

Damir Imamović (b. 1978, Sarajevo)



Photo by Amer Kapetanović

Press quotes:

“A true revolutionary of the genre!”
www.sevdalinkas.com

“The king of sevdah music!”
www.huffingtonpost.com

“...a new take on Balkan blues!”
Guardian

“Damir Imamović renews tradition from within!”
Music Meeting Festival, Nijmegen

“Not only a new sevdah singer – a new sevdalinka was born with Damir”
Svetlana Slapšak, Peščanik

"Damir Imamović is a new, yet original sevdah voice of today!"
Dragan Kremer, Vreme

Growing up in a family of sevdah bards, Damir was immersed in the world of Balkan traditional music at a very young age. He started tracing his own path in sevdah in the early 2000s, prompted by his friendship with the writer and editor **Farah Tahirbegović**, also a singer in the band “Dertum”. In 2006 he recorded his first album, followed by concerts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the region of former Yugoslavia. His tours have taken him from different corners of Europe to China, USA, India, Japan and Mexico.

He has worked with musicians such as **Eric Vloeimans, Greg Cohen, Ivana Đurić, Bojan Z, Vlatko Stefanovski, Ivan Mihajlović, Nenad Kovačić, Vlado Kreslin, Derya Türkan, Jadranka Stojaković, Frenkie, Jelena Popržan, Vasil Hadžimanov**, and producers **Chris Eckman** (“Dvojka”, Damir Imamović Sevdah Takht, The Glitterbeat Records, 2016) and **Joe Boyd & Andrea Goertler** (“Singer of Tales”, Damir Imamović feat. **Greg Cohen, Derya Türkan & Ivana Đurić**, Wrasse Records, 2020).

Damir’s art is deeply rooted in his research & educational work. Within his own SevdahLab project, Damir delivers lectures and holds workshops internationally. In 2015, he curated a multimedia exhibition “Sevdah, the art of freedom” at the National Gallery of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The following year, he published the first history of the genre of sevdalinka - “Sevdah” (Vrijeme, 2016, also available in English).

Apart from his performances, research and writing on sevdah, Damir also writes for the theatre, film, video games and other performers. He has won several local and international awards and recognitions.