

Simon Broughton, editor-in-chief of Songlines, music documentary maker, an outstanding contributor to the contemporary world music renaissance and a major inspiration for many generations of musicians receives the Budapest Ritmo Award in 2018. Budapest Ritmo, is the world music hub and major festival for Central and Eastern Europe, produced by Hangvető. The award goes each year to a major figure who fundamentally contributed to the world music community globally and especially helped the scene develop in Central and Eastern Europe.

Simon Broughton has a very deep connection and understanding to the folk music of Central and Eastern Europe. His first chance encounter with a Hungarian dance house in 1978 was a life changing experience that has led to numerous travels, friendships and research. Perhaps more importantly, its effect has gone beyond the personal level. Without Simon, his magazine, his articles, his radio programs and his films, we would be voiceless – he showed world music aficionados around the globe how to talk about our musical experiences, how to embrace what we feel and how to express our affection to these sounds of the world.

Simon Broughton's connection to Central and Eastern Europe's music, even if it started in Budapest and Transylvania, is much broader and deeper than Hungarian folk music. He is at home everywhere from Poland to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Serbia, Romania, Albania - and his endless curiosity and musical appetite hunt him ever deeper and further. He authored Eastern European chapters for the *Rough Guide to World Music*, compiled numerous albums on the music of the region, directed documentaries on the music of Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic. All these efforts helped tremendously to connect the music of Central and Eastern Europe to the rest of the world. However, it's not just our region who can claim Simon's friendship.

"He seems to be an expert in all kinds of music. Simon's knowledge and discipline, his interest in every tiny detail, the social, historical, aesthetic context of music, the nuances in lyrics or a rare instrument variant - these never stop to amaze us. He turned understanding music into a form of art.", program director of Budapest Ritmo Balázs Weyer said in his laudation.

"It's a great honour to get this award and recognition from Budapest Ritmo, but of course I couldn't have done all these things without great help from musicians like Muzsikás, Söndörgő, organisers like Hangvető and many others. For their help I'm very grateful," Simon Broughton said upon receiving the award.

Budapest Ritmo Award winners receive a single-copy personalized vinyl with music by various artists they have personal connections to.

Budapest Ritmo is a world music festival featuring a Central and Eastern European showcase, conference and networking platform. The showcase jury in 2018 consisted of five distinguished international professionals – Hilde Bjørkum, co-founder of Førde Festival, Tony Van der Eecken, deputy director for World Music at BOZAR Brussels, Barak Weiss, artistic director of Israel International Showcase for Jazz and World Music, Dejan Vujanović, artistic director of Etnofest, Kanjiža Jazz and Jazziré festivals in Serbia and the award-winning Simon Broughton himself.

Simon Broughton received the award during the joint concert of Muzsikás from Hungary and Muzykanci of from Poland – friends of Simon for decades, who were happy to share this special moment with the awardee. Other festival highlights in the 2018 edition of Budapest Ritmo include Trio da Kali, Sabor de Grácia, Tuuletar's special performance featuring kantele artists Maija Kauhanen, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Tcha Limberger, Ekrem Mamutović Orkestar and an unprecedented gala of great Gypsy voices, closing this year's focus on Roma heritage at Budapest Ritmo. More information on the festival website at budapestritmo.hu/en

Budapest Ritmo is the festival of new connections, encounters and discoveries organized by Hangvető and CAFe Budapest.