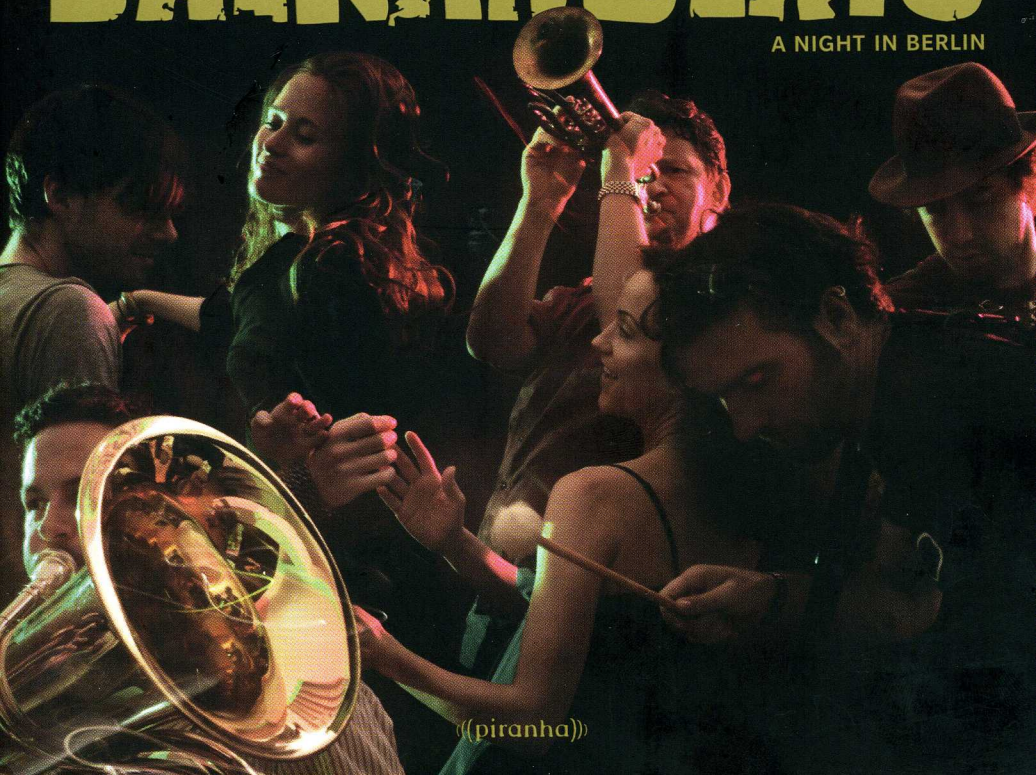


# BALKAN BEATS

A NIGHT IN BERLIN



((piranha))

## B A L K A N B E A T S

THE CROWD IS DANCING WILDLY. SUDDENLY THE RHYTHM STOPS, THE DRUMS FALL SILENT. ONLY THE TRUMPET MOANS, THEN CHANGES INTO A LOOPING ORIENTAL MELODY. THE DRUMS START AGAIN. THE CROWD JUMPS UP, DANCERS SHOUT IN DESPERATE ECSTASY. THIS IS BALKANBEATS, IGNITING FOR ONE NIGHT IN BERLIN EACH MONTH, IN ONE OF THE EPICENTRES OF THE CITY'S NIGHTLIFE, A CLUB CALLED LIDO. A YOUNG, NATIVE CLUB CROWD MIXES WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTY PEOPLE AND EX-PATS FROM THE BALKANS — ALL JOIN TOGETHER FOR A SWEATY MASH UP WHICH RARELY STOPS BEFORE SUNRISE. BALKANBEATS' ORIGINATOR, CURATOR AND RESIDENT DJ IS NAMED ROBERT SOKO. HE'S BEEN THE PIONEERING MASTERMIND BEHIND THE DECKS FOR MORE THAN 16 YEARS NOW, AND IN THE MEANTIME HE'S SPREAD HIS POWERFUL MESSAGE NOT ONLY TO OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS SUCH AS BUDAPEST, LONDON AND PARIS BUT TO FAR FLUNG LOCALES LIKE CAPE TOWN, LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK AND RECIFE. IT WAS 1990 WHEN ROBERT SOKO LEFT HIS HOME TOWN ZENICA IN BOSNIA. AFTER TRAVELLING AROUND A BIT, HE ENDED UP IN BERLIN. THE WALL HAD JUST FALLEN, EVERYTHING SEEMED POSSIBLE. AT THAT TIME SOKO COULDN'T IMAGINE THAT HIS HOMETOWN WOULD SOON TURN INTO THE ARENA OF THE MOST CRUEL WAR EUROPE HAD SEEN SINCE WORLD WAR II. IN 1992 THE BALKANS EXPLODED. HATE AND REVENGE SHOOK THE REGION. MORE AND MORE REFUGEES CAME TO BERLIN, MANY OF THEM STILL CALLED THEMSELVES "YUGOSLAVIANS" AT A TIME WHEN THEIR CONTEMPORARIES SPLIT UP INTO SERBS, CROATS, BOSNIANS...

## U N I F Y T H E P E O P L E !

IN 1993 SOKO STARTED HIS PARTY FOR LOST IMMIGRANTS IN THE ARCANOA, A PUNK BAR IN THE SIDESTREETS OF KREUZBERG. WITH ROOTS IN MANY CORNERS OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA HIMSELF, HE KNEW THAT MUSIC WAS THE CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN ALL PEOPLES. TOGETHER WITH HIS FRIEND RÜDIGER ROSSIG, HE PLAYED YUGO ROCK'N'ROLL, PUNK AND SKA — RELICS OF A WORLD THAT HAD PERISHED. A LITTLE LATER HE REDISCOVERED TRADITIONAL MUSIC THROUGH FILMS OF SERBIAN DIRECTOR EMIR KUSTURICA. THE POWERFUL TUNES OF ROMA BRASS BANDS SEEMED TO BE COMPOSED OF THE SORT OF STRONG EMOTIONS THAT COULD MYSTERIOUSLY OPEN OUT TO DEEP, ALL EMBRACING LOVE FOR THE WORLD, SAD MELANCHOLY AND OVERWHELMING HAPPINESS. THESE OLD SOUNDS, MIXED WITH NEW ELECTRONIC BEATS, HIT THE PARTY CROWD LIKE A LIGHTNING BOLT. BALKANBEATS WAS ROUGH, FULL OF EMOTION, WEEPING AND LAUGHING AT THE SAME TIME, JUMPING, HANDWAVING, SHOUTING, INTOXICATING AND ECSTATIC. THAT'S WHY ROBERT SOKO'S BALKANBEATS BECAME A STYLE UNTO ITSELF, NOW COPIED BY MANY ALL OVER THE WORLD. BALKANBEATS HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM A CROWD OF STRANGERS INTO A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. THIS IS THE MESSAGE: UNIFY THE PEOPLE! MOVE YOUR BODY. MOVE YOUR HEART. HAJDE!

MORE INFO AT [WWW.PIRANHA.DE](http://WWW.PIRANHA.DE) [WWW.MYSPACE.COM/BALKAN\\_BEATS](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/BALKAN_BEATS)  
[WWW.BALKANBEATS.DE](http://WWW.BALKANBEATS.DE)

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01 **MAGNIFICO**: A SINGING, GUITAR-SLINGING BALKAN BORAT, MAGNIFICO SENDS UP STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICES WITH GLEEFUL, MELODIOUS IRONY. [WWW.MAGNIFICO.INFO](http://WWW.MAGNIFICO.INFO) 02 **BOBAN I MARKO MARKOVIĆ ORKESTAR**: THE UNDISPUTED KINGS OF BRASS MADNESS, REIGNING EMPERORS OF THE REKNOWNED GUČA FESTIVAL, BOBAN AND MARKO MARKOVIĆ ONCE AGAIN DELIVER A HOT, FRESH AND FIERY DANCE FLOOR BANGER. [WWW.MYSPACE.COM/BOBANIMARKO](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/BOBANIMARKO) 03 **ROTFRONT**: ROTFRONT'S BERLIN EMIGRANTSKIS YURIY GURZHY (RUSSENDISKO) AND SIMON WAHORN SERVE UP EXPLOSIVE COCKTAILS OF VODKA-FUELLED HITS. [WWW.ROTFRONT.COM](http://WWW.ROTFRONT.COM) 04 **[DUNKELBUNT] FEAT. BOBAN I MARKO MARKOVIĆ ORKESTAR**: [DUNKELBUNT]'S JOB DESCRIPTION LISTS DJ, COMPOSER, PRODUCER, RADIO EDITOR AND MIXER OF SPICES. A TIRELESS WORLD TRAVELLER, HIS JOURNEYS HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO REMIXES FOR ARTISTS SUCH AS 17 HIPPIES AND THE AMSTERDAM KLEZMER BAND AS WELL AS ORIGINAL TRACKS. [WWW.DUNKELBUNT.TK](http://WWW.DUNKELBUNT.TK) 05 **SHANTEL & AMSTERDAM KLEZMER BAND**: A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN TWO GREATS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE MUSIC SCENES — BALKAN AND KLEZMER. [WWW.BUCOVINA.DE](http://WWW.BUCOVINA.DE) & [WWW.AMSTERDAMKLEZMERBAND.NL](http://WWW.AMSTERDAMKLEZMERBAND.NL)

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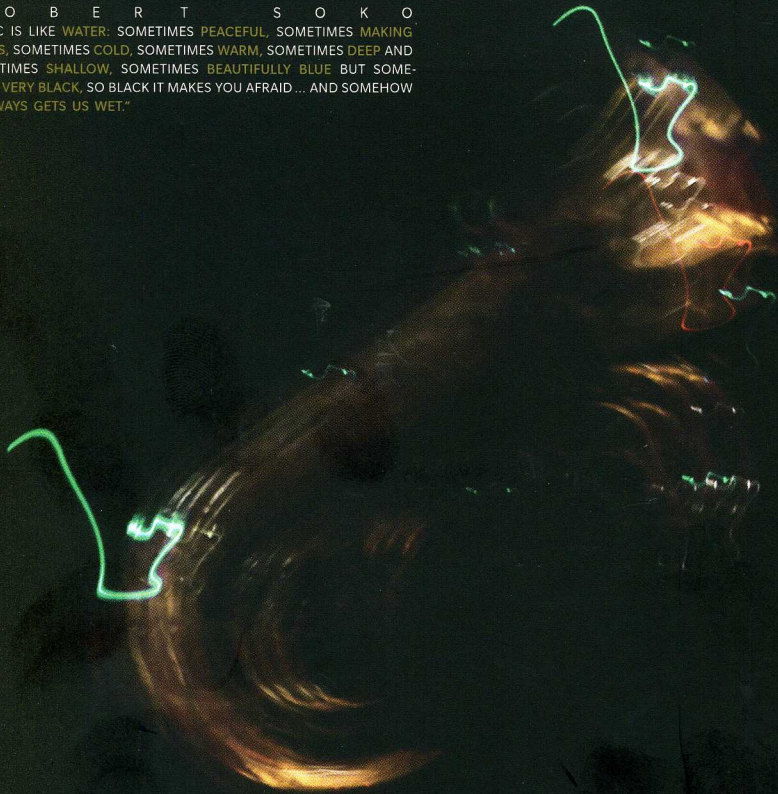
06 **VRELO**: SERBIAN GIRL GROUP VRELO ROCKS THE PARTY WITH TRACKS INFLUENCED BY TRADITIONAL SLAVIC MELODIES. [WWW.VRELOMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.VRELOMUSIC.COM) 07 **KAL**: GYPSY DANCE BEATS WITH ROCK'N'ROLL ATTITUDE FROM ENGAGED ROMA ACTIVISTS. [WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ROMAKAL](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ROMAKAL) 08 **AMSTERDAM KLEZMER BAND**: THE AKB TAKES KLEZMER OUT OF THE CONSERVATORY AND INTO THE STREETS. [WWW.AMSTERDAMKLEZMERBAND.NL](http://WWW.AMSTERDAMKLEZMERBAND.NL) 09 **AHILEA**: EXPORT-IMPORT-TUNES FOUNDER AHILEA JOURNEYED FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO MACEDONIA TO AUSTRIA, FROM ART HISTORY TO CHICAGO HOUSE DJ TO SOUND ENGINEER TO PARTY ORGANIZER TO MUSIC MAKER, THE EXPLOSIVE SUMMIT OF HIS CAREER. [WWW.MYSPACE.COM/EXPORTIMPORTTUNES](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/EXPORTIMPORTTUNES) 10 **AL LINDRUM & HIS MAGIC HAT**: PRODUCER DUO OF TWO KINSPIRITED COSMOPOLITANS: DJ AL LINDRUM (BARCELONA) AND DJ WELLBECOME (COPENHAGEN), A PAIR OF HAPPY TRAVELLERS CROSSING AS MANY MUSICAL BORDERS AS POSSIBLE. [WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ALLINDRUM](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ALLINDRUM)

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11 **SHANTEL**: LEGENDARY BUCOVINA CLUB FOUNDER AND BALKAN PARTY PIONEER SHANTEL SURELY NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION TO FANS OF LONG, SWEATY, VODKA-FUELLED DANCE-A-THONS. [WWW.BUCOVINA.DE](http://WWW.BUCOVINA.DE) 12 **DELADAP**: AWARD-WINNING IDELADAP DEFINE THEIR MIX OF STYLES FROM ROMA-ROOTS, JAZZ AND URBAN ELECTRONIC AS "NU-GYPSY". [WWW.DELADAP.COM](http://WWW.DELADAP.COM) 13 **ĀL JAWALA**: WITH THEIR COMBINATION OF BALKAN SOUL AND FUNKY DANCE BEATS, ĀL JAWALA STIR UP EUROPEAN CLUBS AND FESTIVALS FROM FRANCE TO THE BLACK SEA. [WWW.JAWALA.DE](http://WWW.JAWALA.DE) 14 **MERDAN TAPLAK**: WITHOUT DOUBT THE NEXT BIG THING IN THE BELGIAN AND EUROPEAN DJ SCENE. ROCKING THE STAGES AT MAJOR FESTIVALS, MERDAN TAPLAK IS HITTING THE CROWD AND HITTING THEM HARD. [WWW.MERDANTAPLAK.BE](http://WWW.MERDANTAPLAK.BE) 15 **KOLO NOVO MOVIE BAND**: ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST SOUGHT-AFTER ACTS, THE KOLO NOVO MOVIE BAND HAS ITS ROOTS FIRMLY PLANTED IN THE MUSIC OF EASTERN EUROPE. [WWW.KOLONOVO.COM](http://WWW.KOLONOVO.COM)

R O B E R T S O K K O

"MUSIC IS LIKE WATER: SOMETIMES PEACEFUL, SOMETIMES MAKING WAVES, SOMETIMES COLD, SOMETIMES WARM, SOMETIMES DEEP AND SOMETIMES SHALLOW, SOMETIMES BEAUTIFULLY BLUE BUT SOMETIMES VERY BLACK, SO BLACK IT MAKES YOU AFRAID ... AND SOMEHOW IT ALWAYS GETS US WET."



T R A C K S

01 **MAGNIFICO EVO ME NARODE** 3:17 02 **BOBAN I MARKO MARKOVIC**  
**ORKESTAR MARUŠKA** 3:09 03 **ROTFRONT B-STYLE** 3:49 04 **[DUNKEL-**  
**BUNT] FEAT. BOBAN I MARKO MARKOVIĆ ORKESTAR CINNAMON GIRL**  
**(RADIO EDIT)** 4:01 05 **SHANTEL & AMSTERDAM KLEZMER BAND** **BUCH-**  
**ALTER JOINT** 4:04 06 **VRELO OJ UBAVA** 3:24 07 **KAL POUR ENFANTS ET**  
**PERSONNES SENSIBLES** 3:16 08 **AMSTERDAM KLEZMER BAND** **TA-**  
**KAJ ZHIZN (REMIX BY JANFIE)** 4:47 09 **AHILEA MONOPOLIS** 3:18 10 **AL**  
**LINDRUM & HIS MAGIC HAT COME TOGETHER** 3:50 11 **SHANTEL DISKO**  
**PARTIZANI (MARCUS DARIUS MEETS TRICKY CRIS REMIX)** 5:01 12  
**IDELADAP RADOST** 6:59 13 **ĀL JAWALA POZNASH** 4:06 14 **MERDAN**  
**TAPLAK MARCH OF THE SULTANS** 3:19 15 **KOLO NOVO MOVIE BAND**  
**BOLUJEM JA** 4:21

**BONUS 01 FULL ARTIST INFORMATION 02 SLIDESHOW WITH MUSIC BY**  
**FANFARE CIOCĂRLIA AND PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MANN**

**FILE UNDER ROBERT SOKO'S BALKANBEATS** LYRICS IN CZECH, ENG-  
LISH, GERMAN, HUNGARIAN, LARI, ROMANY, RUSSIAN, SERBIAN, SLO-  
VAK, TURKISH **MADE IN GERMANY BY © & © 2009 PIRANHA MUSIK**  
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