

Ime skladatelja i producenta **Dalibora Grubačevića** (1975.) gotovo je sinonimom za filmsku glazbu u Hrvatskoj. Višestruko nagrađivanome skladatelju upravo je vlastita glazba utrla put uspjeha u filmskome svijetu na međunarodnoj sceni, kojom se smonio i uspješno kreće. Entuzijazam i strast za glazbu pretočili su se iz prvotnih glazbeničkih voda (tamburaške i rock-glazbe) u glazbenu produkciju te, konačno, prema filmskoj glazbi. U nastavku – formiranih usmjerenja – postaje plodan skladatelj ne samo filmske i tzv. primijenjene glazbe nego i niza komornih i orkestralnih te koncertantnih djela. Ovo izdanje odraz je upravo tog dijela Grubačevićeva autorskog stvaralaštva i njegovih glazbenih gravitacija. Dok u filmu spretno, stručno i gotovo nezamjetno (što u slučaju filmske glazbe znači uspješno) pojačava dramatizaciju i daje glazbeni identitet audiovizualnome djelu, omogućujući mu da „prodiše“, u slučaju skladbi koje čine koncertni dio njegova opusa, crpeći iz istoga izvora imaginacije, Grubačević oblikuje drukčije glazbene prostore, ideje i topose, šireći imaginarne dimenzije instrumentalnoga. Sam zvuk na ovoj ploči čini neku vrstu punoga kruga, krećući od snažnog, reskoga karaktera nesvakidašnjeg sastava kvarteta tuba, preko alteriranoga zvuka iste provenijencije u kvintetu limenih puhača, zaključujući prvi dio kruga u gudačkome ruhu, pri čemu *Valse i Suite* dijele ideju invokacije određenoga glazbenog (i geografskog) prostora, naznačenu već u naslovima (*balkanique* i *čardaš*). Karaktere, priče i mesta skladatelj u glazbi ne donosi fabularno ili doslovno kazivalački, nego ekspresijom, izražajnošću geste i jasnoćom dinamičkog oblikovanja cijelokupnog izvođačkoga korpusa, ne gubeći pritom izvida svaku od pojedinih dionica i njihovih specifičnosti. Takav se pristup zadržava i s druge strane ploče i Grubačevićeve autorske „medalje“, u koncertantnome djelu koje nas vraća inicijalnom, još uвijek nedovoljno poznatom i korištenom instrumentu, ujedno i početnou impulsu za skladanje nekolicine skladbi s ploče - tubi.

Album započinje u *piano* dinamici koja uvodi u prvi od dvaju dijelova *Diptiha* za kvartet tuba (2023.), čiji je karakter (*Grottesco*) naglašen upravo izražajnim dinamičkim promjenama koje za sobom povlače i povremene intervencije u tempu, sa svrhom pojačavanja dojma, dajući prostor za postizanje punine moćnoga tubističkog zvuka. Drukčije mogućnosti izraza donosi drugi stavak *Diptiha*, *Capriccioso*, uz virtuozne i delikatne detalje koji četirima tubama kao da zadaju uloge instrumenata u gudačkome kvartetu, čemu glazbenici Kvarteta tuba XL spremno odgovaraju u interpretaciji. *Diptih* je ujedno i jedina skladba na ploči koja dosljedno ostaje u četverodobnoj mjeri, dok već u sljedećoj puhačkoj partituri nailazimo na autoru svojstvene promjene mjera, koje nerijetko koristi kako bi pojačao unutarnji puls i dramaturgiju, istodobno precizno naznačujući i svoju agogičku ideju za pojedine melodijske detalje, a posebno kada je riječ o temama koje posežu u kakav poznati glazbeni idiom ili tradiciju.

Takav primjer donosi u drugoj, Balkanom natopljenoj skladbi za dvije trube, rog, trombon i tubu, *Valse Balkanique*. Godine 2018. napisao je Grubačević ovu dojmljivu skladbu, posvećujući je kvintetu BC Brass, komornom sastavu s kojim redovito surađuje, a koji je skladbu iste godine i prizveo u sklopu Festivala sv. Marka u Zagrebu. Ovo izdanje donosi njihovu najsvježiju, studijski zabilježenu interpretaciju. Tema koju na početku solistički donosi truba, postat će nukleusom za razvoj glazbenog tkiva koje u uvodnome odsjeku baca svjetlo na idiom puhačkih sastava, na kakve – poput glazbenog zaštitnog znaka – nailazimo u velikom dijelu kulturnog područja koje se danas prepoznaće kao balkansko. *Piu mosso* traži skladatelj u nastavku skladbe, gdje slijedi zaneseni valcer s izrazito dojmljivom temom koju donosi truba, zatim je svojim bojama iznosi *cantabile* trombon. Ne usporavajući puls i glazbeni tijek, tematski odgovor javlja se u horni, koja u nastavku razvija dijalog s trubama, a ubrzo se ponovno pojavljuje tema valcera, karakterno bliska tangu. Završni odsjek donosi melodijsku invokaciju s početka skladbe, čiji se inicijalni deklamacijski karakter ovdje mijenja, stapačići se u zaključak, akordički niz, poput kakve završne figure nakon plesa, uz dinamički utišan i tonski umiren zajednički izdah.

U Čardaš suiti, skladbi za gudački ansambl iz 2021. godine, posvećenoj istaknutom hrvatskom ansamblu bogate povijesti, Zagrebačkim solistima, autor koristi elemente etnoglazbe, gravitirajući tako korijenima tradicijske glazbe regije odakle dolazi. Uzbudjenje, kretanje, napetost isprepleteni su izražajnim melodijskim odsjecima koji odražavaju neke od glazbenih likova i kulturnih identiteta Podravine, prisutne i u nekim prijašnjim skladbama. U širem se kontekstu mogu čuti kao ambлемatski glazbeni materijal karakterističan za različite slojeve glazbene tradicije sjeverne Hrvatske, ali i dijela srednjoeuropskoga kulturnog prostora kojemu pripada.

*Koncert za tubu i orkestar* (2021.) nastao je na poticaj Krunoslava Babića, koji ga je, uz matičnu Zagrebačku filharmoniju i dirigenta Alana Bjelinskog, prizveo u veljači 2023. godine u popularnom OFF Ciklusu toga orkestra. Pitka orkestralna



# MUSICAL GRAVI TIES

## GLAZBENE GRAVITACIJE

### / DALIBOR GRUBAČEVIĆ

#### A / STRANA / SIDE

##### *Diptih za kvartet tuba* / *Diptych for tuba quartet*

1. *Grottesco* / 3:27
  2. *Capriccioso* / 3:25
- KVARTET TUBA XL / XL TUBA QUARTET
3. *Valse Balkanique za kvintet limenih puhača / for brass quintet* / 5:19
- BC BRASS

4. *Čardaš suite za gudače*  
/ *Csárdás Suite for strings* / 7:43

ZAGREBAČKI SOLISTI / ZAGREB SOLOISTS

#### B / STRANA / SIDE

##### *Koncert za tubu i orkestar* / *Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra*

1. *Intrada* / 4:34
  2. *Andante con moto* / 6:24
  3. *Largo* / 4:41
  4. *Finale* / 5:24
- KRUNOSLAV BABIĆ, tuba –  
ZAGREBAČKA FILHARMONIJA /  
ZAGREB PHILHARMONIC  
ALAN BJELINSKI, dirigent / conductor

Ukupno trajanje / Total time: 40:57



The name of the composer and producer **Dalibor Grubačević** (1975) is almost synonymous with film music in Croatia. His music has paved the way for his success in the international film scene, where this highly awarded composer boldly and successfully navigates. His enthusiasm and passion for music transformed from initial musical interests (tambura and rock music) into music production and, finally, towards film music. Following these established directions, he became a prolific composer not only of film and so-called applied music but also of various chamber, orchestral, and concert works. This release reflects precisely that part of Grubačević's creative work and his musical gravitation. While in the film he skillfully, expertly, and almost imperceptibly (which means successfully in the case of film music) enhances the dramatization and provides a musical identity to audiovisual work allowing it to "breathe", in the case of the compositions for the concert part of his work, Grubačević shapes different musical spaces, ideas, and topoi, expanding the imaginary dimensions of the instrumental, while drawing from the same source of imagination. The sound on this record forms a kind of full circle, starting from the powerful, sharp character of the unusual tuba quartet, through the altered sound of the same provenance in the brass quintet, concluding the first part of the circle in the string ensemble. The *Valse* and *Suite* share the idea of invoking a specific musical (and geographical) space, indicated already in the titles (*balkanique* and *csárdás*). The composer brings characters, stories, and places in the music not in a narrative or descriptive way but through expression, the expressiveness of gesture, and the clarity of dynamic shaping of the entire performing corpus, without losing sight of each section and its specificities. The same approach is maintained on the other side of the record as well as Grubačević's authorial "medals" in the concert work that brings us back to the initial instrument - the tuba, still not well-known and used instrument, which represents the starting impulse for composing several pieces on the record.

The album begins with a *piano* dynamic that introduces the first of two parts of *Diptych* for tuba quartet (2023), whose character (*Grottesco*) is emphasized by expressive dynamic changes that also involve occasional interventions in tempo to enhance the impression, providing space to achieve the fullness of powerful tuba sound. The second movement of *Diptych*, *Capriccioso*, brings different possibilities of expression with virtuosic and delicate details, where the four tubas seem to take on roles of instruments in a string quartet, a challenge that the musicians of Tuba Quartet XL readily meet in their interpretation. *Diptych* is the only composition on the record that consistently remains in a quadruple meter, while in the next wind score, we encounter the characteristic meter changes often used by the composer to enhance the internal pulse and dramaturgy, but at the same time precisely indicating his agogic idea for certain melodic details, especially when it comes to themes that reach into a known musical idiom or tradition.

An example of this is found in the second composition, *Valse Balkanique*, soaked with the atmosphere of the Balkans, written by Grubačević in 2018 for two trumpets, horn, trombone, and tuba. He dedicated this impressive piece to the BC Brass Quintet, a chamber ensemble with whom he regularly collaborates, and which premiered the composition at the Festival of St. Mark in Zagreb in the same year. This release features their latest interpretation recorded in the studio. The theme initially presented solo by the trumpet becomes the nucleus for the development of musical texture that in the introductory section sheds light on the idiom of wind ensembles, similar to a musical trademark, found in a significant part of the cultural region recognized today as the Balkans. *Più mosso* is requested by the composer in the continuation of the composition, where a rapturous waltz follows with an exceptionally striking

ing theme presented by the trumpet, later brought out by the colors of the *cantabile* trombone. Without slowing down the pulse and musical flow, a thematic response emerges in the horn, which then develops a dialogue with the trumpets, and soon the waltz theme reappears, characterized by its closeness to the tango. The final section brings a melodic invocation from the beginning of the composition, with its initial declamatory character changing here, merging into a conclusion, a chord sequence, like a final figure after a dance, with a dynamically muted and tonally calming collective exhale.

In the *Csárdás Suite*, a composition for a string ensemble from 2021, dedicated to the prominent Croatian ensemble with a rich history, the Zagreb Soloists, the composer uses elements of ethno music, moving towards the roots of the traditional music of the region from which he originates. Excitement, movement, and tension are interwoven in striking melodic sections that reflect some of the musical features and cultural identities of Podravina, also present in some earlier compositions. In a broader context, these elements can be heard as emblematic musical material characteristic of various layers of the musical tradition of northern Croatia, but also of the part of the Central European cultural space to which it belongs.

The *Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra* (2021) was created at the initiative of Krunoslav Babić, who premiered it with the Zagreb Philharmonic and the conductor Alan Bjelinski in February 2023 as part of the popular *OFF Cycle* of the orchestra. Grubačević's melodic orchestral score in this concerto serves as an entrance into the classical orchestral sound outside the realm of film music. The poetic role of the unusual solo instrument, in a post-romantic style with elements of impressionism, is realized within a rich orchestral setting, while the challenging sections are shaped and realized in a collaborative interplay between the composer and the soloist. *The Intrada* (already cinematic from the first tones) introduces listeners to the concert piece, bringing a wealth of interesting elements. The preparation for each character and dynamic performance of the solo tuba is also evident throughout the work. The composer builds the dynamic and orchestral sound of the orchestra, setting the stage for *the forte* performance of the tuba, carefully balancing the correlations, supported by percussion and wind instruments in the low register. Then, in a "softened" transition, he creates conditions for the lyrical character and the soft tone of the cantilena tuba in a quiet dynamic, complemented by motivic responses in the high register of flutes, oboe, and violins. This attention to the details of instrumentation in the dense orchestral fabric seems to reflect the author's passion for a vibrant orchestral sound. The preparation for each character and dynamic performance of the solo tuba is also evident. In the second movement, *Andante con moto*, after a dramatic section melodically led by divided strings, tranquility is found in a simple long tone of the solo instrument, in the high register and *pp* dynamic of the tuba. The clear roles of orchestral sections and the melodic solo line are placed within the composer's characteristic framework of classical formal disposition and an enhanced aspect of dramaturgy, with characteristic changes in measures and dynamic movements. In the third tuneful movement, *Largo*, the author consistently, and recognizably, develops and enriches his tonal palette. The lyrical melody of the tuba is followed by a dramatically charged orchestral section, calming the movement before the concluding *Finale*. Like a vocal protagonist in an impressive *bel canto* aria, here the tuba takes on a completely new guise and character, emphasized and accompanied by the orchestra with a characteristic cinematic and musical pulse of percussion and strings, with the virtuosic solo coda placed towards the end.