



JOSIPA LISAC

A unique personality on the Croatian music scene. A singer with a **career of over 40 years**, vocally superior, with specific interpretations and an unconventional style. She developed her characteristic **vocal and fashion style** with a distinctive identity.

She was born in Zagreb, on Valentine's Day 1950.

She showed significant musical talent very early on in life, and at the age of ten began singing a **classical repertoire** in the Zagreb Radio Television Children's Choir under the direction of Dinko Fio. At around the age of 18 she became interested in rock music and became the lead singer in the O'Hara band, and later on in Zlatni Akordi (The Golden Chords). Soon afterwards she was given the opportunity to perform solo at the then most prestigious **pop festival** in Opatija in 1968, where she won numerous awards with **Arsen Dedić's** song *Što me čini sretnom* (What Makes Me Happy).

In the early 1970s she met **Karlo Metikoš** (alias **Matt Collins**), a well-known rock musician, who was very popular amongst Yugoslavia's youth after returning from France where he gained recognition and success. Their relationship and shared passion for music led to some ten of Josipa's albums with Karlo as composer, most notable amongst these being their first album, *Dnevnik jedne ljubavi* (Diary of a Love)(music Metikoš, lyrics Krajač). This was the first **conceptual album** in the former Yugoslavia and is now an essential part of any domestic **rock anthology**. In 2015, Josipa Lisac, Karlo Metikoš and Ivica Krajač were awarded the **Porin for exceptional achievement in Croatian music**.

After this they spent several years working on the first Croatian **rock opera** *Gubec Beg* (Metikoš – Krajač – Prohaska) in which Josipa played the demanding role of Jana. The opera premiered in 1975. It includes the popular aria *Ave Maria* which Josipa still sings at the start of every concert.

Josipa recorded a jazz album in the same year, in collaboration with greats such as **Ernie Wilkins, Clark Terry, Albert Mangelsdorff** and **Johnny Basso**, under the watchful eyes of producers **Boško Petrović** and **Karlo Metikoš**.

The result of her three-year stay in the USA in the second half of the 1970s was an album entitled *Made in USA*, recorded in **Studio 55** in **Los Angeles** in 1979. It includes **Ira Newborn** (who also arranged the songs), **Paulinho da Costa, Joel Peskin, Steve Schaeffer** and others.

After returning home, Josipa remained active in the 1980s both in the studio and on the concert scene. She participated in two American films, and recorded several albums which brought her closer to the **pop** sound, and the highlight of this decade in her work was the very successful album *Boginja* (Goddess).

The sudden death of Karlo Metikoš at the end of 1991, as well as a turbulent start to the 1990s brought significant changes to the context of her work. In the following years she prepared a series of concerts specially dedicated to the love of her life, and has maintained this tradition for the past twenty years. A recording of one of these concerts from December 1994, arranged and conducted by

the maestro **Igor Kuljerić**, was made into a CD entitled ***Koncert u čast Karla Metikoša*** (Concert in Honour of Karlo Metikoš).

The second half of the 1990s and the 2000s were marked by **numerous collaborations** with pop, funk rap, ethno, latino, jazz and classical musicians, as well as guest performances in several theatrical productions. Josipa explains her versatility in one sentence: It's all music; and the music is either there, or it isn't.

Through her dedication, creative sets and costumes, and above all her distinctive voice she remains a unique personality in our public life who could never be mistaken for another singer. Many generations grew up with her songs and her name appears in **music textbooks** in the chapter on the voice. She is also prone to **aestheticism** and has for decades been a synonym for style and fashion consciousness. She has won the **Vocal of the Year** award and **Porin** music awards on several occasions, as well as the Fashion Oscar and numerous other awards.

The songs she performs constantly evolve and are proof of her musical playfulness and openness, with musical quality as her main constant. She is an experienced, formed artist with clearly defined standards. At the same time, she is an idealist and a dreamer, with eyes wide open. She frequently emphasises how horrified she is by the average and the banal, and how she dedicates her life to constantly looking for new, original and often shocking solutions that will always make her attractive, interesting and provocative. In short: **Josipa Lisac is like no other.**