



singer / composer  
**TAMARA OBROVAC**  
 Contemporary Mediterranean Jazz

**CONTACT / BOOKING**

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**authentic Croatian jazz**

**TAMARA OBROVAC** internationally recognised Croatian composer, singer and flutist is one of the most impressive jazz artists on the Croatian music scene. Her ethnically inspired Mediterranean jazz is unique music inspired by the particular musical and dialectal traditions of her homeland, the Croatian coastal region of Istria.

Her main bands, the international Transhistrria Ensemble and her Quartet incorporate elements of jazz, Istrian and Mediterranean music and many elements of modern music skilfully and naturally.

With both of her main bands, she held many international concerts highly praised by the audience and press.

Their performances and her interpretations are suffused with spontaneity, inventive improvisation, freedom, humour and the ability to communicate with the audience, and her voice is equally impressive both when she sings lyrics and when she improvises, turning it into an additional instrument.

She published 10 CD's in which she wrote of all of the music. Through her albums, Tamara profiles her own authorial approach and creates a unique artistic form.

In addition to her international concert activities she composes music for theatre and film, and has received many awards for her work, including 8 Porin awards - Croatian national music award.

International recognition came also through the nomination for the BBC Radio 3 World music Awards 2004 (European Music and Audience Award). Here is what John L. Walters of The Guardian said while browsing the CD with all the nominees' songs: *"Fortunately, the random nature of awards compilations 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" performed by Obrovac with the Transhistrria Ensemble, is a floating, beguiling track, with spacious drumming, tuneful accordion and a delicious lead vocal by Obrovac."*

**PRESS QUOTES**

*Some music is just beautiful. Tamara Obrovac's unique jazz certainly is.*

A.Vrzina - [perun.hr](http://perun.hr)

*"She tornadoes through the stage leaving in her wake an ever increasing number of fans."*

B. Gabler - **Concerto magazine**

*"Tamara Obrovac has quietly and secretly grown into one of Europe's greatest ethnic jazz singers... Basically melancholic, her music simultaneously impresses with inner strength and passion that brings with it the story of the mentality of an entire region."*

- V. Doberstein - **Jazz Podium**

*"She is an audience-captivating phenomenon.*

*With her trio she brought a different kind of energy and soon had the crowd pleading for more. Obrovac has a phenomenal stylistic range and has the temerity to want to take her trio into any number of moods."*

- S. Scotney - **London Jazz News** (Jazz au Chellah Morocco, concert review)

*"With her brilliant performance 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."*

- J. Engels - **Jazzthing** (Valamar Jazz Festival, concert review)

*"With her amazing interpretation of often traditional musical components, Obrovac opens the door to a wide range of international jazz expressions and she does it with exceptional ease and great charm.*

*The highly talented singer is accompanied by a quartet of brilliant musicians who with great sensibility manage to refine the expressiveness of her songs and together they bring the musical experience to a superior level."*

- E. Weiss - **Concerto magazine** reviewer (about Porgy & Bess Vienna concert)

**SOME OF THE PERFORMANCES**

**Germany** (Düsseldorf Jazz Rally, Jazzahead'13, Lüneburger Jazz-Night, Le gipfel du jazz Freiburg, Bayerischer Hof Munchen, Laboratorium Stuttgart, Eisenach Jazzclub, etc.), **Belgium** (Bozar Brussels, The Music Village Brussels), **China** (Beijing Cultural Palace of the Nationalities, Chuama international music festival) **Austria** (Porgy & Bess Vienna, Akkordeon Fest Vienna, Glatt & Verkehrt Musikfestival, Jazz club Klagenfurt, Kunsthaus Weiz, etc.), **Switzerland** (RSI Lugano, Bird's Eye Basel, Moods Zurich), **Italy** (Alpsklang Festival Merano, Talos Jazz Fest, AntepremaMundus Fest, etc.), **USA** (Joe's Pub NYC, Hot House Chicago), **France** (Strictly mundial Festival Marseille, L'Entrepot Paris, Maritime Festival Brest), **Spain** (Circulo Jazz club Madrid, Festival Ribermusic Barcelona, La Fira Mediterrania de Manresa), **Morocco** (Jazz au Chellah Festival), **Greece** (Dimithriathess Festival Thessaloniki), **Poland** (Crossroads Festival Krakow), **Latvia** (Saulkrasti Jazz Fest, Riga Jazz Club), **Lithuania** (Vilnius Jazz), **Finland** (EBU Festival Kaustinen), **BiH** (Sarajevo Jazz Fest), **Slovenia** (Cankarjev dom club, Druga godba Festival, etc.), **Israel** (Rishon le Zion Tel Aviv), **Japan** (Expo), **Croatia** (everywhere :), **Russia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Ireland** and many more.



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### TAMARA OBROVAC transhistrria ensemble

- CD "Canto amoroso", Alessa records, 2016
- CD "Daleko je" / "Is faraway", Aquarius records, 2005
- CD "Sve pasiva" / "All fades away", Cantus, 2003

The music of Tamara's international Transhistrria ensemble is a unique combination of jazz with the elements of Istrian and Mediterranean folk music and many elements of modern music.

This exceptionally musical and creative band which is remarkable for the obvious alchemy between all its members has become well-known for their highly aesthetic performances; their interpretations of Tamara's unique music are suffused with spontaneity, inventive improvisation, freedom, humour and the ability to communicate with the audience.

Thanks to their experience and enviable musical skills, every member of the band is always ready for shifts and unexpected changes inspired by the atmosphere and by the mood of the moment.



### TAMARA OBROVAC transhistrria ensemble

Tamara Obrovac / voice, composer (CROATIA)  
 Uroš Rakovec / guitar, mandolin (SLOVENIA)  
 Žiga Golob / double bass (SLOVENIA)  
 Fausto Beccalossi / accordion (ITALY)  
 Krunoslav Levačić / drums (CROATIA)

style: world / jazz • on stage: 5 • traveling: 5 or 6



### PRESS QUOTES

*"...a true discovery and, in any case, the culmination of the whole festival was Tamara Obrovac. Istrian singer surprised with consecutive independence and unpretentious presentation on the stage. Constant returns to the freedom of jazz enable her to live through her fascinating individuality. She uses her voice boundlessly, going from low alto to high soprano, adding unique vibrations by tapping her neck with her palm. Precisely at midnight, a stentorian applause of trilled audience resounded through the music hall in Freiburg."*

- Reiner Kobe, **Badische Zeitung** (DE) - Freiburg Jazz-Gipfel concert review

*"Cansoneita" 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** (UK) - BBC Radio 3 World music Awards 2004 / nominees songs CD

*"Croatian, so called, "Ethno-jazz" band Tamara Obrovac & Transhistrria Ensemble, whose performance was filled with soundness, energy and completely different music mentality than the one domestic audience have assimilated so far, made the biggest impression on visitors of Saulkrasti jazz festival.*

*Already with the first notes, Obrovac introduced completely different musical thinking and world – by vibrato and fluctuations of her vocal from the lowest to the highest, Obrovac really surprised everybody present..."*

- Ikaras Kublins, **Apollo** (LT) - Saulkrasti Jazz Festival concert review

*"With inspired east-European improvisations that echoed from a Jazz basement through the whole universe, Croatian musician Tamara Obrovac and her ensemble Transhistrria were the secret stars of the festival."*

- Susanne Sobko, **Schwabische Zeitung** (DE) - Sangerkrieg Festival concert review

**INFO:** <http://bit.ly/TranshistrriaEnsembleWeb>

**YOUTUBE:** <http://bit.ly/YouTubeTranshistrriaEnsemble>



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## TAMARA OBROVAC

## awards

- Best music in a theatrical work for the play "Ljudi od voska", 24th International small scene theatre festival, Rijeka 2017.
- Croatian Composer's society award for best jazz author in 2015.
- Professional jury award for best score for short film "Contrada" director Matija Debeljuh, Croatian film days 2013.
- Porin (Croatian national music award) for best world music album CD "Madirosa" 2012.
- Porin (Croatian national music award) for best female vocal performance, the song "Tango and cha cha cha, CD "Madirosa" 2012.
- 42nd PIF – International Puppet Theater Festival, The International Professional Jury Award for the music in the theatre show "Svarožić", performed by the Zagreb Puppet Theatre (Zagreb, Croatia) 2009.
- Runjić's evenings, Golden Seagull Award for the best remake of Runjić's song "A vitar puše" was given to Tamara Obrovac and Matija Dedić, Split 2009.
- "Mali Marulić", Croatian Children's drama festival, Award for the music in the theatre show "Regoč" by Ivana Brlić Mažuranić, performed by Zadar Puppet Theatre, 2008.
- President of the Republic of Croatia awarded here with the Order medal Danica Croatia, for achievements in the culture, 2009.
- Award for best drama for its music at the festival Regoč Croatian drama for children 2008.
- Porin (Croatian national music award) for best female vocal performance of 2008.
- Best music in a theatrical work for the play "Zagrljenici", 6th festival of Bosnian and Herzegovinian drama, Zenica 2007.
- Best music in a theatrical work for the play "Zagrljenici", National theatrical festival Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2007.
- Golden Arena award (Croatian national film festival, Pula): best score for Hrvoje Hribars film "Što je muskarac bez brkova (What is a man without a mustache?)" 2006.
- Porin (Croatian national music award) for best vocal collaboration with Tedi Spalato, for song "Ti i ja", 2006.
- Porin (Croatian national music award) for best female vocal performance, song "Daleko je..." / CD "Daleko je.. is faraway" 2006.
- Porin: (Croatian national music award) best world music album, for CD "Daleko je.. is faraway" 2006.
- Award for best music in a theatrical work for play "Antigona" @ Marulovi dani, Split 2005.
- Nominated for BBC Radio 3 Awards for World Music (European music and audience award categories), 2004.
- Zlatna koogla award for best Croatian female artist 2003.
- Porin (Croatian national music award) for best world music album, CD "Sve pasiva/All fades away" 2004.
- The "Golden smile" award: best music and performance for the play "Jelka kod Ivanovih (Christmas at the Ivanov's)" (ZKM) 2003.
- The Croatian national theatrical award: best music in a theatrical work for the play "Tanac od mrtvih (Dance of the dead)" (INK) 2002.