

ORKESTAR BEZ IME

BALKAN PARTY MUSIC



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COLLEEN BERTSCH...FIDDLE. NATALIE NOWYTSKI...VOCALS. PERCUSSION.

KATRINA MUNDINGER...CLARINET. MATT MILLER...BASS.

ERIC RAY...ACCORDION. SCOTT KEEVER...GUITAR. TAMBURA.

ALL...OTHER STUFF TOO.

Orkestar Bez Ime [or-KESS-tar behz EE-meh], meaning “orchestra without a name” in Bulgarian, was formed in 2002 to recreate the sounds of the village with a presentation as festive as the music itself. Focusing on Eastern Europe and music of the Rom (Gypsy) people, OBI’s repertoire reaches from Albania to Ukraine, with plenty of stops in between. Orkestar Bez Ime is a winner of the 2011-2012 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Performing Musicians administered by MacPhail Center for Music and a recipient of a 2012 Minnesota Emerging Composers Award from the American Composers Forum.

DISCOGRAPHY

- » *Mahala Drive*, 2010
- » *Nice Driveway, Vol. 3: Rogarian Baba-que*, 2007
- » *Nice Driveway, Vol. 2: Lake Aquanyet Days*, 2006
- » *Nice Driveway, Vol. 1: Cheers from the Land of the Freeze*, 2005
- » *Iz tamne noći (From a Dark Night) (with Mila Vocal Ensemble)*, 2004

WWW.ROGARIA.COM

- » Sound clips
- » High-resolution photos
- » Performance schedule
- » Individual bios
- » News, tweets, and more

VENUE HIGHLIGHTS

- » American Orff-Schulwerk Association National Conference (Birmingham, AL)
- » Beloit College (WI)
- » Cedar Cultural Center (Minneapolis, MN)
- » Celtic Junction (St. Paul, MN)
- » Dakota Jazz Club (Minneapolis, MN)
- » Door County Folk Festival (WI)
- » Festival of Nations (St. Paul, MN)
- » Hell's Kitchen (Minneapolis, MN)
- » KFAI Radio (MN)
- » Landmark Center (St. Paul, MN)
- » Little Bucharest (Chicago, IL)
- » Mandan Arts in the Park (ND)
- » Minnesota History Center
- » Minnesota Public Radio
- » Minnesota Renaissance Festival
- » Minnesota State Fair
- » New York Mills Regional Cultural Center (MN)
- » North Dakota Public Radio
- » Old World Dance Club (Battle Creek, MI)
- » Orchestra Hall (Minneapolis, MN)
- » Susquehanna Folk Music Society (Harrisburg, PA)
- » Tapestry Folk Dance Center (Minneapolis, MN)
- » Trinity Community Center (Bismarck, ND)
- » University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- » University of Wisconsin-Madison

PRESS LOVE

"They've spent years studying and learning the intricacies of the music they perform. As a dance band they play to get people on their feet."

– MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO'S
"ALL THINGS CONSIDERED"

"Despite the group's flexible musical arrangement, each musician's performance style and techniques are meticulous and authentic. Orkestar Bez Ime's (OBI) players perfected their folk music techniques the old fashioned way: traveling to Eastern Europe, going from village to village, and studying under the best folk musicians in the region....Thorough, authentic training pays off nicely for the group's audience: attending an OBI concert is truly like entering a different world....It is not to be missed."

– LAVENDER MAGAZINE

"Euro music, but not stuck-up."

– MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

"While they take a more traditional approach than the pop-infused bands like Beirut or DeVotchKa, OBI beautifully illustrates the roots that those wildly popular groups originally grew from....[Mahala Drive is] a supremely well executed example of an under-appreciated music genre that could likely resonate with anyone if they gave it a chance."

– REVILER.ORG

"The band's rousing Balkan tunes, with an American flavor, are in high demand all over the Midwest—and [Nice Driveway Volume 1: Cheers from the Land of the Freeze] demonstrates why."

– MPLS/ST. PAUL MAGAZINE

"The band's between song machinations at the release party for its debut CD, Nice Driveway Vol. 1, Cheers from the Land of the Freeze, might well merit attendance on their own."

– CITY PAGES

BOOKING INFO

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