Constanta (2001), the Romanian National Music University in Bucharest (2006) followed by the second bachelor degree in Jazz at the Prins Claus Conservatoire in Groningen, the Netherlands (2011). He is the founder and leader of Bucharest Jazz Orchestra (from 2012 to present) and also lead trumpet player and soloist of the Romanian National Radio Big Band. He has composed and arranged most of the tracks from Bucharest Jazz Orchestra's CD – Povesti din Bucuresti (Stories from Bucharest). One of the highlights of his career as a composer is the Unspoken Symphonic Jazz Project, that was performed with the Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra and released by the Romanian National Radio Broadcasting Company's label, "Editura Casa Radio". Besides jazz projects he is an active studio musician and one of the most recorded trumpeters of the Romanian commercial scene. Sebastian has won the highest distinction in the Romanian National Music Olympic Competitions for six consecutive years.

IVAN JOVANOVIĆ,
COMPOSER

" I am looking forward to hearing my compositions being played by the first Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra and I see this project as an important stepping stone to my career. "



Ivan Jovanović (1998) je rođen u Vršcu, malom gradu u Vojvodini (Srbija), gdje je stekao osnovno i srednje muzičko obrazovanje. Trenutno studira klavir na Fakultetu muzičke umjetnosti u Beogradu. Klavir svira posljednjih jedanaest godina od čega klasiku šest i džez muziku pet godina. Nastupao je na brojnim džez festivalima u Srbiji i u susjednim zemljama: Jazzik Subotica, Jazztronic Vršac, Babel Sound Festival, Valjevo Jazz Festival i drugi. Kao mlad izvođač radije se budućem radu u oblasti kompozicije.



Ivan Jovanović (1998) was born in Vršac, small town in Vojvodina (Serbia) where he received elementary and high musical education. Currently he lives in Belgrade where he studies piano at the Faculty of Music. He has been playing piano for the past eleven years – six in classical and five years in jazz music. He played at many jazz festivals in Serbia and the region, such as: Jazzik Subotica, Jazztronic Vršac, Babel Sound Festival, Valjevo Jazz Fest, etc. Being mostly a young performer he is looking forward to expand his knowledge in this field of composition studies.



DAMJAN JOVIČIN,
COMPOSER

I got the impression of fresh energy streaming through this new project. Regional cooperation in the Balkans is something I support, especially artistic communities. Sometimes it can feel like putting together the puzzles of a beautiful image dug deep in the mind.



Damjan Jovičin (1995) je mladi srpski kompozitor iz Beograda koji pripada novoj generaciji kreativnih umjetnika i kompozitora sa Balkana. Diplomirao je i magistrirao na Univerzitetu umjetnosti u Beogradu, a trenutno pohađa doktorske studije kompozicije pod mentorstvom profesora Zorana Erića. Tokom studija, učestvovao je na brojnim radionicama i majstorskim kursovima kompozitora Brajana Fernihoua, Tristana Murejla, Marka Apleboma, Dejvida Rosenbama, Majkla Doderdija i drugih. Damjanova djela često sviraju mnogi zapaženi ansamblji kao što su: orkestar i hor

RTS-a, ansambl Hermes, kvartet Mivos, kvartet Manojlović, Zagrebački ansambl flauta, gudački orkestar Fakulteta muzičke umjetnosti u Beogradu, Beogradski gitarski duo, i dr. Njegov rad predstavljen je na Ljetnjem kursu za novu muziku u Darmštatu, na Međunarodnoj ljetnjoj akademiji Univerziteta za muziku i scensku umjetnost u Beču, u Finskoj (Vrijeme muzike), Walden Creative Music Retreat (Nju Hempšir, SAD), i na festivalu Beogradske muzičke svečanosti (BEMUS). Njegovi autorski koncerti održanu su u Luksemburgu, u okviru ciklusa Koncerti u evropskom foajeu i u Banjoj Luci u Kulturnom centru Banski dvor (Damjan Jovičin i Performans Kolektiv). Damjan saraduje sa mnogim umjetnicima u organizovanju događaja i stvaranju interdisciplinarnih djela, a njegova stalna saradnja sa japanskim/australijskim umjetnikom Eičijem Tosakijem je samo jedna od njih. Komponovao je izvanredno djelo "Strune", napisano za 18 gitara.



Damjan Jovičin (1995) is a young Serbian composer from Belgrade who belongs to the new generation of creative artists and composers of the Balkans. He got his BA and MA degree from the University of Arts in Belgrade and is now pursuing doctoral studies in music composition under professor Zoran Erić. As a student, he participated in many masterclasses and workshops led by Brian Ferneyhough, Tristan Murail, Mark Applebaum, David Rosenboom, Michael Daugherty and others. Damjan's pieces are regularly performed by many notable ensembles such as: orchestra and choir of the RTS Serbian Broadcasting Corporation, Hermes ensemble, Mivos Quartet, Manojlović Quartet, Zagreb Flute Ensemble, String Orchestra of Faculty of Music in Belgrade, Belgrade Guitar Duo, etc. His work was presented at Darmstadt Summer Course for new music, ISA (International Summer Academy of University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna), Time of Music in Finland, Walden Creative Music Retreat (New Hampshire, USA), and Belgrade Music Festival (BEMUS). Concerts with his original music were held in Luxemburg as a part of the cycle Les Concerts du Foyer européen, and at Banski Dvor Cultural Center of Banja Luka (Damjan Jovičin i Performans Kolektiv). Damjan is collaborating with many artists in organizing events and creating interdisciplinary works, and his ongoing collaboration with Japanese/Australian artist Eiichi Tosaki is just one of them. He composed a masterful piece "Strune", written for eighteen guitars.

DAVID MASTIKOSA,
COMPOSER

" I
am extremely happy to see that we are
going to get the first Balkan Youth Jazz
Orchestra!
Through this project I would like to
combine my knowledge of contemporary
classical music with the ideas that are
present in jazz, especially in the
field of rhythm. I am sure that I will
contribute to this project with my great
knowledge of orchestration and music
composition. "



David Mastikosa (1992) je bosanski kompozitor mlađe generacije. Osnovne i master studije završio je na Akademiji umjetnosti u Banjoj Luci u klasi profesorice Tatjane Milošević Mijanović. Trenutno je na trećoj godini doktorskih studija na Akademiji umjetnosti u Novom Sadu i radi kao asistent na katedri za muzičku teoriju i pedagogiju na Univerzitetu u Banjoj Luci. Jedan je od najaktivnijih bosanskih kompozitora za film i medije. Muzički je autor višestruko nagrađivanih dokumentaraca "Lica Lafore" i "Djeca" Denisa Bojića. Pored dokumentarnih filmova, aktivno piše muziku za kratke

animirane filmove, kao i za pozorište. Dobitnik je nagrade britanskog savjeta Ukrajine u saradnji sa Dovženko-Centrom za najbolju muziku u savremenom filmu. Ekskluzivno pravo na objavljivanje njegove muzike ima holandska izdavačka kuća savremene klasične muzike "Donemus". On je takođe alumnista francuske škole talenata "Académie musicale de Villecroze". Mastikosa je autor preko sedamdeset različitih kompozicija koje su izvođene na festivalima i događajima širom planete.



David Mastikosa (1992) is a Bosnian composer of the younger generation. He completed undergraduate and master studies at the Academy of Arts at the University of Banja Luka, in the class of Professor Tatjana Milošević Mijanović. Currently, he is in his third year of PhD studies of composition at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad and he is a senior teaching assistant at the Department of Musical Theory and Pedagogy of University of Banja Luka. Mastikosa is one of the most active Bosnian film and media music composers. He is the music author of the multiple award-winning documentaries "Lica Lafore" and "Djeca" by Denis Bojić. In addition to the documentaries, he actively writes the music for short and animated movies as well as the music for theater. He was awarded for the best music in contemporary film by British Council Ukraine in cooperation with Dovzhenko-Centre. Mastikosa's music is exclusively published by Donemus Publishing House of Contemporary Classical Music from the Netherlands. He is also an alumnus of the French talent school Académie musicale de Villecroze. Mastikosa is the author of over 70 different compositions performed at festivals and events around the world.



MAK MURTIĆ,
COMPOSER

" I am interested in connections across the Balkans as I personally feel there is much more we can say to each other that we understand than the perceived disconnection that we sometimes feel we have. I am interested in the community of the big band or orchestra as a platform for both musical and personal development. "



Mak Murtić (1988) je kompozitor i saksofonista iz Zagreba, Hrvatska. Početno interesovanje za muziku razvio je kroz nastupe sa raznim bendovima, od sredine do kraja 2000-ih godina. Preselio se u London 2010. da bi studirao na Univerzitetu Midlseks, gdje je osnovao alternativni džez orkestar Mimika. Od tada je sa orkestrom Mimika objavio tri konceptualna albuma na različite sociopolitičke teme. U Londonu je saradivao sa raznim džez, klasičnim, eksperimentalnim i klupskim ansamblima i grupama. Član je programa „Usvoji kompozitora“ grupe “Sound and Music”, koji radi na djelu za hor Klapham. U međuvremenu je snimio album sa džez orkestrom

Hrvatske radiotelevizije, napisan za septet "Ad Libitum" Zagrebačke filharmonije. Njegove komade izvodili su učenici škole "Pursel", ansambl "White Flower", Tom Atherton i drugi muzičari. Komponovao je i aranžirao muziku za nekoliko kratkih filmova, pozorišnih komada i ansambala. Posljednjih godina Murtić živi u Zagrebu gdje je napisao muziku za razne filmove, pozorišta i ansamble (posebno „Granice“ po narudžbi Zagrebačkog plesnog centra i „Jedna od nas“, dokumentarni film Đura Gavrana). Učestvovao je u raznim jednokratnim i zajedničkim projektima, uključujući: One Beat Balkans (2019), Hrvatski improvizujući orkestar (2019), orkestarski projekat sa Bilijem Martinom (Medeski, Martin i Vud), aranžman za Darka Rundeka i džez orkestar Hrvatske televizije, komad za Sinković&Merčep udarački duo za Zagrebački muzički bijenale (2019) i dr. Pored orkestra Mimika, Murtić aktivno nastupa sa bendovima Antenat i Truth ≠ Tribe. Sa Sarom Al Hamad je osnovao izdavačku kuću Rika Muzika 2020. godine. Od 2019. godine voditelj je i saradnik u obrazovnom i umjetničkom programu "One Beat Balkans". Autor je muzike za film "Inkorničata" (2020) koji je premijerno prikazan u novembru u okviru Evropske prijestonice kulture Rijeka 2020. Trenutno piše muziku za scenu Amadeo za ansambl Ilirika, radi na nizu kratkih filmova i novom projektu orkestra Mimika pod nazivom „Altur Mur“.



Mak Murtić (1988) is a composer and saxophonist from Zagreb, Croatia. He showed the initial interest in music during his performance in various bands in mid to late 2000s. In 2010 he moved to London to pursue his studies at Middlesex University where he established his own alternative jazz orchestra Mimika. Since then, Mimika orchestra has released three concept albums about various sociopolitical topics. During this period he worked with various London based ensembles and groups ranging from jazz, classical, experimental and club music. In 2013 Murtić became a member of Sound and Music's "Adopt a Composer" program which is working on a piece for the Clapham Community Choir. In the meantime, he recorded an album with the Croatian Radio Television Jazz Orchestra, written for the Septet Ad Libitum of the Zagreb Symphony. His pieces were performed by students at the Purcell School, White Flower ensemble, Tom Atherton and other musicians. He composed music for a few short films as well as arrangements for various ensembles and an immersive theatre piece. In recent years, Murtić has been centered in Zagreb, Croatia and he wrote music for various films, theatres and ensembles (notably "Granice" commissioned by the Zagreb Dance Centre and "Jedna od nas", a documentary by Đuro Gavran). He participated in various one-off projects and collaborative projects, including One Beat Balkans (2019), Croatian Improvises Orchestra (2019), orchestral project with Billy Martin (Medeski, Martin and Wood), arrangements for Darko Rundek and the Croatian Radio television Jazz Orchestra, piece for Sinković & Merčep percussion duo for the Zagreb Musical Biennale (2019) and others. Beside Mimika Orchestra he actively performs with bands Antenat and Truth ≠ Tribe. In

2020 he has established Rika Muzika Label with Sara Al Hamad. Since 2019, Murtić is a facilitator and collaborator in the educational and artistic program One Beat Balkans. In 2020 he wrote music for the film "Inkorničata" which was premiered in November as part of the European Capital of Culture Rijeka 2020. He is currently writing music for the "Scena Amadeo" commission for Ensemble Illyrica, and he is working on a number of short films and the new project for Mimika Orchestra entitled "Altur Mur".



ROK NEMANIČ,
COMPOSER

" I am proud to be a part of Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra that connects many young, talented and perspective composers and musicians from the Balkans. I see this project as a great opportunity to gain more music knowledge and experience. "



Rok Nemanič (1993) je uspješan slovenački trubač mlađe generacije. Muzičku karijeru je započeo u Sežani, gdje je pohađao lokalnu muzičku školu. Redovno je učestvovao na takmičenjima u Sloveniji i inostranstvu i dobitnik je mnogih priznanja. Svoje znanje doveo je do savršenstva pohađajući seminare svjetski poznatih trubača (Bo Nilson, Džim Rotondi i dr.). Studirao je na Konzervatorijumu za muziku i balet u Ljubljani. Prva oblast njegovih studija bila je klasična muzika, pod mentorstvom Petera Jevšnikara, a 2012. godine završio je studije džez muzike, pod mentorstvom Davida Jarha. Trenutno studira pod mentorstvom

Daniela Noesiga na privatnom muzičkom Univerzitetu Gustav Maler u Klagenfurtu. Tri puta je svirao sa Big bendom RTV Slovenija, u okviru koncertnog ciklusa »Mladi džez muzičari«. Redovno učestvuje sa Big Band RTV Slovenija kao rezervni trubač, radi i snima sa slovenačkim big bendovima. Osnivač je benda "Balkan Boys" i "Pickpocket Swingers". Napisao je tri albuma za svoj bend Balkan Boys. Prošle godine je počeo da piše i program za svoj bend i duvački orkestar.



Rok Nemanic (1993) is a successful Slovenian trumpet player of the younger generation. His music career began in Sežana where he attended the local music school. He regularly participated in competitions in Slovenia and abroad and received many awards. He brought his knowledge to perfection by attending seminars of the world-renowned trumpet players (Bo Nilson, Jim Rotondi etc.). He studied at the Conservatory of Music and Ballet in Ljubljana. His first field of study was classical music, under Peter Jevsnikar, and, in 2012, he completed his study of jazz music, under David Jarh. Currently, he is studying under Daniel Noesig at the Gustav Mahler Private University for Music in Klagenfurt. He played with the Big Band RTV Slovenia three times during a concert cycle »Young Jazz Musicians«. He regularly participates with the Slovenian RTV Big Band as a substitute player, and he works and records with Slovenian big bands. He is the founder of the Balkan Boys Band and Pickpocket Swingers. He wrote three albums for his own band Balkan Boys. Last year he started to write a program for his band and wind orchestra.



NEVENA PEJČIĆ,
COMPOSER

" I consider this to be a great opportunity for young composers to hear their music. Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra is a way to make progress, meet musicians and make new contacts. "



Nevena Pejić (1996) završila je srednju muzičku školu u Subotici na odsjecima za klasični i džez za klavir. Studije je upisala na Fakultetu muzičke umjetnosti u Beogradu 2015. godine, na Odsjeku za džez i popularnu muziku, gdje je 2019. godine započela i master studije. Tokom svog muzičkog obrazovanja učestvovala je na mnogim nacionalnim i međunarodnim muzičkim takmičenjima u Beogradu, Zrenjaninu, Čupriji, Šapcu, Budimpešti, Gracu, Gorici, Klužu (Rumunija) gdje je osvojila nekoliko nagrada. Od 2018. godine, svira klavir u Narodnom pozorištu u Beogradu. Nastupila je u predstavama „Bolivud“ u režiji Maje Pelević, i „Mačka na usijanom limenom krovu“ i napisala je muziku za dječiju predstavu „Dom“ u režiji Zagorke Stojanović, realizovana u selu Mionica.

Godine 2018. godine Nevena je osnovala vokalni kvartet MING, u okviru kojeg djeluje kao aranžerka, pijanistkinja i kompozitorica. Sa kvartetom MING nastupala je na mnogim festivalima i događajima: Nishville Jazz Festival, Beogradske priče, Dan grada Subotice, Karusel u Čačku, Džez u parku (Rumunija), Džez festival u Kosovskoj Mitrovici, Banski dvor u Banjoj Luci, džez festivali u Pančevu i Novom Sadu, Noć muzeja u Subotici. Snimila je svoj originalni aranžman poznatog džez standarda "Black Nile". Trenutno radi na autorskim kompozicijama za prvi album kvarteta MING. Nevena je dobitnica nagrade udruženja Srbija stvara 2020. godine, za jedno od trideset najboljih umjetničkih djela u Srbiji.



Nevena Pejčić (1996) was born in Subotica, Serbia, where she attended high music school in two departments: classical and jazz piano. In July 2015 she was admitted to the Department of Jazz and Popular Music of Belgrade Faculty of Music, where she started her MA studies in 2019. During her studies, she took part in many national and international music competitions in Belgrade, Zrenjanin, Cuprija, Sabac, Budapest, Graz, Gorizia, Cluj (Romania) and received several awards. Since 2018, she has been playing piano in National Theatre in Belgrade. She performed in the plays "Bolivud" (directed by Maja Pelevic) and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof", and wrote music for children's play "Home" produced in Mionica village (directed by Zagorka Stojanovic).

In 2018, Nevena started a band MING Vocal Quartet working as arranger, pianist, and composer. With the MING Quartet she has performed at many festivals and events: Nishville Jazz Festival, Belgrade Stories, Subotica City Day, Karusel (Cacak), Jazz in the Park (Romania), Jazz Festival (Kosovska Mitrovica), Banski Dvor (Banja Luka), Pancevo Jazz Festival, Novosadski Jazz Festival, Night of Museums in Subotica, and recorded her original arrangement of Black Nile, well-known jazz standard. Currently, they are working on their own original compositions, and they are getting ready to release their first album. As one of thirty best art works in Serbia in 2020, Nevena won the prize from the Serbia Creates Association.

GORDAN SPASOVSKI,
COMPOSER

I am happy that my composition is going to be played by the Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra. I see this Orchestra as a way of making and strengthening music connections inside the Balkan region.



Gordan Spasovski (1990) je pijanista i kompozitor koji živi u Skoplju, Sjeverna Makedonija. Klasično muzičko obrazovanje stekao je na odsjeku za klavir u Muzičkoj školi „Sergej Mihajlov“ u Štipu, nakon čega je završio Univerzitet za muzičku i scensku umjetnost u Gracu, na odsjeku za džez. Kao solista, vođa trija i član nekoliko velikih orkestara nastupio je na internacionalnim džez festivalima u Beogradu, Veneciji, Brašovu, Skoplju itd. Napisao je šest kompozicija za svoj džez trio album „Light Pillar“, šest kompozicija za album „Ogledalo“ džez pjevačice Marije Dimitrijević, nekoliko kompozicija za big bend, kao i za druge

ansamble (džez nonet i gudački ansambl, džez septet i dr). Kao član benda pojavljuje se na albumima „The Backyard Jazz Orchestra“, „A Tribute to Nat King Cole“(John Ilija Apelgren) i „The Music of Dragan Gjakonovski – Shpato“ (Martin Gjakonovski). Zajedno sa makedonskim izvođačem Džonom Ilijom Apelgrenom, kreirao je album „Midnight Conversation“. Od 2016. godine, pridružio se „ZJM Big Bendu“. Nastupao je sa Makedonskom filharmonijom, kao i sa mnogim zapaženim muzičarima.



Gordan Spasovski (1990) is a pianist and composer based in Skopje, Macedonia. He received his music education as a classical pianist at Music school “Sergej Mihajlov” in Stip, North Macedonia, and later on as a jazz pianist at the University for Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. As a soloist, leader of his trio and member of few large orchestras, Spasovski performed at many international jazz festivals. He wrote six compositions for his jazz trio album “Light Pillar”, six compositions for Marija Dimitrijevic’s jazz vocal album “Ogledalo”, a few compositions for big band and other ensembles (jazz nonet and string ensemble, jazz septet, etc.). He appears on three albums as a sideman: “The Backyard Jazz Orchestra”, “A Tribute to Nat King Cole” (John Ilija Apelgren) and “The Music of Dragan Gjakonovski – Shpato” (Martin Gjakonovski). As a co-leader, he appears on the “Midnight Conversation” duo album, together with the Macedonian vocalist John Ilija Apelgren. Since 2016, Gordan is the pianist of the “ZJM Big Band”. He performed with the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as with many notable musicians.



SIMONA STRUNGARU,
COMPOSER

" I am happy to compose for the Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra because I think it can be an interesting way to combine the sonorities of the Big Band in contemporary approaches. It is my honor to write for the young musicians and singers of Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra while trying to discover new ways of expression."



Simona Strungaru (1982) je rumunska pijanistica, kompozitorica i dirigentica. Osnovne studije klavira i orkestarsko dirigovanje završila je na državnom Univerzitetu muzike u Bukureštu, nakon čega je magistrirala na Muzičkom konzervatorijumu u Amsterdamu. Dirigentica je Bukureškog džez orkestra i savremenog muzičkog ansambla "Sonomania" sa kojim učestvuje na brojnim internacionalnim festivalima. Dirigovala je savremenim operskim projektom "Fidelio Esti Tu!" (2020) i svjetskom premijerom savremene opere "S.A.L.O." (The Standard American Lexicographical Opera) Majkla Kara. Simona komponuje muziku za različite instrumentalne i vokalne konfiguracije u raznolikim stilovima,

od klasične do elektronske muzike i sl. Autorka je simfonijske svite "Gaston", po narudžbini gradske skupštine Bukurešta, koju su izveli njen simfonijski ansambl i vizuelna umjetnica Pisika Patrata, u okviru festivala Bukureške bijele noći (2015). Njeno djelo "Chant" uvršteno je u projekat "N-escu" (2020), posvećen slavnom rumunskom kompozitoru Žoržu Enesku, i objavljeno u izdanju Editura Muzicala. Takođe je autorka projekata "DIOSA Simfonic EDM project" (2017) zasnovanog na njenom alter-egu i "Firestarter by Diosa" simfonijskog omaža bendu Prodigy (2019). Trenutno radi na snimanju autorske muzike sa američkim trubačem Aleksom Sipiaginom i Bukureškim džez orkestrom.

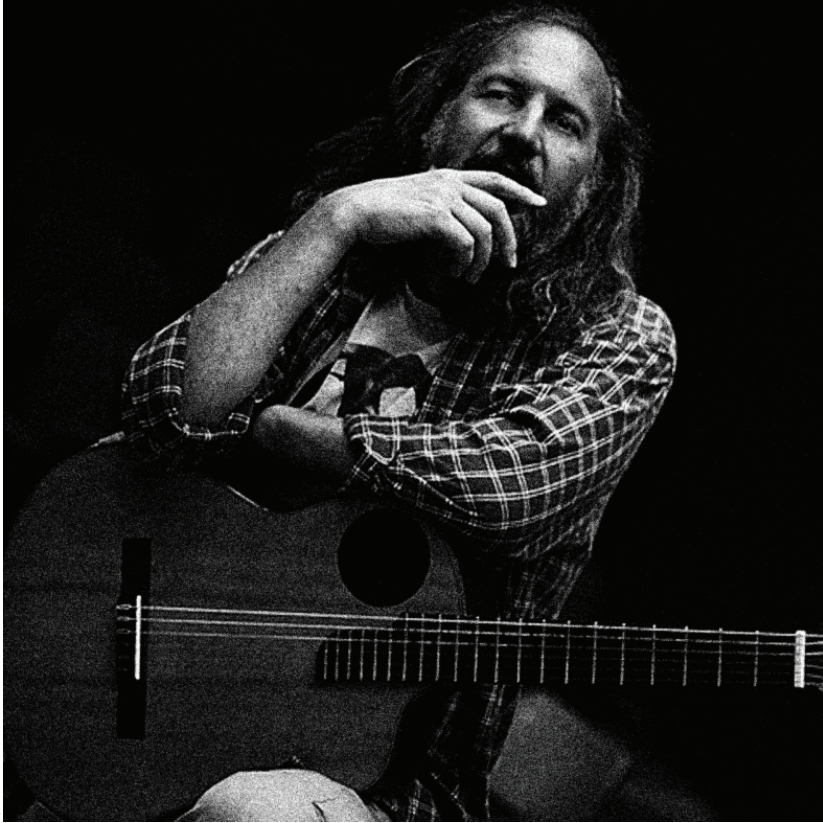


Simona Strungaru (1982) is Romanian pianist, composer and orchestra conductor. She studied piano and orchestra conducting at the National University of Music in Bucharest and graduated with the master degree from the Amsterdam Music Conservatory. She is the permanent conductor of Bucharest Jazz Orchestra and contemporary music ensemble Sonomania with which she participates at many international festivals. She also conducted a contemporary opera project "Fidelio Esti Tu!" (2020), and the world premiere of the contemporary opera S.A.L.O. by Michael Karr (The Standard American Lexicographical Opera). She composed music for various instrumental and vocal configurations in a variety of styles, from classical music to electronic etc. She composed the symphonic suite Gaston commissioned by the Bucharest City Hall which was performed by Simona Strungaru Symphonics Ensemble and the visual artist Pisica Pătrată during the White Nights of Bucharest Festival (2015). Her work Chant was included in the N-escu project (2020) which is dedicated to famous Romanian composer George Enescu and it was published by Editura Muzicala. She's the author of DIOSA Simfonic EDM project (2017), based on her alter-ego character and "Firestarter by Diosa" (2019) simfonic tribute to the music of the bend The Prodigy. Currently Simona is recording original music with American trumpet player Alex Sipiagin and Bucharest Jazz Orchestra.

TIM PARTNERA



PARTNERS TEAM



Antonijo Kitanovski, Muzička akademija, Univerzitet "Goce Delčev", Štip

•• Neke stvari ne mogu se opisati riječima, već se moraju iskusiti. Mark Tven nas podsjeća na to čuvenom izrekom o držanju mačke za rep! Ja bih to radije uporedio sa slušanjem velikog orkestra, ili sviranjem u njemu – i to uživo!

Za neke od vas ovo će biti prvo iskustvo sviranja ili komponovanja u jednom ovako velikom džez sastavu. Upoznaćete se sa svojim vršnjacima iz regiona, što će vas obavezati da nastavite saradnju sa njima, dugo nakon završetka ovog projekta. Vaša strast za muzikom pojačaće se kada zajedno spoznamo novo lice ove jedinstvene umjetničke forme. Sa sobom donesite želju za novim avanturama i siguran sam da ćemo se sjajno zabavljati radeći zajedno, pobrinuvši se da se ovaj vrijedni muzički projekat ostvari. Organizacija "Jazz Art" ima veliko iskustvo u organizovanju ovakvih događaja i drago mi je što sam dio jednog ovakvog projekta. ••

Gitarista, kompozitor i edukator **Toni Kitanovski** aktivan je na internacionalnoj muzičkoj sceni na polju džeza i savremene muzike. Nakon završenih osmogodišnjih studija u klasi Dragana Gjankovskog Špata, preselio se u Boston, gdje je zahvaljujući nagradi "Robert Share Memorial" završio studije na poznatom Berkli koledžu. Napisao je veliki broj kompozicija u džez idiomu kao i simfonijskih djela, muziku za film i pozorište, umjetničke performanse i savremeni ples. Nastupao je na prestižnim međunarodnim festivalima i u svjetskim salama kao što su: festival džeza u Berlinu, festival svjetske muzike "Dunya" u Rotterdamu, međunarodni muzički festival u Batu (Velika Britanija), "Barbikan" u Londonu, "Rio Loko" u Tuluzu, i dr. Njegove ploče objavljene u izdanju ENJA i SJF Records distribuirane su i konstantno emitovane na svim kontinentima. Saradnja sa Romskim duvačkim bendom Čerkezi je njegov najpoznatiji projekat (Toni Kitanovski & Cherkezi Orchestra). Kitanovski je profesor džez gitare i kompozicije na Muzičkoj akademiji Univerziteta "Goce Dolčev" u Štipu, gdje je ujedno i dekan.



.. Some things indeed can't be described with words – they have to be experienced. Mark Twain's famous example of one such experience is holding a cat by the tail. Mine example would rather be performing with or hearing a large orchestra – live!

It would be a first time experience for some of you to be a part of a large jazz group as a performer or a writer. You will all meet your peers from the neighborhood and there will be no more excuses not to continue collaborating long after this project is over.

Your passion for music will be enhanced just as always when we all learn a new face of this unique art form. Please bring your hunger for new adventures and we will all have a great time working together and making sure a valuable musical project comes true.

Jazz Art Association is certainly well experienced in organizing such events and I am looking forward being a part of it. ..

Toni Kitanovski is guitarist, composer and educator active on the international scene in the field of jazz and contemporary music. After eight years of musical studies with Dragan Gjakonovski Shpato he moved to Boston. Thanks to Robert Share Memorial Award he completed his studies at the famed Berklee College of Music. He has written a large body of compositions in jazz idiom as well as symphonic pieces, music for film, theatre, performance art and contemporary dance. He has performed at prestigious international festivals and venues such as Berlin Jazz Festival, Dunya World Music Festival (Rotterdam, Holland), Bath

Music Festival (GB), Barbican Hall (London, GB), Rio Loco (Toulouse, France), etc. His recordings for ENJA and SJF Records have been distributed and are continuously aired across continents. Collaboration with Roma Brass Band Cherkezi is his most celebrated project (Toni Kitanovski & Cherkezi Orchestra). Mr. Kitanovski is professor of jazz guitar and composition and serves as the Dean of Music Academy at UGD – Stip.



Vladimir Nikolov, Fakultet muzičke umetnosti, Beograd

•• Može se reći da stvaranje muzike danas znači poigravanje sa hardverskim i softverskim alatcima u toplini vašeg doma. Loša vijest je da ništa od toga ne može zamijeniti zajedničko sviranje uživo. Dobra vijest je – imamo bend za vas, i toliko je raznolik da smo sigurni da će predstavljati jedinstveno iskustvo! Kompozitori i aranžeri koji se trude da dostignu viši nivo znanja o orkestarskom pisanju takođe su željni da čuju kako zapravo zvuči to što su napisali. Ovo je njihova šansa da procijene sebe ali i da ispolje svoju radost komponovanja.

Balkan tradicionalno nije najbolje mjesto za džez orkestre, ali je svakako mjesto gdje se za kratko vrijeme može pronaći mnoštvo različitih muzičara i kultura. To je mjesto gdje možemo stopiti svoja zapadnjačka džez iskustva sa svojim korijenima i napraviti fuziju od bilo čega. Sviranje u orkestru i učenje kroz slušanje je blaženo iskustvo, posebno kada se udruže pravi ljudi. Nastojali smo da napravimo sjajan bend i radujem se što ću vas čuti kako svirate zajedno. ••

Vladimir Nikolov je kompozitor čija djela obuhvataju širok dijapazon muzičkih jezika i žanrova, koristeći se klasičnom i džez muzikom kao polaznom osnovom. Već duže vrijeme je "iza kulisa" svjetskih orkestarskih projekata kao aranžer, dok često nastupa kao dirigent i gitarista sa renomiranim solistima i ansamblima. Rođen je 1979. godine u Skoplju, gdje je i odrastao. Muzikom je počeo da se bavi sa 14 godina, kada je počeo da svira gitaru. Ubrzo nakon toga, upisao je studije klasične gitare, diplomirajući sa originalnom kompozicijom. U međuvremenu, Nikolov je počeo da komponuje i aranžira pod mentorstvom Ilije Pejovskog. Nakon odlaska u Holandiju na jesen 2002. godine, upisao je studije džez kompozicije i aranžiranja na konzervatorijumu u Amsterdamu. Master studije, s naglaskom na simfonijsko komponovanje, završio je 2005. godine.

Kao kompozitor i aranžer saradivao je sa ansamblima kao što su orkestri "Metropole", "Heritage", "BBC Radio", Briselska filharmonija. Među umjetnicima s kojima je saradivao su: Džon Klejton, Rendi Breker, Vins Mendoza, Čaka Kan, Džuls Bakli, Doni MekKaslin, Džejkob Kolijer, da pomenemo samo nekoliko. Nikolov je takođe kolider, kompozitor/aranžer ansambla "Nikolov-Ivanović Undectet", sa kojim je objavio dva studijska albuma. Časopis "JazzTimes" je objavio da je ovo jedan od najkreativnijih velikih ansambala u Evropi, dok je "Downbeat" za njihovu muziku napisao da sadrži ritmički složene, skladno dočaravajuće besprijekorno aranžirane kompozicije. Ansambl je osvojio prvu nagradu na džez takmičenju "Made in New York" 2019. godine. Nikolov je orkestrirao i aranžirao muziku za nekoliko filmskih projekata, među kojima je i "The Artist", dobitnik Oskara 2012. godine. Njegove kompozicije i aranžmani donijeli su mu brojna međunarodna priznanja, uključujući četiri prve nagrade za originalne kompozicije i pet prvih nagrada za aranžmane.



.. Making music nowadays might mean – playing through hardware and software toys in the warmth of your home. The bad news is – none of that can replace playing together live. Good news is, we have a band for you, and it's diverse enough so we are sure this will be a one-time experience! Composers and arrangers who try to attain a higher level of knowledge of orchestral writing are also eager to get a glimpse of how something they wrote actually sounds. This is a chance for them to be their own judges but also bring about their joy of composing out in the open.

The Balkans are not traditionally the best place for jazz orchestras, but are indeed the place where one can find tons of different musicians and cultures in a one day ride. We are now in a place where we can gather our western jazz experiences with our roots and make fusion out of anything. Playing in an orchestra and learning from listening is a blissful experience, especially when the right people are joined together. We strive to make a great band, and I look forward to hearing you play together. ..

Vladimir Nikolov is a composer whose works cover a wide range of musical languages and genres, using backgrounds in classical music and jazz as points of departure. He has been 'behind the scenes' of worldwide orchestral projects as arranger for some time now, while also frequently performing as conductor and guitarist with renowned soloists and ensembles. He was born 1979 and raised in Skopje, Macedonia. He started music at the age of 14, beginning with the guitar. Soon after, he enrolled in classical guitar studies, graduating with an original composition. Meanwhile, Vladimir began cross-over composing and arranging, mentored by Ilija Pejovski. After departing for the Netherlands in the autumn of 2002, he started jazz composition and arranging studies at the Conservatory of Amsterdam. He finished his Master's studies in 2005 with focus on symphonic writing.

As composer and arranger, Vladimir worked with ensembles such as the Metropole Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic, Heritage Orchestra, BBC Radio Orchestra. Among the collaborative artists, he worked with: John Clayton, Randy Brecker, Vince Mendoza, Chaka Khan, Jules Buckley, Donny McCaslin, Jacob Collier, to name but a few. He's a co-leader, composer/arranger of the ensemble Nikolov-Ivanović Undectet, with which he published two studio albums. In the words of JazzTimes, this is one of the most creative large ensembles in Europe, while Downbeat said that the music of this ensemble contains rhythmically complex, harmonically evocative compositions, all impeccably arranged. The ensemble won a prize at the Made in New York Jazz Competition in 2019.

He also orchestrated and arranged music for several film projects, among which 2012 Oscar winner "The Artist". His compositions and arrangements have won numerous international prizes, including four first prizes for original compositions and five first prizes for arrangements.



Maja Popović, Umjetnost džeza–Jazz Art, Podgorica

•• Okupljanje mladih talentovanih muzičara u okviru džez radionica i performansa jedan je od naših najinspirativnijih, istovremeno i najkompleksnijih zadataka kojima smo bili posvećeni tokom više od deset godina. Brojni džez umjetnici i edukatori iz regiona i svijeta otkrivali su mladim muzičarima tajne ovog žanra i pokazali im da džez nije tek prolazna muzička igra već strast i način života. Tako su se najzad, najzainteresovaniji otisnuli u inostranstvo da bi započeli studije džeza.

Ideja za formiranje omladinskog džez orkestra Balkana proistekla je iz mnogih naših prethodnih akcija i vjerujem da će donijeti novi kvalitet kroz neposrednu saradnju mladih muzičara zapadnog Balkana i partnerskih obrazovnih institucija. Omladinski džez orkestar Balkana zamislili smo kao jedinstven sastav koji će u duhu prijateljstva, tolerancije i uz posvećenost, kreativnost i entuzijazizam,

razviti svoje izvođačke potencijale i ozvučiti neke od novijih stranica stvaralaštva balkanskih džez autora. Vjerujem da ćemo udruženi dati novi pogled na perspektive džeza na Balkanu ••

Maja Popović rođena je u Podgorici, gdje je stekla kompletno muzičko obrazovanje, i diplomirala na pedagoško-teoretskom odsjeku 1987. na Muzičkoj akademiji Univerziteta Crne Gore. Kao stipendistkinja francuske vlade, studirala je klavir na Muzičkoj akademiji „Alfred Cortot“ u Parizu. Svoj radni angažman je započela u Muzičkom programu Radija Crne Gore, gdje je kasnije, do sredine 90-ih nastavila saradnju sa redakcijom za kulturu. Od 1992. do 2001. predavala je u tek osnovanoj Školi za muzičke talente „Andre Navarra“ u Podgorici. U tom periodu je takođe saradivala u redakciji za kulturu dnevnog lista „Pobjeda“, kao muzički saradnik-kritičar, gdje je objavila brojne članke, intervjuje, osvрте i kritike. Bila je angažovana kao selektor muzičkog programa festivala Grad teatar Budva (1997-2001), u okviru kojeg je predstavila novu generaciju mladih crnogorskih umjetnika – izvođača klasične muzike i renomirane muzičare iz regiona i Evrope iz domena klasične, džez i svjetske muzike. Uredila je tri muzička albuma koji sadrže kompilaciju izvođenja različitih umjetnika uživo sa koncerata u crkvi Santa Marija, u izdanju festivala Grad teatar Budva u 1999. i 2000. Krajem 90-ih, osnovala je i nekoliko godina uspješno vodila kvintet eminentnih muzičara iz Crne Gore i Srbije, Tango Nova, s ciljem da se u našoj zemlji i šire promoviše originalna muzika argentinskog kompozitora Astora Piajole.

Od 2001. do danas, Maja radi kao urednica muzičkog programa u KIC-u „Budo Tomović“ u Podgorici, gdje je intenzivirala muzički program kroz redovnu koncertnu sezonu i muzičke manifestacije različitih žanrova, kreirajući razne tematske cikluse, od onih posvećenih mladima (ciklusi „Mladi i muzika“, „Laureati međunarodnih takmičenja“, „Mladi talenti“), preko predstavljanja velikana muzičke scene (Majstori džeza, Kamerna muzika), ženskog muzičkog stvaralaštva (Kompozitorke iz sjenke), do manifestacija poput Podgorica Blues Summit, Mjesec poštovanja džeza, Ljetnji kamp za kamernu muziku, i dr. Inicirala je manifestaciju Mjesec poštovanja džeza/ Jazz Appreciation Month 2007. godine. U cilju njenog daljeg nastavka i razvoja programa džez edukacije i koncertne promocije džez muzike u Crnoj Gori, u saradnji sa kolegama iz oblasti muzike i književnosti osnovala je 2009. nevladinu organizaciju Jazz Art, koja se uključuje u organizaciju navedene manifestacije od 2010. i proširuje svoje djelovanje širom Crne Gore sve do sada. Maja je učestvovala u programima profesionalnih posjeta zemljama kao što su Holandija (Western Balkan Cultural Operators), SAD (IVLP – International Visitor Leadership Program), Francuska (Séjours Culture), Kanada (CINARS), Njemačka (The German Jazz Music Scene) i Izrael (IMSF), na poziv i posredstvom vlada tih zemalja. U periodu

2018/2019, učestvovala je u radu na izradi novog standarda zanimanja za obrazovni program Muzički saradnik za srednje muzičke škole, kao i u izradi novog modula "Organizacija muzičkih programa", koji je usvojila Nacionalna komisija Ministarstva prosvjete Crne Gore, maja 2019.



-- A gathering young talented musician for jazz workshops and performances was, for over one decade, one of our most inspiring, but also the most complex tasks we made our mission to complete. Numerous jazz artists and educators from the region and the world devoted their time to share the secrets of the genre with young musicians, and showed them that jazz is not just a passing music entertainment, but a passion and a way of life. Its end result – the most enthusiastic among the participants went abroad and enrolled in jazz studies.

The idea to initiate forming the Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra was born from great many past activities and I believe that it is going to yield a new quality through direct cooperation of young musicians from the Western Balkans and partnering educational institutions. The Balkan Youth Jazz Orchestra is envisioned as a unique setup aimed to exploring and developing their potentials to perform in the spirit of friendship, tolerance and armed with dedication, creativity and enthusiasm, and bringing to life contemporary works of Balkan jazz composers. I believe that together we can provide new outlook on prospects of jazz on the Balkans. --

Maja Popović was born in Podgorica, where she acquired a complete music education, and graduated with honors from the pedagogical-theoretical department in 1987 at the Music Academy of the University of Montenegro. As a scholarship holder of the French government, she studied piano at the "Alfred Cortot" Ecole Normale Superieure de Musique de Paris. She started her career in the Radio Montenegro Music Program, where she later, until the mid-90s, continued her cooperation with the editorial office for culture. From 1992 to 2001, she taught at the newly established School of Musical Talents "Andre Navarra" in Podgorica. During that period, she also collaborated in the culture editorial office of the daily "Pobjeda", as a music associate and a critic, where she published numerous articles, interviews, reviews and critiques. She was hired as a selector of the music program of the Budva City Theater Festival (1997-2001), within which she presented a new generation of young Montenegrin artists – performers of classical music and renowned musicians from the region and Europe in the field of classical, jazz and world music. She edited three music compilations of live performances in the Church of Santa Maria by various artists, released by the Budva City Theater Festival in 1999 and 2000. At

the end of the 90's, she founded and successfully led the Tango Nova quintet for several years, composed of eminent musicians from Montenegro and Serbia, with the aim of promoting the original music of the Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla in country and beyond.

From 2001 until today, Maja works as an editor of the music program at KIC "Budo Tomović" in Podgorica, where she intensified the music program in the regular concert season and music events of various genres, creating various thematic cycles, from those dedicated to young people (cycles Youth and Music, Laureates of International Competitions, Young Talents), through the presentations of the greats of the music scene (Masters of Jazz, Chamber Music), women's music (Shadow Composers), to signature events such as Podgorica Blues Summit, Jazz Appreciation Month in Montenegro, Montenegro Summer Camp for Chamber Music, etc. She initiated the event Jazz Appreciation Month in Montenegro in 2007. In order to continue and develop the program of jazz education and concert promotion of jazz music in Montenegro, along with her colleagues in the field of music and literature, she founded the non-governmental organization Jazz Art in 2009, which has been involved in the organization of this event since 2010 and up to this day, continues expanding its activities throughout Montenegro. Maja has participated in professional visitor programs to countries such as the Netherlands (Western Balkan Cultural Operators), the USA (IVLP – International Visitor Leadership Program), France (Séjours Culture), Canada (CINARS), Germany (The German Jazz Music Scene), and Israel (IMSF), through the invitation of the governments of those countries.

In the period 2018/2019, she participated in the development of a new occupational standard for the educational program Music Associate for secondary music schools, as well as in the development of a new module "Organization of Music Programs", adopted by the National Commission of the Ministry of Education of Montenegro in May 2019.





BYJO na probi u Kulturno-informativnom centru "Budo Tomović", Podgorica 27. april 2021.



Koncert u Kulturno-informativnom centru "Budo Tomović", Podgorica 29. april 2021.



Koncert BYJO u Kraljevskom pozorištu Zetski dom, Cetinje 30. april 2021.



Izdavač

- **Jazz Art**

Za izdavača

- **Maja Popović**

Urednica kataloga

- **Maja Popović**

Tekstove priredile/prevele

- **Majda Mandić, Ivana Radonjić**

Lektura/korektura

- **Anica Vujnović**

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- **Lana Bulatović**

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