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- Booklet Information -



## BOBAN I MARKO MARKOVIĆ ORKESTAR

### GO MARKO GO! BRASS MADNESS

CD-PIR2121

Whether you've already encountered the wonderful world of the Boban Marković Orchestra or not, pay attention. For nothing stands still and although life is short, the nights are long and there are always new stories to be told, and this one is about a promise fulfilled. Boban Marković, the "King of Balkan Brass" has handed over the keys of the family orchestra to his son, the heir apparent, Marko. His eager young hands now hold the steering wheel and he's ready to drive off in search of new horizons. Boban is still there of course, keeping a fatherly eye on things, but it's Marko whose restless energy is setting the pace. Now listen on.....

Like father, like son. In the impassioned world of Serbian brass band music, Boban Marković has for long been a name to set heads nodding and tongues flapping. Scion of generations of horn-blowers from the town of Vladicin Han in Serbia's deep south, he is steeped in the musical traditions of his Gypsy forebears.

A music that traces its lineage back to India, through centuries of migration and assimilation. And it is assimilation that has placed Boban at

the vanguard of the Balkan brass movement. While many debate as to what should or should not be allowed into the hallowed halls of perceived authenticity, he has boldly gone where no other has gone before, following his taste, instincts and inspiration, fusing and infusing the Gypsy traditions with the clamour of the wider world.

Jazz, pop, TV themes and film music, the airborne musical seeds of global cross-pollination have settled on the arable fields of his imagination and he has nurtured them with a sense of humour and confidently grafted the shoots onto the well-crafted roots of his heritage.

When the proof of the quality of the pudding is indeed shown in the enthusiasm of its eating then we must only look to the unequalled achievements of the Boban Marković Orkestar. Yes it's true, they have won so many prizes at the world's most important annual Balkan brass band festival competition in Gucha that they now only participate as honoured guests, just to give the others a chance. Their music for Emir Kusturica's epic film „Underground“ brought them to an international audience and in the last years they have been making their mighty

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presence felt at many major music festivals around the world. Now, trailing in their wake, come the young admirers from the current Balkan beat boom with the international dance-floor magic manipulators like DJ Shantel, Zach Condon's Beirut Band and Balkan Beat Box acknowledging, sampling from and dedicating songs to the master.

This, then, is the inheritance of young Marko Marković, a mantle with which he has eagerly attired himself. For that was the promise. The promise that first showed itself at the age of seven and developed as he began taking lessons from Boban's father at the age of nine until at the age thirteen he made his recording debut with the Orkestar, eliciting another promise from Boban that, if Marko continued on his path, he would take over the helm when he came of age. All promises were fulfilled on Marko's eighteenth birthday in March 2006 when, on stage at a concert in Berlin, Boban publicly handed over the baton to his son.

So now we have it: the Boban i Marko Marković Orkestar. And now you have the first album with Marko given free rein in the studio, an opportunity he has seized with gusto. From the irresistible invitation of the opening Romanian dance through to the closing Russian romp through the Bubumara medley, it's all systems go-go. Whether sipping cocktails in a Belgrade lounge bar, dazzling us with their dexterity in a big-band jazz stylee, taking Herb Alpert on a walk through the mountains, soothing us with a soulful ballad or getting down on the funky disco dance-floor, the Orkestar are at home wherever they are. They're still the best and most innovative Balkan brass band around and, with Marko at the wheel, they're driving off in new directions, transporting the traditions to the world and bringing the world back home. Like father, like son.

Colin Bass

*Colin Bass aka Sabah Habas Mustapha is a musician, record producer, writer/presenter of a weekly radio show on RBB Radio Multikulti and WDR Funkhaus Europa in Germany and a contributor to the Rough Guide to World Music and other publications. www.colinbass.com*



## BOBAN MARKOVIĆ

Feted at home and abroad as the greatest of Balkan trumpeters, Boban Marković is the scion of a long line of gypsy musicians. From his home town of Vladicin Han in Serbia's gypsy brass heartland, he has led his Orkestar to international acclaim. His music was featured in the soundtracks of Emir Kusturica's films *Underground* and *Arizona Dream* and he has won a record number of "best trumpet" and "best orkestar" prizes at the famous Gucha festival. Now he hands over the baton to his son Marko.

## MARKO MARKOVIĆ

As the only son of the "King of Balkan Brass", picking up a trumpet was always going to be a challenge but it's one that Marko Marković has met and surpassed. He made his recording debut with his father's orkestar at the tender age of 13 and now, at 19 and freshly married he has taken on the musical direction. His star is rising on other fronts as well with his major acting role in the film "Gucha", directed by Dušan Milić, a Romeo and Juliet story set against the background of the famous brass band festival.