



B Matinee 2019

TOUR REPORT

PREPARED BY
NO BORDERS ORCHESTRA

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B MATINEE 2019

In the summer of 2019, No Borders Orchestra string ensemble, accompanied by percussions and electronics, kicked off another international tour around the Western Balkans and Europe called “B Matinee” – which can symbolically stand for Balkan, Berlin, Berghain and Beyond. The B Matinee played in six cities of the ex Yugoslavia region between July and September 2019 before transferring to the finale of the tour in Berghain, an iconic club in Berlin.

B Matinee brings together contemporary classical music and clubbing culture, and features cutting-edge new compositions by today’s most exciting young composers from the Balkan region. These new, contemporary, experimental compositions are inspired by Berghain, the famous Berlin club, it’s cutting-edge techno sound and the freedom as lifestyle that this institution represents.



During the wars of the 90s, what once was Yugoslavia, became “balkanized” into alienated societies with little or no contacts between each other. The result, unfortunately, was also no dialogue between cultural scenes in the region. Artists don’t know what their colleagues are doing. The composers don’t know the works of the other regional composers.

This is exactly why we created the B Matinee project. We created space for exchange and showed young composers’ works on a regional and European level. We reestablished a dialogue and exchange between contemporary music scenes in the region, which we believe is enriching and beneficial for everybody. “Matinee” from the title B Matinee, stands for new beginnings, the beginning of the new communication.



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The 2019 B Matinee tour also commemorates thirty years of the Fall of the Berlin Wall and celebrates the tearing down of walls between classical and clubbing music. By communicating with contemporary techno sound, our composers cross genres, surmounting the borders between different styles of music. The result is a new and fresh sound that has no limits.

We chose Berlin as inspiration for this project because the city itself is intensely symbolic. It has managed to overcome the two most repressive systems of the 20th century – fascism and communism – and become one of the freest and most liberal cities in the world. The fall of the Berlin Wall, which once seemed an insurmountable and indestructible divide, inspires us all to tear down the walls without and within.



B MATINEE TOUR PROGRAM

B Matinee Tour 2019 Program:

Draško Adzic (Belgrade): B Matinee

Drinor Zymberi (Priština): Trance

Arvo Part: Fratres

Davor Branimir Vincze (Zagreb/Chicago): darkroom

Samuel Barber: Adagio for Strings

Darija Andonovska (Skopje): FairVent

Danijel Zontar (Sarajevo): Afterparty (electronica: MKDSL)



The places in which the concerts took place were unconventional venues such as night clubs and art spaces hosted by people of different age groups and profiles; dispersing the genre boundaries in which contemporary music and clubbing culture are brought together. These concerts became true musical happenings, resulting in music that, like the human spirit, knows no boundaries.



CONCERT TOUR

Tivat - Porto Montenegro, 28 July / Concert 1

Festival: KotorArt in partnership with Porto Montenegro

Venue: Nautical museum

The 2019 B Matinee tour kicked off with the concert in Tivat, as a part of KotorArt Festival's efforts to spread the artistic activities and manifestations on the neighboring city of Tivat. Due to bad weather conditions, the No Borders Orchestra had to change the venue from the open air venue of the PMYC Pool, to the Nautical museum of Porto Montenegro, also a visually exceptional venue which fit the concert perfectly and didn't influence the high spirited audience, that gave a standing ovation to the musicians at the end of the concert. This occasion was also the first time that an event in Porto Montenegro opened its doors free to everyone.



CONCERT TOUR

Prizren, 30 July / Concert 2

Partner: Lumbardhi Foundation

Venue: Lumbardhi Stage

The second concert of the B Matinee Tour brought the Orchestra to Prizren. The concert there came about with a great support from our local partner, the Lumbardhi Foundation, one of the organizations responsible for keeping the cultural life in Prizren vibrant and relevant.

The concert took place at the Lumbardhi Stage, an old cinema that was salvaged by local cultural and civic organizations and reanimated for cultural events. This venue proved to be a fantastic spot for one of the pillars of NBO's mission - the development of a new and young audience. A packed house of a mostly younger generation wholeheartedly supported NBO's and Lumbardhi efforts into making this one of



the most memorable artistic experiences in Prizren in recent years. The contemporary music is not very present there and NBO's concert with contemporary music repertoire had pioneering quality. Also, the concert of an ensemble where Albanian and Serbian musicians are playing together and where the pieces of composers from Belgrade and Pristina were played, had strong political message of togetherness and friendship between people of different nationalities. Among all cities, the place where we felt most welcome especially because the fact we are regionally united in this project, was definitely Prizren. It seems that this community has a strong need for communication and connecting.

CONCERT TOUR

Sarajevo, 1 August / Concert 3

Partner: NGO Mali Mozart

Venue: Cinemas Sloga

No Borders Orchestra enjoys performing in irregular venues, dispersing the genre boundaries and bringing together contemporary music and modern musical genres. Our third concert took place in such a venue - the legendary club "Sloga" in Sarajevo, a place that hosted the most significant pop and rock groups for decades. The concert visitors had the chance to listen to a moving and refreshing performance from the Orchestra while enjoying some drinks in an informal atmosphere. The relaxed atmosphere and a casual setting even increased the fantastic reception of NBO's music and messages, and the Orchestra was once again greeted with a standing ovation.



CONCERT TOUR

Maribor, 19 September / Concert 4

Festival: Maribor Festival

Venue: Dvorana Union

The fourth concert brought the Orchestra to the Maribor Festival, one of the leading festivals in Slovenia. The Maribor Festival was backing B Matinee from the very beginning, immediately accepting to host our concert with full trust, inspired by the idea. They have even put the NBO concert as the closing show. This time, our audience was mostly comprised of an older crowd of dedicated attendees of Maribor Festival who were inclined to a more classical program. Nonetheless, NBO showed that there are no boundaries when it comes to music, uniting them in their love of the performance. Until the end of the concert, the audience “opened up” completely, and gave a long-lasting standing ovation. The result was touching. After this amazing experience, the Maribor Festival is the place we are very eager to play once again and more importantly, they want the NBO back next year.



CONCERT TOUR

Zagreb, 20 September / Concert 5

Partner: Lauba

Venue: Lauba - house for people and art

An unusual but hyped and contemporary venue was NBO's destination for the fifth stop in the B Matinee tour - Lauba House, an old livery stable transformed into an Art Space. This was NBO's first time in Zagreb and the event created a huge interest and brought a very diverse and intellectual audience. The Art Space concert was a highly stimulating experience, and the audience enthusiastically reacted with positive energy and open-mindedness. The outcome was fantastic and from now on the NBO has a new longstanding partner for new projects. NBO has already been invited to perform the next year's project in Lauba.



CONCERT TOUR

Belgrade, 22 September / Concert 6

Partner: Bitef (Belgrade International Theatre Festival) and Drugstore

Venue: Drugstore

The sixth concert of the tour in the Drugstore was a part of the most important Serbian theatre festival BITEF. A fantastic partnership between NBO, Drugstore, and Bitef managed to bring in an audience from all walks of life. The hype surrounding this concert was immense. Among the audience were several foreign countries' Ambassadors, cultural workers, social activists, and music lovers. The venue was packed with people standing behind and around the main seating area, eager to participate in a unique musical happening.



Before and after the concert, the musicians were greeted like rock stars, with a long-standing ovation, and the majority of the audience patiently waited for the chance to ask questions at the post-concert open discussion with composers, NBO musicians and the conductor. The biggest applause was given to Arben Ademi, the viola player from Mitrovica, after presenting his idea that NBO should play at the Mitrovica bridge. The bridge which is supposed to connect people, has been a spot of division between Albanians and Serbs in Mitrovica for years. He presented the idea of NBO playing on the bridge next year in May, with one Serbian and one Albanian soloist, showing how people could stand together with great joy and mutual respect. The concert in Belgrade was also a prime example and a textbook illustration of NBO's efforts of a diverse and open-minded audience development. The other aspect is the fact that we had a full house for contemporary music concert. This proves to be an example, showing that there is no lack of the contemporary art audience, and that the crucial element is the way of presenting the content, energy and love being put into it.

CONCERT TOUR

Berlin, 24 September / Concert 7

Partners: Berghain

Venue: Berghain Panorama Bar

The last concert of our tour was a symbolic return to the roots of our idea - the Berghain, the iconic club in Berlin known as a techno capital of the world. As a part of the Month of the contemporary music festival, this concert was a unique happening where one could hear all the languages of ex-Yugoslavia and, an event which brought an urban, international and alternative youth to attend a contemporary music concert. It was also an event which brought numerous high ranking officials and representatives from embassies and German ministries to a place which is a symbol of youth and urban culture, but even more importantly, of freedom as a lifestyle.



NO BORDERS ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS - B MATINEE TOUR 2019

No Borders orchestra musicians B Matinee tour 2019

Conductor: Premil Petrovic

Violin 1

Stanko Madic, concertmaster and soloist,
Belgrade/Nuremberg
Vladimir Kostov, Skopje
Lana Adamovic, Zagreb
Sana Milanovic, Beograd
Tim Skalar Demsar, Ljubljana
Pleurat Doli, Djakova

Violin 2

Frosina Bogdanoska, Skopje
Mojca Menoni, Ljubljana
Martin Dimitrov, Skopje
Sonja Vojvodic, Banja Luka
Mersiha Teskeredzic, Sarajevo

Viola

Aleksandar Jakopanec, Zagreb
Arben Ademi, Mitrovica
Njomza Bislimi, Pristina
Milan Radocaj, Belgrade

Violoncello

Nikola Jovanovic, Belgrade
Isak Haracic, Sarajevo
Tamara Gombac, Ljubljana

Double bass

Ilin-Dime Dimovski, Skopje

Percussion

Kaja Farszky, Zagreb
Spela Mastnak, Celje

SUPPORTERS

No Borders Orchestra is grateful to all its supporters, without whom the tour would not have been possible. Your support went to this unique project that aims to create the excellent classical music as a vehicle for peace and progress, an ensemble that initiates positive social development through the power of reconciliation and creative collaboration and is an embodiment of the values they represent: diversity, integration and togetherness. We look forward to future collaborations promoting music and European values in the Balkans and beyond!

B Matinee tour supporters



Federal Foreign Office



OPEN SOCIETY
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Tivat concert



Sarajevo concert

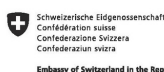


Regional Cooperation Council



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Belgrade concert



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Berlin concert



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