

Balkan beyond stereotypes - a thorough sampling of the region's tastes, tunes and artists

BALKAN:MOST is an unprecedented undertaking: 30 concerts in 3 days on 3 openair stages showcase the diverse heritage and fresh musical talent of the region between 7-9 September. It concludes an extensive 4-year project: **MOST** (meaning 'bridge') set out to connect the Balkan music industry with the rest of Europe with a comprehensive programme. Picturesque Veszprém, European Capital of Culture 2023 serves as a picturesque backdrop, offering its top-notch venues and historic sites.

Musical discovery and Balkan joy

A 3-day celebration of Balkan music on the streets of Veszprém - **BALKAN:MOST** offers an ample portion of Balkan magic, its flavours, tunes and artists, between 7 and 9 September. The free event features 30 concerts on 3 stages within walking distance in Veszprém's downtown area: a laidback setting for musical discovery. Headliners include Bosnian ska punk legends Dubioza Kolektiv, the new voice of urban R'n'B grounded in heritage Marina Satti, Neapolitan jazz renegade Daniele Sepe and musical adventurers from France and Spain, intertwining Western and Eastern heritage, La Caravane Passe and Barcelona Gipsy balKan Orchestra. Connoisseurs are pampered with an unusually rich variety ranging from Bosnian blues, polyphonic singing, pagan folk and folk inspired electronica covering 24 artists from 9 Balkan countries - all alumni of **MOST**.

Bridge through music

BALKAN:MOST conference convenes over 200 international delegates to discuss, network and promote Balkan music, the largest professional get-together of this kind so far. Panels such as 'Fake Balkan' are aimed at discarding stereotypes and extolling the true treasures of the region, other sessions offer hands-on guidance for artists. The programme summarizes and extends the 4-year **MOST - The Bridge for Balkan Music** project, a singular venture based on 4 pillars, all of which are represented.

Industry big-shots like WOMEX's Ben Mandelson, Katharina Weinert from the European Music Council, Simon Broughton, Songlines magazine columnist and Mila Georgieva from the Bulgarian Music Association take an active part, ensuring one-off learning and networking opportunities for participants. Veszprém's state-of-the art Hangvilla hosts most sessions, while newly launched audiovisual centre FOTON offers its loungy outdoor areas and panoramic views - all is set for beginning new friendships and fruitful exchanges.

Organisers

The singular musical and professional feat is the work of **MOST's** coordinator Hangvető, a rising entity in international world music, also credited with Veszprém's numerous musical projects. In cooperation with WOMEX, they grant an experience as thoughtfully devised as enjoyable, with each and every performer, venue and conference panel tastefully delivered. Veszprém, a designated UNESCO City of Music and proud bearer of the 2023 European

Capital of Culture title, proves a generous host with locations well-worth a visit in their own right. Expert programming, delicious venues and great music make BALKAN:MOST one of the unmissable events of late summer in the European scene.

BALKAN:MOST Showcase and Conference in cooperation with WOMEX

7-9. September 2023, Veszprém

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