

Elvis Stanić - biography

Elvis Stanić is the best Croatian contemporary jazz fusion guitarist, multiinstrumentalist and the most awarded new generation jazz composer. He is the leader of the «Elvis Stanić Group», a jazz fusion band which connects mediteranean fluidness with fiercing latin rhythm and contemporary jazz sound. The band performs original music, with starting point in modern electric jazz, expanding it to the edge of traditional, latin or even the New Age music frontiers. As a composer, Elvis Stanić explores a Traditional Croatian music, connecting it with diverse world traditions, thus creating a new and yet unheard genre. He is the one of the leading World jazz musicians in Croatia.

“An authentic musical “maniac”. (Hrvoje Horvat, Vjesnik)

“It is unusual that a guitarist shows a diversity of ideas that can be expressed both instrumentally and vocally...This was a pleasure. Excelent. (Mark French, Berklee College of Music.)

«The sound reminds of Pat Metheny, however, this is a completely new sound, raw, liberated, with fast, unexpected lines that merge into semichord groups with strong motion...An interpretation which fascinates with the contemplative approach and stays in unforgettable memory.» (Nino Zupčević, Cantus)

“It’s rare to hear such a stylistically purified and performingly superior releases...(Stanić is) a guitar stylist with a recognisable sound and an amazing fluidness, but the coloboration with the band musicians that follow his high standards with an ease, deserves our utmost respect” (Darko Glavan, Večernji list)

“Elvis Stanić is defininitely the most authentic “dude” of our progressive fusion music. (Pipo, Cantus)

Born in the 1963., Rijeka, Croatia, he started to play at the age of 6. After accomplishing a classical music education for the accordeon, he switched to the guitar, and was influenced by the blues, rock and jazz music. In 80's he established a succesfull career as a recording musician, as well as a music producer for the major Croatian pop artists.

As a full scholarship awarded Best Entering Student Talent in the 1994. he went to the Berklee College of Music, Boston, where he studied Guitar and Jazz Composition. During the Boston years, he performed with most of Boston based musicians, such as Jim Kelly, Dennis Montgomery, John Thomas, Bob Harrigan, Frank Williams and many others. Elvis Stanić has graduated in Visual Communications at the Department of Fine Arts, University Of Rijeka. He is a member of the Croatian Composers Society (HDS) and International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE). He has been teaching Jazz guitar and Jazz theory at the Jeunesse Musicale Summer Jazz School in Grisignana for the past eight consecutive years. He is also the founder and the Art Director of the „Liburnia Jazz Festival“ and the „Jazz Ex Tempore“ multicultural educational project in Opatija, Croatia.

Elvis Stanić Group

After returning to Croatia, in 1996. he established the world fusion-based jazz ansamble, the “Elvis Stanić Group”, which has soon become the best world jazz band in Croatia. In succeeding years they released four albums with original music which won all the most significant National music and discography awards (8 „Porin“ awards in categories of the Best Jazz Albums, Jazz Compositions and Instrumental performances).

Festivals & Collaborations

He performed with the „Elvis Stanić Group“ at the Montreaux Jazz Festival twice, at '98 and 2003. (Switzerland), Lincoln Center in NY and at numerous Jazz festivals in the U.S., Norvege, Germany, Netherlands, UK, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Austria, Turkey, Greece, Slovenia, Serbia and Monte Negro...

As a free-lance guitarist he played with all major jazz musicians in Croatia (Boško Petrović, The National Croatian Broadcast Big Band, Neven Frangeš, Mario Mavrin, Matija Dedić, Tamara Obrovac,...), and abroad (Gilberto Gil, Django Bates, Cheick Tidienne Seck, Martin Drew, Alwin Queen, Buster Williams, Lenny White, Furio di Castri, Daniele di Bonaventura, Karen Asatrian, Vasil Hadzimanov, Scott Latzky, John Thomas...)

World Music

From the 1992 he has been writing, arranging and producing six albums for the world music based vocal choir „Putokazi“. Starting with the Ethno Trilogy: „The Earth“ („Zemlja“) /1997/ - with original arrangements of the Traditional Croatian music, „The New Earth“ (Nova Zemlja) – an approach to a diverse world Traditional music, and the „Croatian Lullaby“, a collection of Croatian traditional child songs, arranged and performed in original mood. This Trilogy has been performed as a representative project at the EXPO 2005 in Japan.

In 2003 Elvis Stanić is producing and arranging the Traditional Bosnian music (Sevdah) project „Amanet“, for the most famous Croatian bard, Ibrica Jusić. This is a collection of 12 precious jewels of the Traditional Balkan Love Poetry. In 2008, the „Amanet 2“ has been released.

Theatre

Elvis Stanić has composed several scores for the National Theatre, which also includes three contemporary musicals.

Awards

He is the winner of numerous awards and recognitions:

- **Order of Croatian Danica with figure of Marko Marulić** – the highest croatian order for the cultural achievements (2008.)
- **Award for Outstanding Musicianship** - 1994 (Berklee Clinics at Umbria Jazz, Perugia, Italy)
- **Best Entering Student Talent** – 1995 (Berklee College of Music, Boston USA)
- **National Journalist Award for the best instrumental performer** (Crni mačak, Croatia 1997. and 1999.)
- **National Discography Award Porin**- for the best jazz album (1997., 1999., 2005., 2008.), for the best jazz song (1997., 1999., 2005., 2008.), for the best jazz performance (2004., 2005., 2008.), for the best performance of the traditional and ethno music (1998.), for the best instrumental performance (2008.), for best pop album (2010.), for best recording (2010.)
- **The Annual Award for Outstanding Cultural Achievements** – City of Opatija (1998.)
- **The Annual Award for the Development of Creativity and Culture** – Primorsko-goranska County (2005., 2006., 2007., 2008., 2009.)
- **Croatian Musicians Union Annual Award “Status”** for the best instrumental performer in category of Jazz, Latin, Fusion & Ethnic Music and for the best jazz guitarist (1998., 2003., 2004., 2007., 2008., 2009., 2010.)
- **1st prize Swedish choir competition “Toner för miljoner”**, category: Female choirs, composition: “Helleja” /Elvis Stanić/, artisti: “Nova choir”, Gothenburg, Sweden (2004.)

DISCOGRAPHY

JAZZ

- **“TERRA SACRA” (1997.)**
artist: ELVIS STANIĆ GROUP
- **“SAMBA MEDITERRANEA” (1999.)**
artist: ELVIS STANIĆ GROUP
- **“MANTANA” (2001.)**
artist: ELVIS STANIĆ GROUP
- **“BIG BAND HRT-a I SOLISTI” (2002)**
artist: ELVIS STANIĆ I BIG BAND HRT-a
- **“EVERGREEN” /Stella by Starlight/ (2004)**
artist: ELVIS STANIĆ I BIG BAND HRT-a
- **«INTROSPECTION» (2004.)**
artist: ELVIS STANIĆ GROUP
- **“BOLJA STRANA SVIJETA/LE MEILLEURE PARTIE DU MONDE” (2005.)**
(Croatia Records)
artist: ELVIS STANIĆ GROUP
- **JAZZ EX TEMPORE ‘05/’06 (2007.)**
(Croatia Records)
artist: JAZZ EX TEMPORE ORCHESTRA
- **ROUND TRIP (2009.)**
(Croatia Records)
artist: JAZZ EX TEMPORE ORCHESTRA feat. Elvis Stanic, Andrea Vicary, Hristo Yotsov, Rico De Jeer

WORLD MUSIC

- **“ZEMLJA” (1997.) (Orfej)**
artist: PUTOKAZI
- **“NOVA ZEMLJA” (2000.)**
Croatian world music
artist: PUTOKAZI
- **“HRVATSKE NARODNE USPAVANKE” (2001.)**
Croatian traditional lullabay
artist: PUTOKAZI
- **“Transhistrìa” (2001.)**
izvođač: Tamara Obrovac & Transhistrìa Ensemble
- **«AMANET» (2003.)**
Bosnian traditional songs
artist Ibrica Jusić
- **«AMANET 2» (2007.)**
Bosnian traditional songs
artist Ibrica Jusić

THEATRE MUSIC

- 1994** : musical **“Ema”** Damir Miloš/Elvis Stanić, Kazalište “SKAM”
1996 : musical **“Slomljeno jato”**, Damir Miloš/Elvis Stanić, Kazalište “SKAM”
1997 : musical **“Neposlušna priča”**, Damir Miloš/Elvis Stanić, Kazalište “SKAM”
1998 : **“Leda”**, Miroslav Krleža, HNK “I. pl. Zajca” Rijeka

- 2000.** : **“Anđeli imaju krila, zar ne”**, Lada Martinac Kralj, Kazalište
“Trešnja” Zagreb
- 2002.** : **“Muškardin”**, HNK “I. Pl. Zajca” Rijeka
- 2005.** : **«Dekameron»**, Boccaccio, teatar «JAK», Lošinj
- 2006.** : **“Neki to vole vruće”**, teatar «JAK», Lošinj
- 2008.** : **“Mambo Italiano”** , Steve Galluccio, Hrvatska kazališna kuća Zadar
Gradsko kazalište mladih Split