



Imamovic, Damir

The World and all that it holds

Cat-Ref.	SFW40601
Barcode	093074060124
Release date	23.06.2023
Label	Smithsonian Folkways (LC-09628)
Style	World Music / Osteuropa

Bosnian singer, songwriter and sevdah tradition– bearer Damir Imamovic is a firm believer in the power of song to connect and transport. On this new album *The World and All That It Holds* he performs original compositions and traditional songs in Bosnian and Sephardic Ladino with breathtaking emotion and conviction. Created as a musical companion to Bosnian-American author Aleksandar Hemon's epic novel of the same name, the songs tell stories of love and loss, hardship and perseverance. Imamovic's music invokes the spirit of the cultural melting pot that is Sarajevo, his lifelong home, reflecting sevdah's rich historical influences while invigorating its future.

It wasn't at all obvious that Damir Imamovic would become a musician, much less a visionary who would lead an insurgency within the world of Bosnian sevdah. Born in 1978 into a famous Sarajevo musical family, the sounds and words of sevdalinkas (songs of sevdah) surrounded him during his childhood. But he at first resisted the family tradition.

The word sevdah comes from the Arabic rendering of the Greek *melan cholos*, which means, literally, "black bile." The word also made its way into Portuguese (*saudade*) and Turkish (*sevda*) to express longing and love. Sevdah has its lyrical roots in South Slavic folk poetry from as far back as the 16th century which was embraced by the Romantic movement that arrived when Bosnia and Herzegovina became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 19th century. Its musical form emerged in the *fin de siècle* cafés of Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Travnik, and Mostar where Bosnian musicians blended Eastern influences from the Ottoman Empire with traditional Slavic and European melodies. Similar musical revolutions were taking place in urbanizing cultures the world over, giving birth to Portuguese fado, Argentine tango, and Greek rembetika.

Over the long months sheltering during the Siege of Sarajevo, Damir picked up the guitar and discovered old songs. After a few years away studying philosophy, a family project to catalog his grandfather's repertoire brought him back to sevdah. Damir began performing regularly in 2005 and has been touring ever since, across the Balkans and Europe, and also to the United States, China, and Mexico. He has recorded seven acclaimed albums and his last, *Singer of Tales*, won "Best of Europe" at the Songlines Music Awards and the 2020 Transglobal World Music Charts.

Band member

Damir Imamovic	Vocals, Tar, Tambur
Ivan Mihajlovic	Bass
Ivana Đuric	Violin

Galileo Music Communication GmbH - Dachauer Str. 5-7 - 82256 Fürstenfeldbruck

Mustafa Šantic
Nenad Kovacic

Accordion, Clarinet
Percussion

Producer

Joe Boyd and Andrea Goertler

aufnahmestudio

5D Studio in Sarajevo

Mastering

Robin Schmidt, 24-96
Mastering

Tracklist

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| 1. | Sinoc (Last Night)
M: Damir Imamovic | 05:07 |
| 2. | Bejturan (Wormwood)
M: Omer Ombasic/Traditional | 03:13 |
| 3. | Anderleto
M: Traditional | 02:23 |
| 4. | Tesko je ljubiti tajno (It's Hard to Love in Secret)
M: Traditional/Damir Imamovic | 04:32 |
| 5. | Kad ja podem draga (When I Leave, My Dear)
M: Traditional | 03:12 |
| 6. | Harmoniko (Accordion)
M: Damir Imamovic | 03:40 |
| 7. | Osmane
M: Damir Imamovic | 04:53 |
| 8. | Madre mija si mi muero (Mother, If I Die)
M: Traditional | 02:46 |
| 9. | Snijeg pade (The Snow Has Fallen)
M: Traditional | 04:23 |
| 10. | Noces, noces (Nights, Nights)
M: Traditional | 04:36 |
| 11. | Koliko je sirom svijeta (As Vast as the World)
M: Traditional | 04:52 |