

Slavic Soul Party!

had the standing-room only crowd clapping, hooting, and shouting their appreciation. -Dirty Linen



Brash and strong as slivovitz, *Slavic Soul Party!* is downtown's answer to Balkan dance music: equal parts fire and funk, free-form and old-school exuberance. Inspired by traditional ensembles from the Macedonian region and beyond, these New York improvisers create a new sound to make your heart ache and your feet sing, make you buy a round of drinks and shower the band with greenbacks.

Slavic Soul Party! has energized festivals throughout the US, including the Chicago World Music Festival, The Pittsburgh Folk Festival, and the Zlatne Uste Golden Festival. Rave reviews and concert "picks" have ensued from the Village Voice, the Chicago Reader, and the New York Times. In October 2000 *SSP!* traveled to Macedonia for a 10-day tour (funded by the Trust for Mutual Understanding) where the group recorded their debut album "In Makedonija", which *All Things Considered* calls "the real deal... [with] everything you could want in a record".

"In Makedonija" features Chris Speed (clarinet), Rossen Zahariev (trumpet), Curtis Hasselbring (trombone), Ted Reichman (accordion), and Matt Moran (tapan, dumbek, & snare), as well as audio verite and cameos by Macedonian musicians. It was released in May 2002 on Knitting Factory Records (KFW 310).

"SSP!'s debut has **everything you could want in a record** ...
'In Makedonija' is the real deal." *-National Public Radio, All Things Considered*

"Slavic Soul Party! rocks. They're real, fearless and they hit hard. While respectful of tradition, they are not afraid to follow their instincts to new and adventurous musical landscapes. I would get married just to have them play my wedding."

-Limor Tomer, Balkan Cabaret (NYC)

"Prepare to be transported ... a soulful, adventurously improvised blast from Party Central." *-Barnes & Noble*

"This nimble unit is equally at home with **fast dance grooves**, off-kilter rhythmic feels, and mournful moods." *-All Music Guide*

"SSP! has evolved their Balkan interests from visionary blend to bona fide style." *-JAZZIZ*

"Slavic Soul Party, a pan-Balkan band that has been **enthraling** New York audiences, had the standing-room only crowd clapping, hooting, and shouting their appreciation." *-Dirty Linen*

"Thank you for giving so stellar an Inside/Out showing on August 5, 1999. You drew one of the **largest outdoor audiences** all season. They clearly enjoyed listening to the Balkan music and — for those who were brave enough — dancing onstage with you
-Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

"Truly inspired... SSP! is simply **very talented musicians** uninhibitedly exploring a music they love." *-Global Rhythm Magazine*

"[The] music has such unusual breadth and wonderful inconsistency that calling it simply 'jazz' paints it into an inaccurate corner. Their performances don't focus on displays of whirring virtuosity (though that's certainly a part) or even on the nebulous quality of 'soul.' Instead, the musicians attempt to work beyond or outside the patterns to which they would ordinarily gravitate. **Traditions are somehow upheld while being transformed**, and the concerts often become vortices of focus and concentration, though mistakes are encouraged. Every show is drastically different."

-Robin Edgerton, TimeOut New York

"They're superb, technically ingenious ... **passionate and serious, but also playful and funny** ...when [vibraphonist] Moran's short-fuse pauses ignite into four-malleted pyrotechnics, it's like hearing an angel have a seizure."

-Douglas Wolk, Village Voice

Slavic Soul Party!



Selected Performances, 1999-2002

In the Balkans:

Jazz-FM (Skopje, Macedonia)

US Festivals:

Chicago World Music Festival (Chicago, IL)

Pittsburgh Folk Festival (Pittsburgh, PA)

Golden Festival (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002) (Manhattan, NYC)

Thessaloniki USA Film Festival (East Village, NYC)

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (Beckett, MA)

Katahdin Recordings Festival (TriBeCa, NYC)

National Cultural Laboratory - NaCL (Highland Lake, NY)

Balkan/World Music Series:

Balkan Cabaret (2000, 2001) (SoHo, NYC)

World Music at Inside (Cleveland, OH)

Ramblewood Balkan Music & Dance Workshop (1999, 2000, 2001) (Darlington, MD)

Venues/Parties/Radio:

The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage (Washington, DC)

Knitting Factory, "A Night in the Balkans" (Tribeca, NYC)

The Cedar Cultural Center (Minneapolis, MN)

Hothouse (Chicago, IL)

"The Art Boat" at the Frying Pan, (Chelsea, NYC)

Tonic (Lower East Side, NYC)

Makor (Upper West Side, NYC)

"The Bulgarian Club" (TriBeCa, NYC)

WFMU Radio (Jersey City, NJ)

WRCT Radio (Pittsburgh, PA)