

# ORIGINAL WORLD MUSIC FUSION

## A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY GENRE

by Milen Slavov-SLAVMAN

Original World Music Fusion - a music genre that integrates traditional cultural, classical, and contemporary idioms compiled in original compositions, reflecting common human emotions and characters.

This is a story about a new music genre called Original World Music Fusion (OWMF). In this story there are no ethnic and religious clashes, no fights and killing. There's only the effort to realize, create, and produce universal musical expressions, unveiling a path to unity through a multicultural artistic exploration.



Music is a universal language that uniquely communicates through energy, emotion, and intellect. We all carry the richness of some ethnic background, and that's of course a distinct value developed throughout human existence. But generally, as people, we have more similarities than differences.

### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

I grew up in a small village – about 400 people - in Bulgaria. My parents were farmers – no musical talent. But for some reason I always knew that I would be a musician. At the age of 14, I went to a five-year boarding music school. That's where I started arranging and composing. At 24, I began producing multimedia content.

Sometime in late 1980s, early 90s in Bulgaria, I began experimenting with fusing Bulgarian music with jazz, pop, and classical music elements. Style-wise I didn't know what I was doing, but artistically it felt like a very cool thing to do - not only because it was something different, but also I felt inspired to explore various musical approaches. The thing is, it's wonderful to be young, somewhat unaware, a little crazy, and full of desire to achieve. And for me, music was the avenue. In 1996 I applied to Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. As part of the application I composed three pieces. And then the musical fusion I was doing hit another level. These were original compositions incorporating Bulgarian folk instruments, digital sounds, and musical phrases reaching beyond traditional ethnic melodies and typical ranges.

Music samples:

“Midnight Walk”

<https://youtu.be/hM1RsEuUua8>

“Parting”

<https://youtu.be/PMj9JnWazhg>

I was accepted to the Composition Department at Berklee College of Music, but was denied a visa at the U.S. Consulate in Sofia.

Then, a life-changing desire came into focus. In 1997 (at 28 years old), I moved to the United States. 1998-99 I was a guest teacher at the UCLA Ethnomusicology Department. In 2000 the U.S. government awarded me permanent residency as an "Artist of Extraordinary Ability". Although this may sound like a song without personal struggles, believe me, it only sounds like that.

## THE SEARCH

Before reaching the point of consistently using the term Original World Music Fusion, I went through World Music and World Music Fusion as descriptive categories. However, World Music is a very wide category and not particularly specific. Labeling a musical piece as World Music may indicate that, for example, a composer creates and a musician performs music combining all traditional musical cultures from around the world. Well, I wasn't combining all musical cultures. I was fusing, in original compositions, Bulgarian and Balkan music elements with western classical music, pop, and jazz; even mixing languages.

Music samples:

"Faery of the Forest" [https://youtu.be/-gowXW1zI\\_4](https://youtu.be/-gowXW1zI_4)  
"Wild Dreams" [https://youtu.be/LJe\\_mWb3fiQ](https://youtu.be/LJe_mWb3fiQ)

For some time I stuck with World Music Fusion as a description of the music I was creating, performing, and producing. But world music fusion, as a term, also may indicate the use and mix of music in the public domain. Yes, I was mixing musical genres and ethnic elements, but in original compositions with the intent to create musical expressions portraying moods and human characteristics; not to compliment a particular musical style.

Music samples:

"Sci-Fi" <https://youtu.be/kcd7O9abfpo>  
"Traveling" <https://youtu.be/-sQUa4FKlcl>

Finally, around 2006 it became clear to me that Original World Music Fusion describes best what I do, not only musically but also as a philosophical vision.

## Original World Music Fusion Standard Guide

1. The music must be an original composition (not a creative arrangement of a folk song).
2. The musical composition must consist of a fusion of traditional ethnic idioms with western classical music, jazz, and/or pop music idioms.
3. The musical composition should deliver artistic musical expressions with a universal scope, portraying human experiences, emotions, and characters.

Music samples:

"Fusion Nocturne" <https://youtu.be/Z8oFEMVDbD8>  
"Quick Tour" <https://youtu.be/DfmzRUgIMlQ>

I may have come up with the term Original World Music Fusion, as a new music genre - potentially to be established as such. However, this is not for a self-serving purpose. Many composers and music performers around the world create music that is original; music intertwining ethnic, classical, and contemporary idioms; and original music that is emotionally

and intellectually expressive; but there are many different descriptions used: Ethno Music, Music Fusion, World Fusion Music, etc.

Now, Original World Music Fusion is in place as well. Original World Music Fusion is a new music genre that can unite the efforts of musicians and creative people who embrace a cosmopolitan cultural existence – a creative production philosophy with no borders.

So, I say: I create original compositions in the Original World Music Fusion genre – fusing Bulgarian/Balkan/Eastern European musical elements with western classical music, pop, and jazz idioms - to explore the gamut of musical expressions, moods and characters reflecting human nature. What Original World Music Fusion do you create? Let's collaborate!

[www.slavman.com/owmf](http://www.slavman.com/owmf)

## PHILOSOPHY

The fundamental philosophy behind Original World Music Fusion is to embrace unity through artistic collaborations - a cosmopolitan creative production philosophy with a universal scope surpassing borders and nationality. The idea is to encourage the exploration of multicultural artistic innovations with an emphasis on musical expressions reflecting human experiences, emotions, and characters.

Original World Music Fusion scrutinizes storytelling paths via original compositions – making an objective point that regardless of their ethnic background, people have more similarities than differences. This new genre advocates that creating original music is not about a particular style or rules, but is about delivering musical expressions with a universal touch. Thus, different musical styles, musical elements and approaches serve only as tools for creating and delivering musical expressions relating to common human characteristics.

Original World Music Fusion provides a wide avenue for cultural fusion, offering viable opportunities for universal communication, understanding, and multicultural enrichment.

Original World Music Fusion is a path to unity and peace. If we manage to tastefully fuse personal energy, emotion, and intellect; share honestly, with no scruples, individual struggles that can fit within common perspectives; and objectively combine talent and experiences from the past and present - we may have the opportunity to introduce yet another universally beneficial global cultural concept for the future.



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