

PRIX MARULIĆ

On the Way to Volosko – Soundwalk with Composer Dalibor Bukvić

Iva Lovrec Štefanović & Lana Deban

Music – Dalibor Bukvić: Prophéties, Dalibor Bukvić playing in Opatija in 1992

Sounds on the seafront promenade /Lungomare/ in Opatija

DALIBOR BUKVIĆ Aah, it's such a beautiful day...
It's wonderful, isn't it?

IVA Yes...
So, this is the beginning of the seafront promenade...

DALIBOR ..of Franz Joseph... The first...
(Was there a second one, too?)

IVA ...he was an Austro-Hungarian emperor...

DALIBOR ...that's right...

*Music – Dalibor Bukvić: Prophéties,
Dalibor Bukvić playing in Opatija in 1992 - continues...*

ON THE WAY TO VOLOSKO –SOUNDWALK OF THE COMPOSER DALIBOR BUKVIĆ

DALIBOR Look, this is St Jacob's Church
A beautiful little church... Actually, this is where Opatija was supposedly first
built as a settlement, isn't it? (Iva: Yes)
It used to be St Jacob's Monastery and this is where they wanted to isolate
themselves...
But, instead, it's now developed into a tourist destination, but before that it
was a small fishing village... as it usually happens

IVA ...because it was supposedly called St Jacob's Abbey and then this "St Jacob's"
was left out... and Abbazia remained...

DALIBOR Abbazia– yes. */footsteps/*
So, that's the story...
See how they picked out this very spot, slightly protruding... It has a really
nice view, it's peaceful and quiet. An ideal position, really...

IVA What's your first memory – I mean, what are the things you first associate
with Opatija?

Is it the walks or?

DALIBOR Well...those were my student days – mainly socialising with fellow musicians, so composers, performers, musicologists...

Iva /studio/ The Music Panel in Opatija was founded in 1964, its concerts were held at the Imperijal Hotel.
First it was the Yugoslav Music Panel, then it moved to Pula, and then it returned to Opatija as the Opatija Music Panel.
In November 2018, during its 55th edition and due to a performance in its programme, we went on a walk with composer Dalibor Bukvić...

DALIBOR ...concerts, of course, for a young student it was some sort of a school, to hear what's being written, what's being performed, the comments –uhm, so, socialising with professors, with students...colleagues.

IVA How was it with the professors? Professor Horvat, your professor, as well as professor Ruždjak, always liked to socialize...

DALIBOR ... Yes, professor Ruždjak was much more approachable, for us very young students... Professor Horvat always provided advice, care, more of, I'd say, parental care... Referred us to some things.. Advised us... Indicated to us some...compositions that might be more interesting...

Music– Dalibor Bukvić: Prophéties, Dalibor Bukvić playing in Opatija in 1992

Iva (studio) Dalibor Bukvić – Prophéties–1992
The piece is performed by the composer himself –then still a 23-year-old student – at the Music Panel at the Imperijal Hotel.

Born on 1 January 1968 in Sinj, Bukvić graduated in composition in the class of Stanko Horvat in 1995, and then continued his professional development on courses in Darmstadt and Paris, where he worked as a professor at several conservatories – as a teacher of music theory, the piano, improvisation, and as an accompanist.

In 2008, he returned to Zagreb, where he teaches music theory subjects at the Academy of Music.

DALIBOR What's that?

IVA Look, Chekhov was here...

DALIBOR Oh, Chekhov was – this is a new sculpture, it wasn't here last year, if I remember correctly...

Yes, many have passed through here – great masters of their craft... Through Opatija, yes.

And now that we are talking about those composers, we are talking about our composers who were with us “at Opatija”, but now we are also remembering Chekhov and Mahler – we know Stravinsky was here too, as was Puccini...

IVA Isadora Duncan... was also here!
/Dalibor: Supposedly, that’s what I’ve heard/

DALIBOR Yes! I heard about that yesterday, but I didn’t know – that Isadora Duncan had been here – in that very hotel.

IVA Yes, this one here... /Dalibor: Well, well/ - the apartment down there...

DALIBOR ...with her merry entourage, right?
Well, that Opatija was really, from what we can make out... more for some hedonistic life – there were those villas... they were built...

Look, this Villa Amalia – right?

IVA This is Angiolina..

And this one is Amalia...This...

DALIBOR Oh, this one? Oh, I mixed them up... Yes, yes...

IVA And this is...the sculpture... /Dalibor: Maybe it’s because.../
This is Isadora Duncan...

DALIBOR Yes, see that she has... yes, Isadora Duncan...
Yes, an outstanding, outstanding artist...

IVA Wait, let’s read what it says here...

DALIBOR “The power of perception is what gives things life.”

Nice...

Music– Dalibor Bukvić: Prophéties, Dalibor Bukvić playing in Opatija in 1992

FEMALE VOICE TOTUS TEMPUS NOSTRUM EST QUASI SIMILE VERTICI
/Oraculum/ CUIUS VERSATIO APROPINQUAT FUNDO CRATERIS.
MALE VOICE Our whole age seems like a vortex
Whose tumbling nears the bottom of the funnel...

Music – Prophéties

The seafront

Footsteps – the walk continues in the park

IVA ...shall we go here, along the summer stage...?

DALIBOR Well yes, I'd go here, along the summer... /Iva: great, then we'll get to.../
To then get to the port...

Ahh, it's all so beautiful, we can only imagine how nice it was for them...

IVA / next to a sculpture in the pavilion/
DALIBOR ...I have found somewhere the he was this, he spent some time here, a famous Czech virtuoso
Let's see what it says...

IVA Jan Kubelik.. /Dalibor: Jan Kubelik!/
And there's Tatjana Kostanjević again, the same one who also made Isadora Duncan.

Footsteps

DALIBOR We can go over here, or we can do this... let's go – there are paintings here

/Iva: there's a mural over here.../ of these great people too. I think there's also a painting of Einstein. He was also here, as we said before, Puccini would stop by too, then there was Franz Joseph, then Wilhelm

IVA James Joyce slept in our hotel...

DALIBOR In the Imperijal?

IVA Yes!

DALIBOR Oh? So in that Imperijal...

IVA And the Imperial used to have another name, the names have changed...

DALIBOR But this is supposed to be one of the first bigger hotels here...

IVA Kvarner was the first one, and ours was the next one... and there was supposedly a big aquarium next door...
And this summer stage was opened here (I don't know which year) and Aida was performed, supposedly for 10,000 people

DALIBOR Oh – great... Look, Lumiere...

IVA Lumiere – they came here to shoot...
Kirk Douglas, Robert De Niro...

DALIBOR James Joyce...

IVA Drago Gervais – he now has “his own” concert hall
/Dalibor: Yes, the new one.../
Mohorovičić was born here...

DALIBOR Yes, in Volosko! We'll get there, to that place.

Sternbach... There he is, Franz Joseph...
There's Isadora...

NARRATION
/TEXT ON THE
HISTORY OF
OPATIJA/

The Imperijal Hotel is one of the symbols of tourism in Opatija. It was built in 1885 as Kronprinzessin Stephanie.

It was the second hotel in Opatija, built a year after the Kvarner nearby. The architect, Mr Wilhelm, here too offered guests all the luxury available at the time, from central heating to pools, and later cinemas whose corridors led to the central part of the hotel.

The hotel was chosen as a place to stay by Franz Joseph I, James Joyce and Josip Broz Tito, who stayed here for the first time in 1946.

The Italians changed the name to Regina Elena, which was the name of Vittorio Emanuele III's wife. From 1945 to 1948 (at the time when the relationship between Yugoslavia and the Soviets was really good), the hotel was called Moskva, only to change its name to Central after the dissolution of the Cominform, and in 1966, after the fall of Ranković and centralism, it was named Imperijal.

DALIBOR

Aaah...Now look at this panorama...This now seems like we're arriving to Monte Carlo.
So this little port, with these skyscrapers... – only it's more beautiful here...

/Iva: Is it?/

Well, it's got a much stronger, richer history...

There, look, it's really beautiful... This little panorama...
Oh, you're looking at (the map)... the parks?

IVA

Well no, I'm looking at what else is there – birds, olive trees...
And actually – camelia, camelia was named after this Camilo person, who came here and planted them.

DALIBOR

... what's great about this walk to Volosko is that the perspective keeps changing, it's not a monotonous path, but very winding and indented, and there are constantly some small ports, and...

IVA

When did you start taking these walks, like this one to Volosko?

DALIBOR

Well, that has now become a routine... I don't know really... Maybe 5 or 6 years ago... It's not really the same – I tried to go to Lovran – it's much longer, twice as long... but I don't find it as picturesque (I mean, up to Mošćenička Draga, towards it, right)... so it's a much, much longer and more tiresome route.
And the point is not to...

IVA

... there he is... Sienkiewicz (Dalibor: He was a doctor, wasn't he?)

He used to spend time in Opatija... A Polish writer... Nobel prize winner, yes.
He too spent time in Opatija...

DALIBOR Yes.
 Because, the point is not for a person to get drained at these walks but to have this mix, to get pleasure out of that activity and to walk by the sea, in fresh air, is amazing. It's just the right dose – half an hour to get there – half an hour to return walking, half an hour spent having coffee and that is – beautiful.

And what's really convenient is that we're not in the sun – so, the sunny side is the, how would I put it, the eastern part... and it's all because of Učka as it provides a shade, and over summer there's shade already at half past six (6:30 PM)... which is actually convenient – it's not, you're not in that hot summer sun.

Music – Dalibor Bukvić: Récits de l'autre monde (an excerpt from the movement Vers le ciel)

FEMALE VOICE OMNIA VISA SUNT.

MALE VOICE Seen them all...

FEMALE VOICE OMNIA VISA SUNT.

MALE VOICE To go forward...

FEMALE VOICE PROGREDI SIGNIFICET REPETERE...

MALE VOICE ... would mean...
 To repeat

FEMALE VOICE AT REGREDI...

MALE VOICE ...and we cannot go back...

FEMALE VOICE NON POSSUMUS.

Iva /studio/ Just before his 40th birthday, Dalibor Bukvić completed his oratorio “Récits de l'autre monde” (Stories from Another World) with the final movement, the movement “Vers le ciel” (Towards the Sky) with his own lyrics written in Latin.

The first part of the composition “Oraculum” (Prophecies) and the second part “Lux Aeterna” (Eternal Light) complete a dream the composer had in 1992, the same year in which he played Prophéties for piano in Opatija (Prophecies).

/the sea, a bay/

IVA What was this? /Dalibor: This is a hotel./
 Did they keep their boats here? Or? Right, that's possible?

DALIBOR But, you know what else this could be – that this is an underground source...
See there, water sometimes streams through that... /Iva: Oh... /
And then it flows in... And this was, I guess, excavated because of the
promenade...

IVA The acoustics are good, aren't they? (laughter)

DALIBOR Yes, everything that's arched...

HELLO! See, the sound is great...

IVA The concert for your 50th birthday should be here...
Exclusively /Dalibor: Only for the chosen ones! ...and the bravest ones/
For (s)elected!

Hah, Dalibor Bukvić celebrates his 50th birthday...
Is that a big number, a small number?
/Dalibor: Fifty.../
Do you feel the weight of that number? Those fifty...

DALIBOR *Pff..* To tell you the truth – no, not at all (laughter)
I can still take 2-hour walks every day... I don't see any, I don't feel... I mean...

You feel the "weight", I mean "the weight" in quotation marks, that –
experience, one has in fact lived, I mean it is 50 springs, 50 summers,
50 winters...

You know, in that sense many things do pile up – THAT represents a weight of
some sort... and when it comes to these other things – no, it's nothing –
there's no difference...

IVA And the weight of responsibility
/Dalibor: Well, that too!
/ for your own artistic work?
/Dalibor: That too... And.../
How to continue it?

DALIBOR Uhhh... yes..well that might be the biggest weight to carry now.

/ Iva: eh, hahahaha – so, this is the right time to pose that question /
..and to draw the lines, you know..
/Iva: Why would you draw..?/

Well, no, not in the "what's good?" sense, but in order to get rid of some,
some work, some things – because that number on its own doesn't really
mean anything to me, but the way things happen around that number and in
relation to that number – then, then you try... to summarize things for
yourself, because as you are in this huge rush, meaning concerts, some sheet
music editions – by the way, soon that our, that "our"

/Iva: Our?/
"Récits de l'autre monde" will be out...Oh , yes...

Music – Dalibor Bukvić: Récits de l'autre monde (excerpt from the movement Vers le ciel)

FEMALE VOICE UTRUM IN LIMINE IPSIUS FINIS SUMUS AN INITII NOVI -

MALE VOICE Are we at the beginning of the very end /FEMALE VOICE: UNIUS PLANE NOVI
GRADUS
Or... at a new beginning...

FEMALE VOICE SICUT PARTIS CYCLI EVOLUTIONIS,
IN QUO NOBIS APERIUNTUR NOVAE...

MALE VOICE Of one completely new level.. /FEMALE VOICE: INOPINATAE FACULTATES?
As part of the evolution cycle
In which new, unthought of possibilities open up before us

FEMALE VOICE CREDAMUS HAEC ALTERA!

MALE VOICE Let's believe in the latter!

DALIBOR What were we talking about..?

IVA About "Récits de l'autre monde" ...
/Dalibor: Oh yes, about "Récits de l'autre monde" /

So, in... 2010, it was / Dalibor: ... performed/
Completed, meaning that the whole idea was rounded off.

DALIBOR Yes, rounded off – and now, in relation to the rounding off – this is the thing
I've alluded (to rounding off) at this moment, in the sense that concerts and
the publication of this sheet music "Récits de l'autre monde" ...
So that also spurs the realisation of other things, the – see, now those
concerts are followed by new concerts... and new performances of the
compositions – in Croatia, outside Croatia... outside Europe.

And then somehow everything is pushed forward... In that sense, I'm a bit
more inert, I'm keen to think that if a composition lives, it will take off on its
own... even when we're no longer here... if, if that's true, and I'm sure it's
somewhat true, well then – I'm not in a rush to get anywhere, right?

You know, and then – the eternity awaits us...

Music – Dalibor Bukvić: Récits de l'autre monde (excerpt from the movement Vers le ciel)

FEMALE VOICE CREDAMUS
MALE VOICE CREDAMUS HAEC...

FEMALE VOICE CREDAMUS HAEC ALTERA!

MALE VOICE ... ALTERA

MALE VOICE

... And somewhere in the end... at the very end of our journey

Somewhere in the infinity – of a perfect harmony

DALIBOR

These colours are pretty, see, when we're walking like this – see, this time is ideal, when the walk starts at 3- 4, because the colours keep changing – so when we have coffee there and are on our way back, there will be twilight, and each second the colours will change.. and then the sea will change from turquoise-green, blue to dark grey, and then become red because of the sunset.

So... –THE ACOUSTICS HERE ARE REALLY GOOD!

/Iva: Ha – ha-ha-a/

So, I find this period interesting – it has really, it has simultaneously spurred many things, which I'm pleased about, not...

This comes as some moment – a wake-up call, to try and get things done as much as I can. Because, I like when I get some things done, I like to push the others too, to avoid some unresolved business. I sort everything out and I'm at peace, for the next 10 years...heh

IVA

Yes, and now... you are now a professor – professor Bukvić...

Students come to the Panel, the situation has changed because after so many years there are now some new students

/Dalibor: Yes.../

Your generation, that is our generation, they are all professors – how does that work now, with students?

DALIBOR

Well, I get along really well with them and I can understand them – there's a huge difference between our generation and theirs, because the internet has changed everything, therefore everything changes, from availability (so, we're talking about music, recordings and so on.)... We used to have to take sheet music from our library... the one that was there, and not everything was there, a lot was missing... then there were recordings, we used to get by somehow with those cassettes, then we would re-record them, but the quality was questionable.

Uhm, and everything else... is more or less the same, similar... now we can talk about a generation, not... Just like wine, every year is different – so we can also talk about generational, generations.

There really are some generations, but it depends on the year – it has nothing to do with decades, but literally... every year is different.

Music: Dalibor Bukvić: Fantasia, solo for flute

DALIBOR

Look,if we have a second – this entrance isn't that pretty...

The acoustics are nice... hahaaa...

But... this looks like the entrance to a pool, something... and the villa with a garden is really beautiful, and the garden is really like – they really aimed for hedonism...

This was clearly somebody's big estate (without this part)...

Yes, see, this is the beauty of these walks, when you can find something like this – this will be only – we'll pretend this is our villa, our garden... we'll now come... here's where our garden would start...

And this cannot be seen or figured out from the outside – it's just that this is no longer maintained, we can picture some bushes here...
Only some statues have remained... see, the villa... it remained – well look at these pillars, and these statues – it really seems like we're somewhere in Florence..

/Iva: Wait, stop/

We can only imagine how pretty this must have been, like this, close to the sea, look, you've got your own – that, and these statues...

And we can get in here, who cares, let's see...

I mean... Look how beautiful this is!

FEMALE VOICE ... AT ALICUBI IN ULTIMIS,

MALE VOICE ... and somewhere in the end

FEMALE VOICE IN IPSO FINE NOSTRI ITINERIS,

MALE VOICE At the very end of our journey...

/Dalibor: Yes, these were some beautiful private parks.../

MALE VOICE Somewhere in the infinity

FEMALE VOICE ALICUBI ILIC IN TEMPORALI INFINITATE PERFECTAE CONCINNITATIS

MALE VOICE Of a perfect harmony...

FEMALE VOICE INTER SIDERA

MALE VOICE Among the stars

FEMALE VOICE IN MOMENTO INTEGRAE PERFECTIONIS ET UNITATIS TOTIUS UNIVERSI,

MALE VOICE In the moment of complete perfection and unity of the entire universe...

/Dalibor: Let's go/

Music: Dalibor Bukvić: Fantasia, solo for flute

DALIBOR Aah, the air is great!

DALIBOR You know, leven like these cypresses!
I love these trees... they provide some classiness. You know, it's tall... like
some model among trees. You know, tall, slender...

OK, it's also found at cemeteries, I guess that allusion – heading towards the
sky...
As if it's rising up...
/Iva: Vers le ciel!/
Vers le ciel, haha...
Bravo! Vers le ciel... This is a composition of mine that Iva knows very well...

There, I think that the next beach should lead straight to Volosko.

We're now going to have a well deserved coffee... It's my first coffee of the
day, you know!...
I still haven't... that's why I'm still slightly lost...
This is very early for me, you know, for recording... at 4 in the afternoon...

Look, that lighthouse that we see in the distance – that's the lighthouse in
Volosko...
So, that's the pier...

*/Music: Largo... for strings, premiered in 2018 at the Panel in Opatija/
The sea*

Iva /studio/ In 2018, the composition by Dalibor Bukvić called "Largo" for strings orchestra
was premiered at the Music Panel in Opatija.

*Music: Largo... for strings, premiered in 2018 at the Panel in Opatija
The sea*

DALIBOR There it is /reading a placque in front of the house/ "This is the birthplace of
Andrija Mohorovičić, great Croatian geophysicist, meteorologist and
seismologist – when we say great, we mean among the world's greatest."
There... the house is slightly run down... it looks like some villa, doesn't it?
"He lived here 1857-1936."

He didn't have it bad, did he? He would get up, the sea would be right there,
in nature...

IVA That's why I asked you if you would live here.

DALIBOR Let's say that if I lived in that house, the first thing I'd have – here, like that
French chef at a restaurant – Et voila! –that'sVolosko!
Wait, come here – we still haven't had the wow effect...

When you come here, look...
You know...

Isn't it beautiful?

And then after this beautiful walk you award yourself with a beautiful spot and a beautiful spot for coffee...

Let's sit first, so that somebody doesn't take our spot...

Music: Largo... for strings, premiered in 2018 at the Panel in Opatija

DALIBOR ... and so my premiere will, haha – no, not a premiere, rather a performance.

Because, I wasn't anything to write for... I mean, in principle, my plan wasn't... so then I – I put it really nicely, wait, at the library... that it's about a rendition of my first movement "Why not" for strings... and that will do, it's for strings only, a more peaceful situation.

I called it "Largo" with an ellipsis! And I did it right – I even called those girls from Cantus who were drafting the program – I said "that ellipsis needs to be there, it's not a coincidence"... because the composition doesn't end consciously, it's as if everything is left floating in the air...

So... unfinished... something.
So it's deliberately unfinished – not by accident.

FEMALE VOICE SILENTIUM.

DALIBOR And just like everything in life...

MALE VOICE Even the most perfect music will be heard

FEMALE VOICE The one which cannot be more perfect...
SILENTIUM.

MALE VOICE Silence.

DALIBOR Aah, it's really pretty...

These are the moments in life when, you know – it's really nice, when we're in a nice environment, surrounded by the sea, on a pier

We hear sails clashing, and clanking – and some birds flying, and then there are boats, the sound of people at the café...

And a beautiful little port – Volosko...

And a blue sky above our heads...

I've said it all.
Was I good?

I'm now at my finest!

