

NBO



Balkan Season 2021 No Return to Normality Tour

No Borders Orchestra (NBO) is made up of the best professional musicians from every country, religious and ethnic group of the Western Balkans. Its mission is two-fold: creating excellent music and raising awareness of social issues.

NBO holds an exclusive contract with Universal Music. Its first CD, entitled “The Opening”, was released in 2015 by Deutsche Grammophon, one of the world’s most prestigious brands in classical music.

NBO is itself a testament to the need for, and possibility of, music overcoming national and communal differences for the sake of common good. No challenge demands that same spirit more than the world after corona pandemic.

Humanity needs to come together, put aside differences, and develop an overriding common purpose. We believe our experience bringing together people in the Balkans through music is relevant to the world.

With this tour NBO joins high-profile creatives and scientists in an open letter urging politicians to avoid post-lockdown “return to normal”: “Pollution, climate change and the destruction of our remaining natural zones, has brought the world to a breaking point. For these reasons, along with increasing social inequalities, we believe it is unthinkable to ‘go back to normal’. We need transformation, a profound overhaul of our goals, values, and economies. We must act now.

Project details

During August and September 2021, No Borders Orchestra musicians will perform at concerts taking place in Rijeka, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje, Pristina and Novi Sad.

Program:

John Adams: Shaker Loops

Max Richter: Vivaldi recomposed (Stanko Madic, solo violin)

Ivan Bozicevic: Rethink! - trailer

Richard Strauss: Metamorphosen

The program will include a trailer of a newly commissioned piece by renowned Croatian composer Ivan Božičević containing an explicitly ecological theme.

NBO is collaborating with the Center for Advanced Studies (CAS), part of the University of Rijeka. A leading sociologist from the Center will give a summary of the key messages of the project in a short "Ted Talk" format at the beginning of the first and last concert of the tour, which will be communicated during the tour on social media.

The purpose of the pre-concert talks is to clearly address the urgent need for a change. We believe the only approach that will ultimately be successful is winning people's hearts and minds. Doom-mongering and fear rather do the opposite. With this project we would like to explore the possibilities of this "third approach".

Open Letter - full text

The Covid-19 pandemic is a tragedy. This crisis is, however, inviting us to examine what is essential.

And what we see is simple: "adjustments" are not enough. The problem is systemic.

The ongoing ecological catastrophe is a meta-crisis: the massive extinction of life on Earth is no longer in doubt, and all indicators point to a direct existential threat. Unlike a pandemic, however severe, a global ecological collapse will have immeasurable consequences.

We therefore solemnly call upon leaders — and all of us as citizens — to leave behind the unsustainable logic that still prevails and to undertake a profound overhaul of our goals, values, and economies.

The pursuit of consumerism and an obsession with productivity have led us to deny the value of life itself: that of plants, that of animals, and that of a great number of human beings. Pollution, climate change, and the destruction of our remaining natural zones has brought the world to a breaking point. For these reasons, along with increasing social inequalities, we believe it is unthinkable to 'go back to normal'.

The radical transformation we need — at all levels — demands boldness and courage. It will not happen without a massive and determined commitment. We must act now. It is as much a matter of survival as one of dignity and coherence.

NBO CV

No Borders Orchestra

No Borders Orchestra (NBO) is a symphony orchestra comprised of excellent professional musicians from the Western Balkans. It grew out of the desire to create a regional cross-border symphony orchestra, one that delivers the highest artistic quality and calls for a new kind of communication. The NBO project rests on two main foundations: music and society. All NBO performances balance musical quality with a comprehensive awareness of society.

Established in 2012, based in both Berlin and Belgrade, NBO is a non-governmental organisation whose goal is to initiate positive social development through the power of reconciliation and creative collaboration. By seeking ways to deconstruct and transform communities, by advocating positive change and by engaging societies to become more inclusive, intercultural, democratic and open, NBO serves as a platform for overcoming nationalism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia and the bloody legacy of the past in the Western Balkan region and beyond.

The founder and artistic director of NBO is Belgrade born, Berlin based conductor Premil Petrovic.

NBO asks the question: "What is the artistic and social significance of a symphony orchestra in the twenty-first century?" Its activities so far offer some potential answers.

NBO has had an active first six years: performing numerous concerts at the leading festivals in the Balkan region, as well as touring and receiving rave reviews at Wiener Festwochen in Vienna, Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels, Festival d'Automne in Paris, Operadagen in Rotterdam, Festival de Marseille, Brisbane Festival, Festival in Gwangju, Macao Arts Festival as well as the Barbican in London, Kampnagel in Hamburg, Radialsystem in Berlin, Megaron in Athens, Lisbon, Toulouse, Strasbourg etc.

Most recently, in August 2018, NBO kicked off its annual Balkan Season Tour with great success, touring through Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia and Serbia.

NBO's summer 2019 tour "B Matinee" showcases five new compositions inspired by club culture by leading young Balkan composers. This project transfers from unconventional venues across the Balkans during July, August and September to the iconic Berghain nightclub in Berlin.

NBO has signed an exclusive recording agreement with Universal Music with the first album "The Opening" being released under the Deutsche Grammophon brand in March 2015.