

.....

### Lilly Drumeva and Michael Zumstein join EBMA Board

At EBMA's Fourth General Membership Assembly on May 5, 2005 Bulgarian artist and entrepreneur Lilly Drumeva and German musician and graphic designer Michael Zumstein were voted to be new members of EBMA's Board of Directors by the active members of EBMA. Andy Glandt left the board but will continue his work with kids & bluegrass for EBMA. To introduce herself and to start a series of editorials by EBMA board members, we will feature Lilly Drumeva in this issue



.....

I am very honored to have the opportunity to introduce myself as one of the new board members of EBMA.

It is amazing what EBMA has achieved so far, thanks to people like Rienk Janssen, Paolo Dettwiler, Angelika Torrie, Richard Hawkins, Peter Brandejs and many others who dedicate their time and energy to bluegrass music in Europe.

I am very excited to become part of this team and contribute more to European bluegrass in the future. There is also a geographical aspect, having now a country like Bulgaria to be represented in the European bluegrass family. I know that our organization is still small and we are only few people who are involved with bluegrass, but I am optimistic for the future and think that there is a lot of potential for this music to grow.

In Bulgaria I have done real pioneer work in forming a band, presenting bluegrass on the radio and TV, talking to people and producing promotional material. I can't tell you how many times I have explained, and tried to find the most appropriate ways to explain what exactly bluegrass is. Well, I guess that's my job and mission to help this music develop in my country.

In Europe many countries developed a bluegrass following over the years, which started with American bands playing there. Wherever an American band was touring, local

bands started to appear and encourage others. Thus, countries that were visited frequently like the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands started to develop a strong bluegrass community.

Bluegrass is a music that you have to see live, there is nothing more impressive and exciting than to see a great bluegrass band live. It can encourage people better than any words or explanations.

But equally important is to have also people who are ready to dedicate their time and energy to promote this music. It is a real pioneer work that we all do. I guess we do it because our hearts are in it; we do it for the love of the music. Bluegrass is for me more than just music; it is a philosophy, a way of life, a status in life, a way to belong to a great family of people.

This is not found in many other genres and it is the best about this music – the community, the accessibility, the enjoyment every one of us feels.

That's why I am optimistic about the future of bluegrass in Europe. I have started lots of things in Bulgaria already and I hope that eventually our organization will grow and people will be more aware of this music.

Let me now briefly introduce myself and tell you about my activities in Bulgaria:

.....

## Contents

|                                            |       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| Join the EBMA .....                        | 2     |
| Editorial by Lilly Drumeva .....           | 3     |
| Bluegrass News .....                       | 4-5   |
| European Bluegrass Guide .....             | 6-7   |
| Birth of an Irish Bluegrass Festival ..... | 7     |
| Mart O'Pickers from France .....           | 8-10  |
| Impressions from Bühl and EWOB 11 .....    |       |
| Concert & Festival Calendar .....          | 12-14 |
| Title Page Photo: Mart O'Pickers           |       |

.....

## Bluegrass Europe

No part of this magazine may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher. Copyrighted © 2005.

### Published by:

European Bluegrass Music Association (EBMA)  
www.ebma.org

### Editorial Team:

Paolo R. Dettwiler (prd), Richard Hawkins (RH), Angelika Torrie (ToA)

.....

**Art Direction:** Paolo R. Dettwiler

**Webmaster:** Rudi Vogel

### Contributors to this issue:

Werner Büchi (Switzerland), Lilly Drumeva (Bulgaria), Joël B. Espeset (France/Germany), Tom Hanway (Ireland), Jens Holger Jensen (Germany), Bruno Steffen (Switzerland)

### Main Offices:

BLUEGRASS EUROPE  
Paolo R. Dettwiler  
Steinenweg 8  
CH-4133 Pratteln, Switzerland  
Phone +41-61-821 83 63  
Fax +41-61-821 83 64  
Email editor@ebma.org  
Website: www.bluegrass-europe.com



www.ebma.org

My name is Lilly Drumeva, born in Sofia, Bulgaria 1970. I am an economist (MD in Business Administration, Vienna University of Economics) and I've been involved with bluegrass since 1997.

I am the founder, manager, singer, guitarist of **Lilly of the West**, still the only Bulgarian bluegrass band.

I am a presenter on **Retro Radio** and the **Bulgarian National Radio**, trying to squeeze more and more bluegrass into my playlists and find a way to present it to non bluegrass music listeners.

I co-host a weekly **music show on cable TV** where I try to present bluegrass in a way that the viewers can understand.

I have organized the **first bluegrass concert in Bulgaria** in 2003, with the support of the US embassy and my radio station. It was a successful event and I hope to be able to do it again in the future.

I have produced four of the **Lilly of the West** CDs and a video clip. The making of the clip was a real challenge and I've learned a lot in this field. It was broadcast on most of the Bulgarian channels and it did have a great impact. I think this is something that even bluegrass artists should consider; it helps a lot to promote this music. Especially if people have not a great chance to see it live (like in Bulgaria).

I regularly produce the promo material of my band (cards, posters, CD covers etc.) and maybe I could help a little in this field as well, at least the cost of such products in Bulgaria is lower than in many other countries.

Well, these were my thoughts about bluegrass in Europe and what I can do in the new board of EBMA. Please feel free to contact me, [lilly@ebma.org](mailto:lilly@ebma.org), +359 888 660 990 with any suggestions and ideas. I will be happy to hear from you and welcome more bluegrass to Bulgaria!

I am honored and excited to work as a board member of EBMA, you will find my task and job description very soon on the EBMA web site: [www.ebma.org](http://www.ebma.org)

Till then, keep the spirits up and see you soon!  
Lilly

.....

**Bluegrass across Europe in Eighth European World of Bluegrass**

Sixteen festivals took part in the eighth European World of Bluegrass (EWOB), and over eighty other bluegrass and old-time music events took place during the EWOB 2005 period (1 May - 31 May), in the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the UK. At the European Bluegrass Music Association's EWOB Festival (5 May - 7 May, at Voorthuizen, the Netherlands) attendance rose again over the previous record, the Festival's Trade Show and its strong program of workshops were increased, and an Irish band won the award of #1 European Bluegrass Band 2005.

Out of thirty-eight European bands at Voorthuizen, musicians taking part voted Carmel Sheerin and the Ravens (Ireland) first, Blue Cartel (Belgium) second, and the Petr Brandejs Band (Czech Republic) third. Carmel Sheerin and the Ravens will bear the title of #1 European Bluegrass Band for twelve months, will be promoted as the Face of grass in represent Internation-Music As-World of Fair and Nashville, 2006. Frag-Slovak Re-won the will repre-Nashville



European Blue-2005/6, and will Europe at the tional Bluegrass sociation's Bluegrass Trade Fan Fest in TN, in October ment (Czech/publics), who award in 2004, sent Europe in this year. Bands

from the Czech Republic won all three audience popularity awards: Sunny Side first, Mousetrap second, and Bluegrass Cwrkot third. American artists performing at the Festival included the Chris and Sally Jones Band, with Ned Luberecki (banjo) and Jon Weisberger (bass), the New England Bluegrass Band, Liz Meyer with Fragment, and Bill and Maggie Anderson. Bill Keith, living legend of bluegrass banjo, was also present.

Major US sponsors of the EWOB Festival included the Gibson and Deering instrument companies and D'Addario Strings, which sponsored the full workshop program. This year an old-time banjo workshop and individual mentoring sessions on the bluegrass instruments were added to the schedule, and the program for children, introduced last year by Andy Glandt, was extended to two days.

The ninth EWOB Festival will take place at Voorthuizen on 25-7 May 2006. Band applications should be received by the end of November 2005. For details, see the EBMA websites ([www.ebma.org](http://www.ebma.org), [www.ebma.nl](http://www.ebma.nl)) or contact Rienk Janssen ([rienk.janssen@tip.nl](mailto:rienk.janssen@tip.nl)).

.....  
**Europe**

**Bluegrass Unlimited** magazine published a major story on EWOB in their April issue. This piece is masterfully written by EBMA's information officer Richard Hawkins from Ireland ([richard@ebma.org](mailto:richard@ebma.org)).

Daginn M. Pedersen of the **Risor Bluegrass Festival** (July 13-16) in Norway reports that there will be 19 bands playing. There has been a surge of new bands this year, he has been in touch with

about 10 new bands and 8 of them will play at the festival. Common to most of them is that these are veteran musicians that have turned to bluegrass over the last year(s) and the Risor Bluegrass Festival has become an inspiration and a focusing point for these new bands proving a promising growth of bluegrass in Norway. ([www.bluegrass.no](http://www.bluegrass.no)).

Ernie Thacker & Route 23 as well as Texas fiddler Erik Hokkanen will be playing in Finland this summer. **Wasel Arar & North State** have new album "State's Evidence" (Bluelight) ([www.bluegrass.fi](http://www.bluegrass.fi)).