MACEDONIAN TUBA PROJECT

THE VOICE OF MACEDONIA THROUGH THE TUBA

Micko Damnjanovski · Tuba | Marijana Nikolovska · Piano



THE PROJECT

Macedonian Tuba Project (MTP) is an artistic initiative led by tuba player Micko Damnjanovski to encourage the creation and arrangement of Macedonian music for tuba and to introduce this repertoire to audiences at home and abroad. Developed in collaboration with Macedonian composers, the project brings traditional melodic and rhythmic influences into a contemporary concert setting.

Performed by Micko Damnjanovski (tuba) and Marijana Nikolovska (piano), MTP offers festival programmers two adaptable concert formats. The initiative also aims to establish a lasting body of music for future generations of tuba players.

Available for international festivals, chamber music series and cultural events throughout 2027.

CONCERT FORMATS

01 THE SOUND OF MACEDONIA

The Sound of Macedonia is a unique musical journey through the rich heritage of Macedonian traditional music, reimagined for tuba and piano. The programme features original compositions and contemporary arrangements inspired by traditional Macedonian melodies, particularly old folk songs passed down through generations. Alongside these lyrical and expressive themes, the repertoire also explores the vibrant energy of Macedonian folk dances, known as ora.

One of the most distinctive characteristics of Macedonian music is its extraordinary rhythmic diversity, including asymmetrical metres such as 5/8, 7/8, 9/8, 11/8, 13/8 and 14/8. These intricate rhythmic patterns, often unfamiliar to international audiences, create a fascinating interplay between melodic expression and rhythmic vitality.

Through the unusual combination of tuba and piano, familiar folk melodies acquire new colours, textures and expressive possibilities. The tuba, traditionally associated with orchestral and brass ensemble roles, takes centre stage as a lyrical and virtuosic solo instrument, revealing a remarkable range of musical expression.

Bringing together the authenticity of Macedonian musical traditions and the creativity of contemporary composers, The Sound of Macedonia offers audiences a distinctive concert experience that celebrates cultural heritage while opening new artistic perspectives.

02 TUBA WITHOUT BORDERS

A two-part recital connecting international repertoire with selected music from the Macedonian Tuba Project.

PART I — INTERNATIONAL REPERTOIRE

Option A — Operatic Highlights & Popular Classics

1. Alexander Borodin — Polovtsian Dances
2. Giuseppe Verdi — La donna è mobile
3. Ruggero Leoncavallo — Vesti la giubba
4. Georges Bizet — Toreador Song
5. Giacomo Puccini — O mio babbino caro
6. W. A. Mozart — Queen of the Night Aria
7. Giacomo Puccini — Nessun dorma
8. Gioachino Rossini — Largo al factotum

Option B — International Classics & Tuba Repertoire

1. Roy Newsome — Bass in the Ballroom
2. Don Haddad — Suite for Tuba
3. Alexei Lebedev — Concerto in One Movement
4. Antonio Álvarez Alonso — Suspiros de España
5. Carlos Gardel — Por una cabeza

PART II — MACEDONIAN TUBA PROJECT (BOTH OPTIONS)

1. Ivan Eminović — Jovano, Jovanke / Makedonsko devojče
2. Saško Nikolovski — Suite for Tuba and Piano
3. Ivan Eminović — Pajduško

Duration: 50–70 minutes per concert format.

ARTISTIC RECOMMENDATION I particularly recommend Tuba Without Borders for its musical variety. The programme offers audiences the opportunity to enjoy familiar operatic highlights and popular classical works while also discovering the distinctive sound and repertoire of the Macedonian Tuba Project. This combination provides an engaging introduction to Macedonian music within a diverse concert experience.

THE ARTISTS



MICKO DAMNJANOVSKI

TUBA

Micko Damnjanovski is a Macedonian tuba player with more than two decades of professional experience in orchestral, chamber and studio music. In 2002, he became the first university-trained tuba player in the Republic of Macedonia, graduating from the Faculty of Music in Skopje. From 2003 to 2006, he continued his studies at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, where he worked with Prof. Bart Van Nieuwenhuyze.

His international experience includes collaborations with the Brussels Philharmonic and a season with the Royal Flemish Philharmonic in Antwerp. A permanent member of the Macedonian Opera and Ballet Orchestra since 2007, he has also performed with the Macedonian Philharmonic and other orchestras in the region. His career includes performances featuring distinguished artists such as Plácido Domingo, Jessye Norman and Dmitri Hvorostovsky.

For more than a decade, he worked with the FAME'S studio orchestra, participating in recordings for international film, television and music productions. In 2019, he founded Brasstet Skopje, a chamber ensemble with a wide-ranging repertoire. Alongside his orchestral work, Damnjanovski is committed to expanding the tuba's solo repertoire. As initiator of the Macedonian Tuba Project, he works with Macedonian composers to bring new works for tuba and piano to audiences at home and abroad.



MARIJANA NIKOLOVSKA

PIANO

Marijana Nikolovska is a Macedonian pianist with extensive experience in chamber music, orchestral performance, piano accompaniment and artistic collaboration. She studied at the Faculty of Music in Skopje and completed her master's degree in piano accompaniment in 2007. Her concert appearances include festivals in Macedonia and performances in several European countries and the United States.

Since 2000, she has taught piano and piano accompaniment at the Ilija Nikolovski-Luj Music School. Since 2003, she has also worked as an artistic collaborator at the Faculty of Music in Skopje, accompanying students of brass, percussion, voice and orchestral conducting in recitals, examinations and competitions. This extensive work with instrumentalists has shaped her versatile and responsive approach to chamber performance.

Her orchestral engagements have included performances with ensembles in France and Belgium. After collaborating with the Macedonian Philharmonic from 2011, she became a permanent member of its orchestra in 2020, performing on piano and celesta. She is also a member of the contemporary music ensemble Nov Zdiv, which has appeared at Ohrid Summer and DynamikFest Kammermusik in Salzburg. Her experience across classical and contemporary repertoire brings an attentive musical partnership to the Macedonian Tuba Project.

PRODUCTION & BOOKING

STAGE & INSTRUMENTS

An acoustic piano (grand or upright) is preferred. A suitable digital piano, such as a Clavinova, may also be accepted by prior agreement, depending on the venue. Acoustic pianos should be tuned before the performance. A piano bench and one stable chair without armrests for the tuba player are required.

The tuba player brings his own instrument and tablet with a dedicated holder; no separate music stand is required. Appropriate stage lighting, sufficient performance space and suitable acoustics should be provided.

SOUND & PREPARATION

The programme is conceived primarily for acoustic performance. Sound reinforcement may be required for larger venues or outdoor stages. Whenever sound reinforcement is necessary, we strongly recommend working with our own sound engineer to ensure the best possible sound quality and balance between the tuba and piano. However, this is not a mandatory requirement, and alternative arrangements may be agreed upon with the festival organizer. Any additional costs related to engaging our sound engineer will be discussed and agreed upon separately. The final sound setup will be agreed upon in advance, taking into account the venue's acoustics and technical possibilities. A short rehearsal or sound check and access to a preparation room are requested.

RECORDING & MEDIA

Full audio or video recording of the concert is subject to prior agreement with Micko Damnjanovski. Short excerpts for festival promotion are welcome; broadcast, commercial use or distribution of full-length recordings require a separate agreement.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Performers: Micko Damnjanovski (tuba) & Marijana Nikolovska (piano)

Concert duration: 50–70 minutes

Programme: Two flexible concert formats, adaptable to festival requirements.

Booking contact: Micko Damnjanovski

Email: micko.damnjanovski@gmail.com

Phone / WhatsApp / Viber: +389 76 230 598

FEES & LOGISTICS

Performance fees, travel and accommodation arrangements are discussed individually with each festival organizer.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Professional performance videos and additional promotional materials will be provided as soon as they become available, no later than December 2026.