

Merima Ključo

Merima Ključo, accordion, imbues a dizzying variety of music with playing that moves with its depth of understanding and experience. Whether performing in recital, with ensembles such as Serendipity 4 (with Theodore Bikel), MusikFabrik, and the Asko/Schönberg Ensemble, or as guest soloist with orchestras such as the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, the soulful traditions of her instrument are not only given a unique voice, but they are given new life and meaning. Merima's love of world music, and the music of Bosnia in particular, is something she seeks to share with audiences everywhere.

As the producer, composer, and arranger for her highly rated album, *Zumra* (World Village 2010), she has created a multi-layered classical interpretation of a musical tradition she treasures. Her compositions and arrangements are original and contemporary in their juxtaposition of extended techniques with traditional musical forms. The album was voted by The Sunday Times (UK) as one of the "Top 100" albums of 2010", as well as fourth in "Top 10 World Music Albums".

In commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Siege of Sarajevo in 2012, the East West Theater Company and renowned Bosnian theater director Haris Pasovic invited Merima as musical director to compose, arrange, and perform a music poem "Sarajevo Red Line" ("Sarajevska Crvena Linija"). The piece, which incorporated traditional and pop songs, as well as classical music—music with deep cultural significance, was performed on April 6, 2012 to an audience of 11,541 empty red chairs lining the main boulevard in Sarajevo, with one chair for every life lost in the siege. On that day, thousands of people from all walks of life congregated to witness and remember.

Her most recent multimedia work "The Sarajevo Haggadah: Music of the Book" (for accordion, piano and video, 2014) traces the dramatic story of one of Jewish culture's most treasured manuscripts. Using the musical traditions of Spain, Italy, Austria, and Bosnia-Herzegovina Ključo illustrates and illuminates the Haggadah's travels from medieval Spain to 20th century Bosnia where it was hidden and rescued during World War II, to its restoration by the National Museum in Sarajevo after the 1992-1995 war. Inspired by the historical novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks, "The Sarajevo Haggadah: Music of the Book" creatively interprets this miraculous artifact as a universal symbol of exile, return, and coexistence.

Merima Ključo has given workshops and master classes in conservatories and universities all over the world, including the Guildhall School of Music (England), the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), and Syracuse and Georgetown Universities (USA), and is a guest faculty member at Yellow Barn (USA).