

Željko Brkanović

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**Pjesmarica / Song Book**  
za četiri gitare / for four guitars



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Koncertna dvorana Vatroslava Lisinskog, Muzički informativni centar  
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Zagreb, 2023





**Željko Brkanović** (Zagreb, 1937 – Crikvenica, 2018) was a composer, pianist, conductor and teacher who graduated from the piano program of the Zagreb Music Academy under Prof. Svetislav Stančić (1962) and the composition program of the Faculty of Music Art in Skopje under Prof. Toma Prošev (1980). He further studied composition in Stuttgart (with composer Erhard Karkoschka). He was also taught by his father, composer Ivan Brkanović. Željko Brkanović studied conducting at the Chigiana Academy in Siena (1965).

From 1964 to 1966, he served as the conductor at the Croatian National Theatre Split, and from 1966 to 1969 as a conductor and accompanist at the Croatian National Theatre Zagreb. In 1969, he transferred to the Zagreb Radio Television (now the Croatian Radio Television), where he served as the music editor, producer and conductor of the Arts Program and recorded numerous pieces by Croatian composers.



He started teaching in 1968, first at the Zagreb Music Academy's Opera Studio, and then at the Functional Music School. In 1980, he became a professor at the Music Academy in Podgorica (and established the Department of Theory and Composition). Between 1983 and 2008, when he retired, he was a professor, and subsequently tenured professor of theoretic courses and composition at the Music Academy in Zagreb. Since 2011 he collaborated with the Academy of Arts in Split, teaching composition. In 2017, Brkanović was granted the honorary title of *Emeritus Professor* of the University of Zagreb.

He received the *Josip Štolcer Slavenski Award* (in 1982) for his *Piano and Orchestra Concerto*, the annual *Vladimir Nazor Award* (in 2002) and multiple recognitions as a composer from the Croatian Ministry of Culture. He was a three-time *Porin* winner: for the CD with Ivan Brkanović's *Missa profana croatica* (1996), for his piano composition *Tonal Sonata* (1999) and for lifetime achievement (2014). He holds the Order of Danica Hrvatska medal with the effigy of Marko Marulić for his extraordinary contribution to the national music culture (1999).

Between 2004 and 2008 he was the president of the Croatian Composers Society, and later the Society's honorary member.

Željko Brkanović's oeuvre contains around seventy soloist, organ, chamber, concerto, orchestral, and stage works, choral compositions and solo songs, as well as multiple adaptations, including his father's final great work – *Missa profana croatica*, an oratorio for solos, mixed choir and orchestra composed in 1986, and completed by the son in 1994.

Apart from performances and premieres in Croatia, Željko Brkanović's compositions have been performed in Slovenia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Great Britain, Belgium, France, Austria, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Finland, and the United States. His oeuvre was recorded for the video and audio archives of WDR and HRT, while many of his works have also been released on albums by Croatian soloists and ensembles. So far, three CDs featuring only his compositions have been released (HDS/Croatia Records/HRT/MBZ, 1996; Cantus/HDS/HRT, 2002; Cantus, 2009).





**Song Book for four guitars** was completed on 12 May 1993. It was written for Zagreb Guitar Quartet which gave the first performance on 18 June 1993 in the Mimara Museum in Zagreb. The composer also wrote a version for three guitars completing it on 30 May 1993.

Duration: 7 minutes

**Željko Brkanović's composition for guitar:**

*Suite Mediterranea* for guitar (1990)

*Song-Book (Version I)* for four guitars (1993)

*Song-Book (Version II)* for three guitars (1993)

*Sonata a tre* for three guitars (1996)

*The Pavane and Galliard for an Elizabethan duo* for violin and guitar (1999)

*Double* for two guitars (2000)

*Nymtyros* for flute and guitar (2004)

*Concerto* for guitar, percussion and strings (2010)





# Pjesmarica | *Song Book*

za četiri gitare | *for four guitars*

Željko Brkanović

## I

Andantino cantabile (♩ = cca 80)

The musical score is arranged in four staves, each representing a guitar. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Andantino cantabile' with a quarter note equal to approximately 80 beats per minute. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melody in the first two staves and accompaniment in the last two. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano). The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody and accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-10) introduces a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.





## II

Larghetto con espressione (♩ = cca 66)

Musical score for four guitars, measures 1-5. The score is in 6/4 time and D major. The tempo is Larghetto con espressione (♩ = cca 66). The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score consists of four staves. Measure 1 shows the first staff with a melodic line, the second staff with a whole rest, and the third and fourth staves with accompaniment. Measure 2 shows the first and second staves with melodic lines, and the third and fourth staves with accompaniment. Measure 3 shows the first and second staves with melodic lines, and the third and fourth staves with accompaniment. Measure 4 shows the first and second staves with melodic lines, and the third and fourth staves with accompaniment. Measure 5 shows the first and second staves with melodic lines, and the third and fourth staves with accompaniment.

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### III

Allegro (♩ = cca 168)

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with four staves. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system (measures 1-5) features a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system (measures 6-11) features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third system (measures 12-15) features a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

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