

Vladimir Samardžić is a Serbian bass guitar player, composer, educator and columnist with a unique artistic voice. He is considered one of the most versatile and influential bass players in Serbia and ex Yugoslavia. Berklee graduate, frontman of the jazz quintet **Pannonia Project and Vladimir Samardžić Trio**. He cooperates with many orchestras, famous musicians and vocalists from Serbia and beyond, as well as with world-known jazz and 'world music' names such as Luis Bonilla, Thana Alexa, John Riley, Mokhtar Samba, Amira Medunjanin, Bojan Zulfikapashic, Felipe Salles, Theodosii Spassov, Slobodan Trkulja.

His long-awaited new solo album "Catching the Wind" (SKC NS, 2022) brought fresh and exciting music wind to the Serbian and regional jazz music scene.

Vladimir Samardžić was born in 1970 in Novi Sad. He is a self-taught bass guitar player whose first encounter with a bass guitar took place when he was 19 years old, and the decision to become a professional musician was made in 1993 when he became the member of the RTV Novi Sad Big Band led by Josip Lorbek. That very same year he started working with Vasil Hadžimanov as well, and together they formed the Vasil Hadžimanov Band. From that moment on, Belgrade jazz clubs *Plato* and *Jazzbina* became his 'music schools'. In the period from 1995 to 1997 he was the member of the famous rock band Smak playing bass guitar for the album 'Bioskop Fox' (1995).

Even though he had no formal music education, in January 1997 he became a student and scholarship holder at Berklee College of Music. He also won the following awards 'The Bass Department Achievement Award' and 'BMG Jazz Award'. During his studies in America Vladimir also held performances and recorded music as a member of the funk group 'Bryan Oliver Band' and latino ensemble 'Papa Loves Mambo', cooperated with the Romanian pan flutist Damian Draghici, the drummer Marko Djordjević (SVETI), but also with professors as their assistant in the music clinics, vibraphonist Dave Samuels (Spyro Gyra, Caribbean Jazz Project) and percussionist Jammey Haddad (Bokante, Paul Simon). In December 1999 he graduated Summa Cum Laude in the Professional musician/ Bass department.

Upon his return to Serbia, he became a permanent member of the Vasil Hadžimanov Band, which resulted in recording 4 albums until 2010: '11

razloga za... (2001); *Kafanki* (2003); *Tri* (2007); *Života mi* (2009), performing throughout Serbia, in the region, in Europe, as well as in the World Expo Fair in Nagoya, Japan (2005). In the period between 2002 to 2005 he worked on the album *Invocation of the rain* (2002) together with the group Balkanopolis led by Slobodan Trkulja and performed at the world-music festivals throughout Holland and Belgium, such as the 'Nort Sea Festival 2002' in Rotterdam.

Vladimir has been cooperating with pop singer Željko Samardžić 2007-2019, performing throughout America, Canada and Australia. He was also a member of the singer-songwriter's band, Vlado Georgiev, (2002-2010) participating in the famous 'Concert on the Water' in Herceg Novi, which was released on a DVD, 'Live in Herceg Novi 2004'.

In 2010, he released the album 'The Bridge' with his jazz quintet Pannonia Project, presenting himself for the first time as a composer and music arranger.

Vladimir also cooperated throughout the years, in studios as well as in concerts, with numerous, famous national musicians, such as the following singers - Bisera Veletanlić, Brankica Vasić Vasilisa, Tereza Kesovija, Aleksandra Radović, Jelena Tomašević, Madam Piano, Dado Topić, The Frajle; and instrumentalists - Radomir Mihajlović-Točak (Smak), Vlatko Stefanovski, Bodan Arsovski, Kornelije Kovač, Vojislav «VoyaBee» Brković, Šule Jovović, Vladimir Maraš, Amar Češljarić, Miroslav «MickyLee» Miroslavljev, Marko Chrnčec, Sean McGowan, Rosen Rocco Zahariev, Karen Asatrijan, Sami Amir, Mark Milan, Maxim Zettel, Toti Denaro, Leon Angel Rodriguez, Herbert Pirker, Martin Reiter.

He held his performances many times in all big concert halls throughout Serbia and in the region, as well as on big stages under the open sky in front of more than 20,000 people. Cooperation with big orchestras as a soloist or as a member of the rhythm section in many concerts includes Vojvodina Symphonic Orchestra, Belgrade and Zrenjanin Philharmonic Orchestra, RTS Big Band and Novosadski Big Band.

2018 - 2019, he has collaborated with one of the most famous accordionists in the region, Borko Radivojević, on his new "Balkan world music" project - the Borko Radivojević Orchestra.

In the same year, the first edition of the web portal and magazine - BASISTA was published, in which Vladimir has started working as a columnist and bass teacher.

A year later, in 2019, he has started recording his new album in guitar trio format "Catching the Wind". After its release on May 13, 2022, the album quickly gained popularity throughout Serbia and the region.

Vladimir Samardžić has also been active as a bass guitar instructor and lecturer at Bass workshops for many years, as well as in international music jazz seminars (Pannonian Bridge, Novi Sad 2007-2008; Jazz ExTempore, Opatija 2006, 2012; Int. Summer Jazz School, Grožnjan 2018-2019).

Since summer 2020 he has been teaching bass guitar on a regular basis, in person, live and online through his bass school www.vladabasslessons.com.

Vladimir Samardžić is an official promoter of famous Italian bass brand Markbass.

He has been working as a music editor (jazz program) of RTV Vojvodina's radio channel One since 2013.