



## Presentation of the Creative Europe Project « 2020Troubadours »

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La Petite Fabriek / Balassi Institute



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## Introduction

#2020Troubadours is a cultural project in the roam of the **Creative Europe program of the EU**. The project is run by several **cultural non-profit organizations from Belgium, France, Serbia, Hungary and Ukraine**.

This project is gathering around 20 artists to take part in a serie of **‘Trouba Labs’ (concerts/workshops)** and **‘Trouba Train Trips’** from May 2019 to December 2020.

## What is the context?

Over the last years, we have noticed there has been a clear **renewed interest for world music**. Everywhere in Europe, young artists discover again the old repertoire of the typical world music from their region, whether it is rumba catalana in Spain, sevdah music in the Balkans, accordion and brass band music in France or Belgium, etc.

Very interesting in this phenomenon is that young artists try to find **a new and contemporary way of interpreting** this type of music and create from this background a newer repertoire for singing and dancing, developing new and interesting crossovers towards styles and instrumentation (acoustic instruments mixed with electronic tools, etc.). However, world music is under **high pressure due to mainstream tendencies**. World music is pushed to the margins of the creative industry. This mainstream tendency sometimes kills the authenticity of the artistic value. 2020 Troubadours wants to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.

Yet, European world music tells so much about the **fascinating ‘human history’ of Europe**; this kind of music is a vivid exponent of regional cultural traditions. **Popular world music helped people surviving** everywhere in Europe in times of difficult personal or political situations, such as crises, wars, occupations, etc. Unfortunately, it is still like that today.

Europe is confronted with a **huge identity crisis**: the ‘old’ Europe tries to give answers to a changing society, to migration, to candidate member states which want to be part of the European dream. Although European world music is a **keystone and a story teller of our extraordinary European past**, people are no longer aware of this. Our project wants to show the possibilities of European world music in order to bring people together, to stimulate the cultural dialogue and to show that **European cultural co-operation** is a solid way to counter discrimination and to heal post-war traumas.



## Why «2020Troubadours»?

We got inspired to use **‘Troubadours’** as a metaphor for artists who look after ways of improving our society, tell a story that reflects our concerns and makes us think about how the world is changing these days. For centuries, troubadours can be considered as the ‘prototype’ of **fascinating and inspiring traveling artists**, who are definitely a part of our specific European cultural heritage.

Looking back to the word’s origins, it is borrowed from the Occitan word trobador. It is the oblique case of the nominative trobaire ‘composer’, related to trobar **‘to compose, to discuss, to invent’**... (Wace, Brut, editions I. Arnold, p 3342). It became « trouver » in modern French, « trovare » in Italian, which means find. ‘Finders’.

We consider world music artists as the modern Troubadours, touring artists, as **storytellers of an amazing and popular culture** which exists in different European regions, regardless whether it is in the Balkans, Belgium, Spain, France, Hungary or Ukraine. Whether these regions are part or not (yet) of the EU, they have a specific musical tradition of popular world music, related to their history, which could be **inspiring for young artists**: to discover what is different, how important and unimportant cultural differences such as language are, etc.

Our Troubadours are **alternative artists**, musicians travelling from one region to another in a changing society, **sharing the idea of an intercultural dialogue** as a driving force of these changes. We do not consider them as troubadours in a conservative artistic way, but on the contrary, as **artists in search for something different and innovative**.



## The 4 initial partners

### - VIA LACTEA

Via Lactea is a non-commercial and **cross-border management art association** for artists who are active in the field of contemporary and alternative world music. Via Lactea was founded in 2000 as a small booking organisation for very specific acts within the alternative world music scene in Europe.

VIA  
LACTEA

Thanks to the support of cross-border cultural programmes, such as Interreg IVC and the EU Culture Programme and a detailed and outlined long-term approach, Via Lactea has now become an innovative and solid art association for world music that is respected in Belgium and beyond. The first goal of Via Lactea is to **set up common artistic creations with different world music artists coming from different backgrounds**. Artists are asked to work together around specific topics, such as cultural identity and audience involvement. Another goal is to present these artists to an audience as wide as possible, organising concerts and tours. Via Lactea also releases CDs and DVDs of world music artists.

### - FLONFLONS

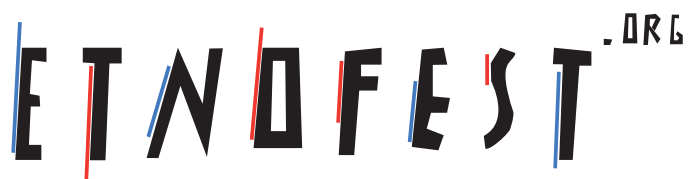
Flonflons is a French cultural association and festival with long experience in **organising high quality cultural events**, focused on the accordion, considered as a symbol of popular culture in different countries. The association has taken part in three former projects financed by the European Community. One cross-border network named 'Vis à Vis', involving French and Flemish partners, and two culture projects, 'Feria de Fronteras' and 'Azalai' with several European partners. It also **develops musical productions** and has been working for several years creating repertoires in order to **promote the cultural, popular heritage of its region**.



Flonflons also started ten years ago with the organization of **masterclasses and workshops** with the musicians they invite to their festivals, also in cooperation with local schools and charity organisations. Flonflons also creates its own films, photography sessions and clips to brighten its website, newsletters and graphic promo-tools.

## - ETNOFEST

Etnofest Association is a **cultural operator from Serbia's** North province of Vojvodina; definitely one of the most ethnically diverse regions of Europe.



Although founded in 2006, the founders of Etnofest had been involved in the organisation of concerts, festivals and exhibitions for many years before that, which actually explains the outstanding reputation of Etnofest as an **important cultural association and an excellent festival** in Serbia and central Europe. With its main focus on the development of **intercultural dialogue** through different artistic forms and expressions, Etnofest gathers artist from different corners of the world and presents their skills and competencies within the association's events, primarily through **world music, workshops in the field of music, photography and documentary film**, or through dozens of exhibitions with young and established artists, organised everywhere in Serbia. Etnofest has already participated in various **European cultural cooperation projects**.

## - MEDIA WAVE



International Film and Music Gathering

Mediawave is a non-profit, public benefit organization that has been organizing **multilevel cultural and art-supporting work** for more than 25 years. The centre of their activity is the town of Győr and it is halfway between Budapest and Vienna, between Western and Eastern Europe.

Besides their famous **Mediawave festival**, which has been running for 25 years now, we would like to refer to their current streak of **45 film, photography and music workshop «Passport Control International Art Workshop»** which has been gathering young artist from Central and Eastern Europe for more than a decade. The main characteristic of this series is the **participation of young people coming from different cultures** and backgrounds, which assists in the progress of learning each other's differences, helps to respect them, raises their experiences, deepen tolerance and solidarity, etc. The Mediawave mission could be stated as an **innovative approach of visual arts, jazz and world music** in Hungary and abroad.

## What are our objectives?

- **To stimulate the mobility of young world music artists** coming from different European regions by creating an innovative format of masterclasses and workshops in which they get the chance to travel abroad.
- **To improve the skills and competences of young world music artists** from different European regions. They will get the chance to collaborate with experienced ‘coaches’ and will also get the opportunity to learn more about specific management skills to increase the chances of professionalization of their career.
- **To create a new audience for world music** by developing an innovative audience development strategy.
- **To optimise the use of digital technologies** to reach a wider audience for world music in Europe.
- **To maximise the use of visual tools and new media** to stimulate the artistic innovation of our world music repertoire and the dissemination of world music towards a new audience.
- **To develop a new participative and innovative musical performance** that puts the focus on the rich heritage of European world music
- **To stimulate the exchange of the know-how** among the partners of this project: setting up our working meetings but also participating in specific professional
- **To highlight the possibility of world music to contribute to a higher level of cultural diversity and mutual understanding in Europe.** World music can be a dynamic boost for more cultural co-operation and solidarity between the ‘old’ Europe and new EU (candidate) member states.
- **To develop new forms of encounters between the audience and the artists by using participation and involvement** as a key element in our activities. These innovative, participative approaches enhance audience development and close encounter. We are mentioning here our ‘Troubadour Trains Trips’ as an example; by using trans-border public transport and organising performances on these trains, artists and audience will mingle and influence each other.

## 2020 Troubadours : First activities

01.05.19

Trouba Lab and Trouba Showcase  
at the Mediawave Festival

18.05.19

Trouba Train Trip from Brussels to Lille

19.05.19

Trouba Show Tournai

06.06.19  
- 09.06.19

Trouba Labs and Trouba Showcases  
at the Wazemmes l'Accordéon Festival

20.06.19

Trouba Labs and Trouba Showcases  
at the Etnofest Festival

15.09.19

Trouba Train Trip from Budapest to Lviv



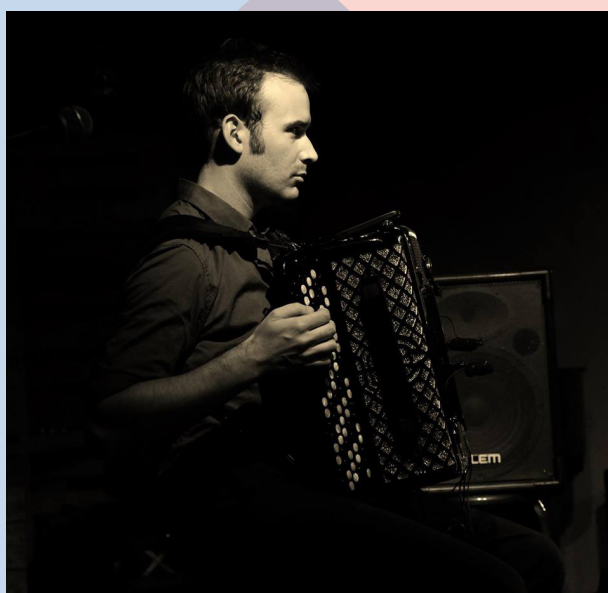
## Who are the 2020 Troubadours?

### - THIBAUT DILLE (BE)

Thibault Dille is a Belgian accordionist, pianist, singer, composer, arranger, artistic director and producer born in 1987 and living in Brussels. He pursued his interests for music all the way to the Higher Conservatory, where he obtained the diploma with the highest distinction. Regular collaborator of Flonflons events and tours, he's been travelling with them all over the world.

Thibault is known for his presence, elegance and virtuosity, his great openness towards and respect for all styles of music. In his young career, Thibault Dille has already performed in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Vietnam, Japan, Brazil, Canada, and the USA. He often appears on TV and on the radio, has recorded over 25 CDs as a leader or as a sideman. In 2009, he was rewarded with the «Toots Thielemans Jazz Award», and was nominated in 2011 for the «Sabam Jazz Awards».

He is also the founder of «WonderNöte», a musical creation agency for commercials, theatre and film scores, and he is often called upon for juries and masterclasses. Thibault Dille has played and recorded with : Bernard Lavilliers, Dick Annegarn, Cobra, Rachid Taha, Salif Keita, Swami Jr., Luiz Melodia, Zé da Velha, Silverio Pontes, Lionel Suarez, Daniel Mille, Charles Loos, Diederik Wissels, Nicolas Kummert, John Ruocco, Helge Norbakken, Philippe Raskin, Symphony Orchestra of Hanoi Opera, and many others...



## - JOAN GARRIGA (ES)

Joan Garriga (La Garriga, Vallès Oriental, 1972) grew up in a time when, in Catalonia, the dance bands were helping people to regain the streets, the squares and the cities, dignifying the popular feasts and freeing the enjoyment that had been imprisoned during the dark and silent years of the dictatorship. As he has said in many interviews, the atmosphere of those popular dances, where different kinds of music and all generations mingled, was crucial for his musical and vital development.

In 1995, Garriga -already playing the diatonic accordion- and two more musicians, created the band Dusminguet, which was, from its very beginning, a different kind of band amongst the Catalan musical scene.

In those times, Barcelona was considered the capital city of the South, and many musicians, from all over the world, came to play in its streets. Globalization left its mark on the band and led it to include in its repertoire musical styles as varied as rhythms from the Balkans, tex-mex, vallenato, cumbia, reggae, hip-hop, cajun, habaneras. Dusminguet, a ground-breaking and unclassifiable band, was amongst the pioneer bands in mixing musical rhythms and styles, although later on, it got under the label of “mestizo music”. In 2004, after having played in many different countries, and at the highest point of their success, they disbanded, feeling that they had reached the end of their trip.

In 2006 Joan Garriga released the first album with his new band La Troba Kung-Fu. An new adventure that would last 10 years and with whom he would tour and play intensively Europe but as well US and Latin-America. At the same time, Joan Garriga started playing with other artists such as Manu Chao, Carles Belda,... and became one of the most respected musicians of the so called Spanish ‘mestizo’ scene...



## - YURIY GHURZY (UKR)

Yuriy Gurzhy was born in Ukraine and now lives in Berlin. He is a musician, DJ, producer and radio broadcaster. Together with the German-Jewish writer Wladimir Kaminer he founded the now legendary 'Russendisko' club events, toured around the world and compiled five CDs as a part of that project. His next compilation, 'Shetl Superstars' (2006) was dedicated to funky Jewish sounds from around the world, whereas for «Revolution Disco» (2010) he selected the anthems of the modern revolutionaries.

From 2000 to 2006 Gurzhy hosted the music program "Russendisko Klub" on Radio MultiKulti in Berlin. When he is not busy DJ-ing or putting together compilations, Yuriy sings and plays guitar with RotFront. The band released three albums and tours extensively throughout Europe, playing all the major festivals and venues. Together with Lemez Lovas (ex-OiVaVoi, Yiddish Twist Orchestra) he founded "Shtetl Superstars" (their CD 'Shengen Visa Wedding' was released in 2014).

He also collaborated with Shantel, Alec Kopyt, Amsterdam Klezmer Band, 17 Hippies, Perkalaba, Zhadan & Sobaki, MaMa Diaspora, Russkaja and Golem, among others. Yuriy's latest compilation, «Borsh Division - Future Sound Of Ukraine» was released by Trikont on April 1st, 2016.

Gurzhy initiated and co-wrote «Who Was Essad Bey?», a proto-musical performed with Daniel Kahn and Marina Frenk (as The Disorientalists) at the Studio Я of the GORKI Theatre, Berlin.

The Disorientalists released their debut album 2015 on Oriente Records. Another production that involves two thirds of The Disorientalists, Marina and Yuriy, is "Bandera - a HipHopera", premiered 2016. The band is releasing their first debut album in March 2019, produced by David Bourguignon (Manu Chao).



## - FERENC KOVÁCS (HUN)

One of the most versatile characters in Hungarian music life, Ferenc Kovács' skills in most various genres from ragtime to free jazz and from folk music to contemporary improvisations are long-time proven by his steady emphasis on deeply exploring and understanding them.

He became founder of several groups and a determining soloist of several others, both on violin and trumpet. According to Archie Sheep, who worked with Ferenc Kovács on several occasions "he is one of the best violin players in the world and in the meantime plays the trumpet like Miles Davis". He also worked with David Murray, Alexander Balanescu and Hamid Drake.

His own compositional work was started in 2000 with his solo album Magony, rearranging it soon for a string ensemble. Meanwhile he shaped his own raw, rustic style of playing and created his special musical world by a clear, distilled fusion of contemporary jazz and traditional Hungarian folk music. Through continuous changes in the group's line-up he reached perfection, both philosophical and in sound, with the orchestra Grand Magony. Beside his musical activity, he is a European champion kendo master, a sculpture, an excellent cook and winemaker.





## - PANIENKI (POL - FR)

Panienki is the newest 'hot thing' coming from the vivid music scene from the North-French city of Lille. Imagine 5 ladies coming from different backgrounds playing a fantastic and amazing repertoire of Central-European, Latin and French music. You could easily call them the contemporary or Central European version of Zap Mama 2019... Or you could also call them a magic trip between the repertoire of Edith Piaf, Libby Hollman or even Aretha Franklin... Their liveshows are both introspective as festive, their music invites to sing and to dance...





## - RUMBARISTAS (BE - FR - ES)

Rumbaristas is the rather 'caliente' name of a bright collective consisting of musicians with Spanish, French and Belgian roots. They gathered around the Catalan rumba-player Willy Fuego and the French-Italian-Polish trumpet/accordion-player Thomas Morzewski.

Joined by the Belgians Roel Poriau (percussion) and Thomas De Smet (bass), rhythmknings of the crazy Belgian world collective Think of One, 'Rumbaristas' stands for an unbalanced lively and colourful mix of latin-american flavor, with the passion of the Balkan music. A pretty senseless mix of Catalan rumba and Sicilian tarantella, spiced up with a touch of ska, folk, reggae, cumbia and even avant-garde... The band is releasing their first debut album in March 2019, produced by David Bourguignon (Manu Chao).



## - TIJANA STANKOVIĆ (RS)

Although she is considered to be a part of a new wave of Serbian artists working in the field of world music, jazz and free improvisation, she already well known in Serbia and Hungary, for her extensive work with various artists.

She started as a violin player with Ivo Vucelja in his Balkanto Vero project and in a regionally well known Paniks world music ensemble, but later turned to more prolific improvised music, joining many ad hoc or regular formations, such as the great Inacu Dumistrescu's Hyperion International Ensemble is.

Nowadays, her most recognizable works is connected to her basic ensemble Rođenje. It is a vocal group which perform traditional songs from rural areas of former Yugoslavia. Rodjenice mostly perform acapella, but occasionally the group is accompanied by music instruments.



## ANTAL TBRASNYÓ (RS)

Antal has been around on music stages for apx. 25 years, specifically interested in traditional Hungarian music from the Serbian's north province of Vojvodina, but also other Hungarian influenced territories. He is well known for his precision and reliable rhythms on his viola, so its no surprise that he performed with many Hungarian artists along the years. His best know work is with world famous violinist Lajkó Felix, with whom he toured the world for more then a decade.

In recent years, he has turned back to his original instrument - the zither, and he composes his original music. Collaborations are still in his focus, but also like to relax and focus on his new passion - building wooden string instruments in his country house.

We are looking forward to his perspectives within the «2020 Troubadours» project, where he will be joined on stage for the first time in two very different formations: on the Mediawave festival in Hungary it will be his maiden performance with Tijana Stanković, while at the Etnofest world music festival, his musical journey will cross the roads with great Catalan artist Joan Garriga.



## - ORCHESTRE INTERNATIONAL DU VETEX (BE - FR)

The Orchestre International du Vetex isn't a band out of the blue. More than that, it's a collective of about 12 musicians, from Flanders, Wallonia and the North of France. Since they started up in 2004 in the former textile-plant in the Sint-Jans neighbourhood of Kortrijk, the band played more than 800 concerts in a row.

From blockparty's in Wazemmes, Jemappes, Béziers or Stasegem, to big festivals like Couleur Café, La Fête de l'Huma, Dranouter or Esperanzah. From the squares in Sarajevo to the metro in Prague. From the Olympic Wintergames in Torino, or Mons 2015 to prestigious jazz-and theaterfestivals in Graz, Krakow, Nis, Santander or Montreal...From honeymoons to funerals, from street-theatre to rock-festivals. Vetex does it all.

In the roam of this 2020 Troubadours project, Orchestre International du Vetex will participate on various train trips and will also establish a performance with other participating artists such as Panienki, Yuriy Ghurzy,...





## Useful contacts



2020Troubadours



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Flonflons - Wazemmes l'accordéon



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Etnofest



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Mediawave Film and Music festival



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