

Tamara Obrovac Transhistrria ensemble

Unique and passionate musical journey through the Istrian and Mediterranean spaces and times. Combination of jazz with the elements of Istrian and Mediterranean traditional music and many elements of modern improvised music.

(Histria is ancient name for Istria, Croatian peninsula, particular for its UNESCO protected musical tradition)



LINEUP

Tamara Obrovac, voice, composer (CRO)

Uroš Rakovec, guitar, mandola (SLO)

Žiga Golob, double bass (SLO)

Fausto Beccalossi, accordion (IT)

Krunoslav Levačić, drums (CRO)

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This exceptionally musical and creative band which is remarkable for the obvious alchemy between all its members shows its best side at live performances when it plays in a spontaneous and relaxed way; their passionate interpretations of Tamara's unique music are suffused with spontaneity, inventive improvisation, freedom, humor and the ability to communicate with the audience, while Tamara's voice is equally impressive when she sings lyrics and when she performs vocalizes.

PRESS

While we were still guessing what Tamara Obrovac was saying in her speech in Croatian at the beginning of the second Valamar Jazz Festival, there came a brief summary in English: "We are great - and now you will hear it!" Self-confidence of the festival's artistic director is more than justified.

With her brilliant performance in the Euphrasian Basilica in the historic old city of Poreč, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, she has presented the best of the Mediterranean; the melancholy of fado, the lightness of tarantella and the lyrics in Croatian have melted with the fury of the accordion player Fausto Beccalossi so organically that the following concert of Richard Galliano Piazzolla Forever Septet seemed nothing but perfectly boring.

- Josef Engels, Jazzthing (DE)

Fortunately, the random nature of an awards compilation like this provides the opportunity to browse and skip and fall headlong for something you've never heard before.

In my case, the "blind date" artist is Tamara Obrovac. Cansoneita (A Small Song) performed by Obrovac with the Transhistrria Ensemble, is a floating, beguiling track, with spacious drumming, tuneful accordion and a delicious lead vocal by Obrovac.

- John L Walters, The Guardian (GB)

"Tamara's almost telepathic connection with her band of international musicians has made this concert a practically surreal experience, in which the metaphysical strength of common creation was felt in every song... Dynamic and melodious, touching and powerful. Tamara's authentic voice, juxtaposed with the irregular rhythm and the freedom of jazz improvisation and energetic instrumental bravados was, as expected, a fascinating, aesthetically perfect audiovisual experience.

- Dragana Glivetić / Ravno do dna portal, concert at Youth Theater Zagreb (CRO)

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