



singer / composer
TAMARA OBROVAC
 Contemporary Mediterranean Jazz

CONTACT / BOOKING

- www.tamaraobrovac.com
- transhistrria@tamaraobrovac.com
- +385 98 219 179
- Croatia (Istria)

TAMARA OBROVAC

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**

"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 München, Laboratorium Stuttgart, Eisenach Jazzclub, etc.), **Belgium** (Bozar Brussels, The Music Village Brussels), **Austria** (Porgy & Bess Vienna, Akkordeon Fest Vienna, Glatt & Verkehrt Musikfestival, Jazz club Klagenfurt, Kunsthaus Weiz, etc.), **Switzerland** (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 Ribermusica 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), **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, 2015
- 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, flute, 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: 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) - Freiburger 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





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TAMARA OBROVAC quartet

- CD "Ulika revival", Unit records, 2014
- CD "Ulika", CBS 1998

With the release of „ULIKA“ in 1998, Tamara Obrovac Quartet presented for the first time Tamara's new way of thinking and composing which combines inspiration by the local Istrian music and dialect with the universal jazz expression.

The reunion of the quartet at a concert in Grožnjan (summer 2011) gave life to a new creativity and a different way of interpreting old compositions.

The re-found joy of making music together, expressed through virtuoso playing, unlimited freedom of expression, humour and improvisation, characteristic of all members of the quartet, definitely confirmed their desire for a new (old) collaboration. In June 2014, he band published CD "Ulika revival" for Swiss "Unit records", and has received numerous excellent reviews.



Tamara Obrovac quartet

Tamara Obrovac / voice, composer (CROATIA)
Matija Dedić / piano (CROATIA)
Žiga Golob / double bas (SLOVENIA)
Krunoslav Levačić / drums (CROATIA)

style: jazz/world • on stage: 4 • traveling: 5



PRESS QUOTES:

"The revival is a great success, a masterly collection of strikingly affecting songs".
 Bruce Lindsay - **All About Jazz (USA)** CD "Ulika revival" review

"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 (UK)** - Jazz au Chellah Morocco concert review

"Obrovac indigenous music found attentive ears in the audience. Her charismatic voice and moves captured quickly the audience..."
 - Mehdi El Mouden, **All About Jazz (MA)** - Jazz au Chellah Morocco 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 their songs and together they bring the musical experience to a superior level."
 - E. Weiss, **Concerto magazine reviewer (AT)** - about Porgy & Bess Vienna concert

"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 (DE)** - CD "Ulika revival" review

"For many, Croatian singer Tamara Obrovac is still "a new voice," even though "Ulika revival" is her ninth record - and what a record it is! One of exceptionally creative and picturesque sound. Excellent!"
Jazzthetik (DE) CD "Ulika revival" review



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TAMARA OBROVAC

other bands & projects

- CD "Madirosa", Aquarius records, 2011

The repertoire of this ensemble consists of the new compositions by Tamara Obrovac, written purposefully for this band, in which Tamara broadens her artistic expression with the sound of the string quartet, experimenting with the border areas of jazz, classical music and different ethnic traditions of the Mediterranean.

In this new project Tamara has once again given an unique musical concept, offering a great dialogue of Transhistreria ensemble and the Czech string players, which successfully transposes combination of jazz, traditional music, and elements of classical music, to music of the modern age.

*MADIROSA is an invented word, for the author it means a Mediterranean rose, representing her personal experience of the Mediterranean as a cultural and musical universe



TAMARA OBROVAC transhistreria ensemble / époque quartet

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

David Pokorny / violin (CZECH REPUBLIC)
 Vladimír Klánský / violin (CZECH REPUBLIC)
 Vid Petrášek / violoncello (CZECH REPUBLIC)
 Vladimír Kroupa / viola (CZECH REPUBLIC)



style: crossover/classic/jazz/world • on stage: 9 • traveling: 10

"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."
 Josef Engels - Jazzthing

NEW PROJECT - new formation; with the choice of these instruments Tamara introduces us to a chamber jazz musical story interwoven with a female, intimate tone suffused with the emotional charge characteristic of her compositions. In addition to the new sound, this band will not lack in new, interesting performances, group interplay and improvisation by these brilliant musicians.



TAMARA OBROVAC chamber jazz project

Tamara Obrovac / voice, composer (CROATIA)
 Uroš Rakovec / guitar, mandolin (SLOVENIA)
 Matt Renzi / oboe, clarinet, soprano (USA / ITALY)
 Salvatore Maiore / violoncello, double bass (ITALY)

style: jazz/world • on stage: 4 • traveling: 5

NEW PROJECT!

OTHER BANDS / PROJECTS :

- **IstrArmenia ensemble** – international sextet with Karen Asatrian - piano (crosscultural musical journey : jazz/world, istrian/armenian)
- **Tamara Obrovac transhistreria electric** – international soul & funky band (ethnically inspired original compositions)