**Hojsak & Novosel ft. Theodosii Spassov**

Founded in 2016, two acclaimed virtuosos**, Tihomir Hojsak** (double bass) and **Filip Novosel** (tambura – Croatian traditional instrument) started their incredible musical journey behind the moto of *Bow vs Plectrum* – in which they merged two string instruments with different traditions of playing. Merging not only their instruments but also various genres including classical, contemporary jazz and Croatian ethno they created a specific and a unique style of their own. Their discography counts 4 albums on which they collaborated with some of the world renowned jazz and classical musicians and ensembles like Vlatko Stefanovski, Monika Leskovar, Ismail Lumanovski, Theodosii Spassov, Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and many more. After their second album *Strings Only* the duo was quickly recognized as ..*the most original Croatian cultural brand in the world* (Branimir Pofuk, Večernji list) leading them to many stages accross the globe. The duo has performed multiple times in USA, in China and all over Europe (Germany, Austria, France, Norway, Sweden, Latvia, Italy, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria..).

People refer to **Theodosii Spassov** as “the kaval player of the world”. Indeed, Theodosii Spassov’s fans all over the world form a very wide circle. Born on March 4, 1961 in the town of Isperih, he graduated from the Philip Kutev National School of Folk Arts in Kotel and then the Plovdiv Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. He is acknowledged as a virtuoso kaval performer, who is capable of playing any folk melody with style. What makes him even more popular are his original ideas, the realization of which brings together musicians of diverse genres. He was the first to play jazz on kaval and the mixing of traditional folk music with elements of jazz and classical music is at the basis of almost all original pieces composed by Theodosii. Throughout his career, Theodosii has toured all over the world, playing on all continents (including Antarctica). In 1994, he performed with Sofia Women's Radio Choir which was awarded with a Grammy award for "Le Mystere Des Voix Bulgares". In April 1995, "Newsweek" magazine recognized Theodosii Spassov as one of the most talented Eastern-European musicians in its "best of the East" article, noting that "Spassov... is not merely surviving the post-communist cultural wasteland. He has actually invented a new musical genre."

This collaboration started back in 2016 when Theodosii accepted a call from his fellow Croatian musicians. The three of them soon developed a great friendship and musicianship in which they merge both Croatian and Bulgarian tradition with fusion of jazz and classical music. Their repertoire consists of both original compositions and arrangements in which they show how diverse and yet how similar two cultures can be. They are currently preparing a new album which is supposed to be published in early 2023.