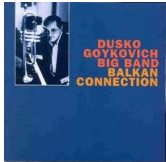


## Dusko Goykovich - Balkan Connection (1996)

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### Dusko Goykovich - Balkan Connection (1996)



1 - *Doboy* 8:03 2 - *You're My Everithing* 5:35 3 - *The Bopper* 6:36 4 - *Manhattan Mood* 7:09 5 - *Balkan Blue* 6:30 6 - *You Don't Know What Love Is* 5:52 7 - *A handful O'Soul* 7:11 8 - *Why Not You* 4:54 9 - *Night Of Skopje* 6:41 10 - *Nella* 7:13 Alto Saxophone – Peter Peuker, Thomas Bouterwek Baritone Saxophone – Michael Lutzeier Bass – Luigi Trussardi Drums – Ratko Divjak Tenor Saxophone – Gianni Basso, Tony Lakatos Trombone – Eberhard Budziat, Michael Kohler, Rainer Müller, Uli Plettendorff Trumpet – Gil Kaupp, Joe Rivera , Thomas Bendzko, Tom Howard Trumpet, Flugelhorn – Dusko Goykovich

In 1996 Duško Gojković recorded his own big band music. Like on *Soul Connection*, his compositions and arrangements on *Balkan Connection* recall the spirit of Miles Davis as well as his Balkan roots. His well-chosen big band personnel delivers an hour of swinging music crossing the borders between pure bebop, ethnic reminiscences, and the cool sounds of the 1950s. There are only two standards on *Balkan Connection*, the other eight are all originals by Gojković; the whole album is arranged by him which testifies as to his compositional and arranging skills undoubtedly a result of his studies at the prestigious Berklee School of Music. Although this is a big band album, the most striking thing about Gojković's playing was on the two standards and the final selection where he showed a lot of resemblances to Davis, most probably it was just because he was using a Harmon mute. The opener, "Doboy," had a slightly Spanish tinge that reminds of some of the music heard by Gerald Wilson. This also featured some fine piano by Peter Michelich who also turned in some good work on "Balkan Blue" and displays some funkiness on a soul jazz type of blues, "A Handful O'Soul." "The Bopper" more than likely reflects the time Gojković spent in the USA "Manhattan Mood" is a relaxed big band ballad spotlighting some exceptionally smooth tenor saxophone by Gianni Basso. There is a nice quote starting Gojković's solo on "Balkan Blue," attributed by the liner notes to Gershwin, actually taken from Cole Porters "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To." "Nights Of Skopje" is a sort of jazz waltz while "Why Not You" is another ballad incorporating a nice blend of instruments giving very fat sound and providing a good background to another fine tenor saxophone player, Tony Lakatos. *Balkan Connection* is a very listenable album, a lot different from big band charts usually heard. ---Slobodan Mihajlović, allmusic.com

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