

Igor Geržina, saxophonist, producer and composer - BIO

Saxophonist and composer Igor Geržina, the producer of the Croatian Radio and Television Jazz Orchestra, is a multiple award-winning artist, having received the Porin discography award, the Status award for the best instrumentalist of the year, and the Black Cat award.

He has contributed to over 140 discographic releases, composed music for film, popular music performers, TV jingles, and radio stations, and led several of his own ensembles. He graduated in saxophone from the Music Academy in Zagreb and studied at the Berklee College Of Music in Boston, MA.



From classical music, popular music, jazz, soul, and funk, he has performed hundreds of concerts with various ensembles, ranging from small groups to orchestras, from club gigs to numerous concerts in arenas and sports halls. He has recorded hundreds of studio sessions with almost all significant participants in the Croatian music scene, such as Parni Valjak, Massimo, Dino Dvornik & Songkillers, Gibonni, Josipa Lisac, Darko Rundek, Cubismo, Tony Cetinski, Nina Badrić, Vanna, Jacques Houdek, Vanda Winter, Ivana Kindl, Jurica Pađen, Ilan Kabiljo, Boa, Boris Novković, Leteći odred, Petar Grašo, Dino Merlin, Divas, Matija Vuica, Maja Šuput, Sandi Cenov, Gabi Novak, Zdenka Kovačićek, Boško Petrović, Elvis Stanić, and others.

He participated in the inauguration program of the President of the Republic of Croatia, where he performed his original composition 'Dream For The Future'.



SMOOTH JAZZ PROJECT

Igor Geržina has released seven albums (four original, two cover albums, and one compilation) along with about twenty singles that have been broadcasted on smooth-jazz radio stations in over a decade, spanning 15 countries across 4 continents. His work has earned several Porin music awards for Best Instrumental Album and Best Instrumental Performance. Some of his compositions can be found on major smooth-jazz playlists on digital platforms, and Igor's listeners and followers on social media come from more than 160 countries.

PRODUCER OF THE CROATIAN RADIOTELEVISION JAZZ ORCHESTRA JAZZ ORKESTRA

As the longtime music producer of the Croatian Radiotelevision Jazz Orchestra, he has realized over 200 concerts for radio and television, produced more than 20 discographic releases, won several Porin awards, and collaborated with world-renowned musicians such as Dee Dee Bridgewater, Arturo Sandoval, Michael Abene, Christian McBride, Branford Marsalis, Miroslav Vitous, Ed Neumeister, Ernie Watts, Victor Goines, Alex Sipiagin, and others. He has also collaborated with leading figures in the Croatian jazz scene, including Matija Dedić, Tamara Obrovac, Miljenko Prohaska, Silvije Glojtnarić, and more.

EDUCATION

Igor Geržina's musical journey began at the age of seven with the violin, an instrument with which he experienced his first stage performances and won the 4th prize in a national competition. At the age of 15, he started playing the saxophone and graduated in classical music from the Music Academy in Zagreb, under the guidance of Professor Dragan Sremac. During his studies, he received national awards, participated in seminars with one of the most renowned classical saxophonists, Professor Claude Delangle (CNSM-Paris), and performed as a soloist

with the Zagreb Philharmonic in a rendition of Pavle Dešpalj's Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra, conducted by maestro Dešpalj himself.

As a recipient of a scholarship from Berklee College Of Music in Boston, he honed his skills under Bill Pierce (Art Blakey & Jazz Messengers) and Frank Tiberi (Woody Herman Big Band). At Berklee College of Music, he also attended courses in Music Production & Engineering, marking the beginning of his career as a music producer.

COMMENTS and CRITIQUES - CROATIA:

While the majority of saxophonists in his generation opted for jazz, making occasional forays into more commercial genres as session musicians or guests at vocal stars' concerts, justifying them with existential reasons, Igor Geržina has always remained true to the formula of well-known American colleagues such as Grover Washington Jr, Boney James, or David Sanborn, who personify popular genres like crossover, smooth jazz, and jazz-funk on their instruments. Geržina's versatility and authoritative playing have made him a frequent collaborator, both in the recording studio and in live performances, with numerous singers and groups.

- **Dražen Vrdoljak, publicist and critic 2006**

...what Geržina performed on the saxophone at Gavella Theatre was magical! He didn't often have his saxophone moments, but when he played something, the sounds coming out of his brass instrument were enchanting and supernaturally good. One gets goosebumps in no time hearing that.

- **Review of Gibonni's concert, Marko Pecotic 2008**

COMMENTS and CRITIQUES - INTERNATIONAL:

The Croatian Sensation baby!

- **Will McNeal, WOVE 989 jamz (US)**

Gerzina leaves absolutely no doubt that he is one artist who'll be around making his mark for some time. Feeling and experiencing that smooth groove all the way in Croatia speaks volumes about the wonderful influence this genre really wields, despite what some naysayers might say.

- **Ronald Jackson, The Smooth Jazz Ride (US)**

Every now & then a great musician, songwriter, composer comes along in various genre of music. In the case of the smooth/contemporary jazz genre, Igor Geržina is one of those gifted & highly skilled individual's. I receive a lot of music and musicians contacting me to play their music on my show, but when Igor first sent me some tracks to listen to from his previous CD, Metropolis, I was just completely blown away by his sound and his compositions.

- **Norman Lynch, SJITM (UK)**

There's no doubt that Igor has delivered a very nice album of high quality, and that he's my favourite Croatian export product!

- **Patric Van De Viele, Keys & Chords (NL)**

Just what we're looking for in a contemporary sax.

- **John Marcus, Smooth Soul Radio (US)**

DISCOGRAPY (by year):

1. Boris Novković: *100 x* (Jugoton 1991)
2. Alter Ego: *Drugo ime za ljubav* (Orfej 1993)
3. Soulfingers: *Live in B.P. Club* (Croatia Records 1993)
4. Dino Dvornik: *Afrika* (Croatia Records 1995)
5. Tony Cetinski: *Ljubav i bol* (ZG ZOE 1995)
6. Mandi: *Nisi me bio vrijedan* (Croatia Records 1995)
7. Ritmo Locco: *Za ljubav jedne žene* (Dinaton 1995)
8. I. Bee: *Bogovi su pali na tjeme* (Croatia Records 1996)
9. Naturalna mistika: *Uživancija* (Kondor Comm 1996)
10. Darko Rundek: *Apokalipso* (Jabukaton 1996)
11. Razni izvođači: *Lagano, lagano...* (Aquarius Records 1996)
12. Nina Badrić: *Personality* (ZG ZOE 1997)
13. Dino Dvornik: *Enfant Terrible* (Croatia Records 1997)
14. Divas: *Ladies* (Croatia Records 1997)
15. Pađen band: *Izbrisani grafiti* (Croatia Records 1997)
16. Parni valjak: *Samo snovi teku uzvodno* (Croatia Records 1997)
17. Leteći odred: *Kuda ide ovaj vlak* (Orfej 1997)
18. Songkillers: *Fleka* (Aquarius Records 1997)
19. Elvis Stanić Group: *Terra Sacra* (Croatia Records 1997)
20. Buč: *J.M.B.G.* (ZG ZOE 1997)
21. Zadar fest '97 (Orfej 1997)
22. Pop-fest ARENA '97 (Croatia Records 1997)
23. Šajeta: *Božja beseda i vražje delo* (Croatia Records 1997)
24. Meri Cetinić: *Putovanja* (Orfej 1998)
25. Ilan Kabiljo: *The Fugitive* (Croatia Records 1998)
26. Tony Cetinski: *A1* (Croatia Records 1998)
27. Sandi Cenov: *Neke pjesme ljubavne* (Orfej 1998)
28. Razni izvođači: *Lagano, lagano...dvije godine kasnije* (Aquarius Records 1998)
29. Mondo Bobo, soundtrack (Aquarius Records 1998)
30. Freakys: *Get Freaky* (Menart 1998)
31. Split '98 (ZG ZOE 1998)
32. Zadar fest '98 (Croatia Records/Orfej 1998)
33. Denise: *Denise* (Orfej 1998)
34. Đavoli: *Space Twist* (Dallas Records 1998)
35. Songkillers: *Cosmic* (Aquarius Records 1999)
36. Mayales: *Svima Želim Raj Za Sve* (Aquarius Records 1999)
37. Vanna: *Ispod istog neba* (Croatia Records 1999)
38. Nina Badrić: *Unique* (Croatia Records 1999)
39. Elvis Stanić Group: *Samba Mediterranea* (Croatia Records 1999)
40. Electro Spiritus: *Očev dom* (HKR 1999)
41. 3. hrvatski radijski festival - Vodice '99. (Croatia Records 1999)
42. Petar Grašo: *Utorak* (Croatia Records/Tonika 1999)
43. Dino Dvornik: *Big Mama* (Croatia Rec 1999)
44. Eddy & Dus: *High Life* (Penso Positivo 1999)
45. Boris Leiner: *Bioritam* (Cantus 2000)
46. Vanna: *24 sata* (Croatia Records 2000)
47. Dino Merlin: *Sredinom* (Croatia Records 2000)
48. Divas: *Divas* (Croatia Records 2000)
49. ET : *Disco Neckt* (Croatia Records 2000)
50. Josipa Lisac: *Život* (Croatia Records 2000)
51. HRF *Vodice 2000* (Croatia Records 2000)
52. Ivana Brkić: *Prste k sebi* (Croatia Records 2000)
53. Fides: *Novi vijek* (Svjetlo malo 2000)
54. P'eggy: *Wuk* (Kondorcomm 2001)
55. Dora 2001 (Croatia Records 2001)
56. Leteći Odred: *Daj mi sebe* (Dallas Records 2001)
57. DVD Gibonni: *Millenium koncert ISDN* (HT 2001)

58. DVD Parni Valjak: *25 godina – uživo u Domu sportova* (HT, 2001.)
59. Hotline: *U oči me pogledaj* (Croatia Records, 2001.)
60. Parni Valjak : *Kao nekada Live in SC* (Croatia Records, 2001)
61. HRF *Vodice 20001*(Croatia Records 2001)
62. Tina Rupčić: *Prvi put* (Croatia Records 2002)
63. Buđenje: *Lipo vrime* (Orfej 2002)
64. Melodije hrvatskog Jadrana 2002 (Coatia Records 2002)
65. Dino Dvornik: *Svicky* (Croatia Records 2002)
66. Soma dolara: *Casino* (Crno bijeli svijet 2003)
67. Tony Cetinski: *A sada...* (Hit Records 2003)
68. Matija Vuica: *Carica* (Croatia Records 2003)
69. Zadarfest 2003 (Hit Records 2003)
70. Hotline: *Kriv za sve* (Suzy 2003)
71. Buđenje: *Kosti i tilo* (Scardona 2005)
72. Rivers: *Rivers* (Aquarius Records 2005)
73. Boris Kreiner: *Zodiac* (Croatia Records 2005)
74. Žak Houdek: *Živim za to* (Croatia Records 2006)
75. Maja Vučić: *Lice koje znaš* (Menart 2006)
76. Igor Geržina: *Sax Album* (Aquarius Records 2006)
77. Maja Šuput: *Obori me s nogu* (Hit Records 2006)
78. Dora 2007 (Orfej 2007)
79. Silvije Glojnarčić, Big Band HRT-a: *Portrait* (Cantus 2007)
80. B.R.K. *Bolji svijet* (Dancing Bear 2007)
81. Igor Geržina: *Dalmatian Sax* (Aquarius Records 2008)
82. Calido: *Dobar razlog* (Aquarius Records 2008)
83. Lana Jurčević: *Volim biti zaljubljena* (Hit Records 2008)
84. Bruno Krajar *Mate balota* (Cantus 2008)
85. Big Band HRT-a i ansambl Lado: *Jazzlando* (Orfej 2008)
86. Ladislav Fidri i Big Band HRT-a: *Memories* (Cantus/HRT 2009)
87. Zdenka Kovačićek & JO HRT: *Jazz Portrait* (Orfej/HRT 2009)
88. A.T.Šaban/Big Band HRT-a: *Za jednom kapi čistoga života* (Aquarius 2010)
89. Miro Ungar & Big Band HRT-a: *Sad li nikad* (Aquarius Records 2010)
90. Vanna: *Sjaj* (Croatia Records 2010)
91. Big Band HRT-a: *Veselje ti navješćujem* (Aquarius Records 2010)
92. Massimo: *Massimo sings Sinatra* (Aquarius Records 2010)
93. Jelena Balent & Big band HRT-a: *Avanturo, još nas ima* (Croatia Records 2011)
94. Zagrebfest 2011 (Cantus 2011)
95. Jazz orkestar HRT-a: *U sredi našeg sela* (Aquarius Records 2012)
96. Igor Geržina: *Metropolis* (Status produkcija 2012)
97. Joe & Lela Kaplowitz i Jazz orkestar HRT-a: *With Every Breath* (Aquarius Records 2012)
98. Radojka Šverko i Jazz orkestar HRT-a: *Still Standing* (Croatia Records 2012)
99. Matija Dedić i Jazz orkestar HRT-a: *Family* (Croatia Records 2012)
- 100.Boa: *Indigo* (Menart 2013)
- 101.Igor Geržina: *One Click World* (Status produkcija 2013)
- 102.Leteći odred: *Agent za ljubav* (Croatia Records 2013)
- 103.Antun Tomislav Šaban: *Swing Analysis* (FonArt/Aquarius Records 2014)
- 104.Rex Richardson: *Bugles Over Zagreb* (R.Richardson Production 2014)
- 105.Massimo: *1 dan ljubavi* (Aquarius Records 2015)
- 106.Ty Causey: *Cause & Effect* (Tyvonnmusic 2015)
- 107.Mak Murtić & Croatian Radiotelevision Jazz Orch: *Antarctica And Other Destinations* (World Local rec 2015)
- 108.Valerija Nikolovska & Viktor Lipić with HRT Jazz Orchestra: *Well Paid Girl* (Croatia Records 2015)
- 109.ManGroove: *Sami* (Menart 2015)
- 110.Lasse Lindgren & JO HRT: *Lasse Lindgren Plays The ABBA Songbook* (Imogena Records 2015)
- 111.Nebojša Buhin: *Crossing Over* (Laudato 2015)
- 112.Gradska Glazba Samobor: *Šafrun* (Spona 2016)
- 113.Singrllice: *Ajde cure u...* (Croatia Records 2016)
- 114.Igor Geržina: *Bucket List* (Status produkcija 2016)
- 115.Jurica Leikauff: *Rush* (Croatia Records 2016)
- 116.Massimo i Zg solisti: *Isti osjećaj* (Aquarius Records 2017)
- 117.Marko Tolja & JO HRT: *Stavi pravu stvar* (Aquarius Records 2017)

118. Elvis Stanić: *Air/Zrak* (Croatia Records 2017)
119. Chui i JO HRT: *Chui ovu glazbu* (Dancing Bear 2017)
120. Parni valjak: *Live in Pula* (Croatia Records 2017)
121. Mia Dimšić: *Božićno jutro* (Croatia Records 2017)
122. Zbor BC Mačkovec: *Radost Božića* (B.C. Mačkovec 2017)
123. Boa II: *Boa II* (Menart 2018)
124. Igor Geržina: *Svim na zemlji* (Status produkcija 2018)
125. Parni Valjak: *Vrijeme* (Croatia Records 2018)
126. Dino Dvornik: *Specijal - Zimzeleno, a novo* (Croatia Records 2018)
127. L. Janjanin & D. Rizvić i JO HRT: *Miracles* (Croatia Records/HRT 2018)
128. S. Glojnarčić, JO HRT: *4 lica jazz* (Cantus 2019)
129. Joe Kaplowitz i JO HRT: *Organic Intelligence* (Aquarius/HRT 2019)
130. Tamara Obrovac Transhistrria Ensemble i Jazz orkestar HRT-a: *Villa Idola* (Aquarius records/HRT 2020)
131. Cubismo i Jazz orkestar HRT-a: *Tumbao* (Aquarius records/HRT 2020)
132. Zvezdan Ružić i JO HRT: *Giants Freedom* (Z.R. HRT 2021)
133. Leikauff: *Curves* (Croatia Records 2022)
134. Davor Križić i JO HRT: *Insite* (Aquarius/HRT 2022)
135. Darko Rundek i JO HRT: *Za vašu posljedodnevnu razonodu* (Menart/HRT 2022)
136. Mangroove i JO HRT: *Nešto veće od nas* (Aquarius/HRT 2022)
137. Mario Bočić i JO HRT: *Croatia Records/HRT 2023*
138. JO HRT: *Tribute To Dino Dvornik* (Croatia Records/HRT 2023)
139. JO, zbor i gudači HRT: *Božić oko svijeta* (HRT 2023)