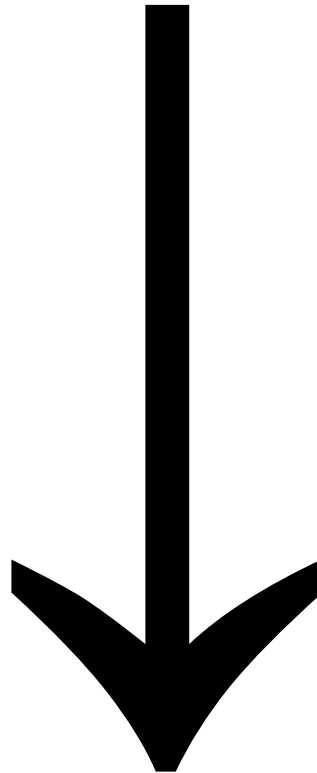


TAA TAMBURITZA EXTRAVAGANZA®

Milwaukee 2017

Tamburaški Sastav Ponoć

PITTSBURGH, PA



Tamburaški Sastav Ponoć ("midnight" in English) is a tambura band based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA) with deeply-rooted musical traditions.

Ponoć was established in February 2013 to combine the musical talents and unique personalities of its members and share the end result with listeners around the globe. Each of its members has a different story, but they find common ground in the music they play, the songs they sing, and the vino that is consumed. They all grew up through various cities and folklore groups and eventually performed with the Duquesne University Tamburitians (DUT) through their university years. They all call Pittsburgh their home now.

Ponoć plays a wide variety of music from Eastern Europe and the Balkan states. They mainly focus on music from Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and Serbia. However, you may hear them introduce some Gypsy, Macedonian, Bulgarian, Greek, Hungarian, and Italian tunes along the way. From traditional bečar songs to modern pop, love ballads to furious instrumentals, Ponoć will entertain!

In the band's short tenure, they have entertained guests at weddings and other social gatherings in San Francisco, CA, Montreal, Quebec Canada, New York City, NY, Chicago, IL, Milwaukee, WI, Detroit, MI, Steelton, PA, Pittsburgh, PA, and Youngstown, OH.



perussion, and has played with Trubaduri (Pittsburgh) and Mark Špišić Tamburitza Orchestra (Mississauga, Ont.). As member of Otrov, John has recorded three CDs and played at Zlatne Zice Slavonije festival in Požega, Croatia, multiple National Folk Festivals and at Opolo Vineyards in Paso Robles. John was also a member of Tamburaški Sastav Barabe, playing brač and has appeared on Barabe's debut CD.

Established: February 2013

Members: Peter Kosovec (prim/lead vocal)
John Huckle (prvi brač)
Mark Stafura (drugi brač)
Ben Wagner (kontra)
Nikola Vranesevic (berda)

New CD: *Kad Padne Noć* – October 2015

Peter Kosovec...grew up immersed in European music and culture and most especially Tambura music. He released his first solo album by the age of 17. That would be the start to a long career of composing, recording and producing several more solo albums, band albums, as well as composing and arranging songs for other bands in North America and Croatia. Peter has been a member of several bands and ensembles through the years including Momci, Otrov, and Gypsy Strings, Kumovi and the Duquesne University Tamburitians. Peter is also a past recipient of the Lou Cavic Founder's award given by the Tamburitza Association of America.

John Huckle...was born in Pittsburgh and began playing jazz trumpet at age seven. At the age of 15, he joined and performed with The City Music Center of Pittsburgh at Duquesne University to intensively study with jazz professors and professional jazz musicians from the city of Pittsburgh. A late comer to tambura, John began playing at the age of 16 with the Duquesne Junior Tamburitians. He performed from 1995-1999 as a musician, singer, and dancer with the Duquesne University Tamburitians. John is trained in both brač and

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BAND INFO

Mark Stafura...has played with several tamburitza bands over the years throughout the United States and Canada. In 2012, he was honored in Columbus, Ohio with the Lou Cavic Founder's Award by the Tamburitza Association of America. This award is presented to a young person who demonstrates an outstanding devotion to the preservation of tamburitza music and the Slavic culture. Mark's musical roots extend past tambura as well. While performing with DUT and continuing after his exit from the group, he has arranged scores for DUT since 2003 and became a featured, solo accordionist at Tokyo Disney Resort, Japan in 2005.

Ben Wagner...started playing music at a young age because of his family's involvement in the European culture. He began his musical career by playing prim, but soon learned the rest of the Tamburitza instruments. He eventually moved on to playing guitar to expand his musical knowledge. Ben was a member of the Duquesne University Tamburitza, where he learned other various stringed instruments. Over the years, Ben has performed with several bands throughout Pittsburgh including TS Trzalica, Orkestar Tsare, Orkestar Zabava, and Orkestar Pobeda. With Orkestar Tsare, he recorded his first album. Ben has taught music and tambura throughout his career to individual students and junior groups, which led him to arranging several pieces of music.

Nikola Vranesevic...grew up with the sounds of tambura in his household. After playing prim and brac, he quickly learned the rest of the tambura family. Nikola graduated from Duquesne University with a B.S. in Music Education. While attending Duquesne University, he performed with the Duquesne University Tamburitza where he was primarily a musician. In 2010, Nikola was selected to be the guest conductor for the SFFNA Folklore Festival. He has also arranged musical selections for several music ensembles including the Duquesne University Tamburitza. He has performed with different bands in the Pittsburgh area including TS Trzalica, Orkestar Tsare, and Orkestar Pobeda. Nikola is currently the music director for the Duquesne Junior Tamburitza and is employed by the Plum Borough School District as the Elementary Strings Director.

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Fun Facts for Tamburaški Sastav Ponoć

- CD "Kad Padne Noć" released October 2015
- All five band mates were once performers (musicians and dancers) with Duquesne University Tamburitza and were featured on various instruments throughout their years with the group.
- Four of the five members are recipients of the Lou Cavic Founder's Award by the Tamburitza Association of America
- All members have participated on several recordings from prior bands and orchestras.

Public URL for Promotional Photos (Individual and Band), Videos, Bios, and mp3s

<https://box.com/tsponoc-public>

Ponoć completed their first CD "Kad Padne Noć" in October 2015 and was released at the 2015 Extravaganza. It is comprised of traditional and modern songs/instrumentals from Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia. In addition, four original songs will be recorded. They are composed by Peter Kosovec and the lyrics were written by Damir Bačić. Several of the originals were purchased and performed by bands in Croatia such as Stjepan Jeršek "Štef," TS Begeš, and TS Fijaker.

Gig Schedule **notable performance*

2017

- 1-22 *Carnegie Library "World Kaleidoscope" – Pittsburgh, PA*
- 2-11 *Winter Dance - Milwaukee, WI*
- 2-05 *Central Presbyterian Church Concert Series – Tarentum, PA*
- 3-25 *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Artist Series – Fox Chapel, PA*
- 3-26 *Old Saint Luke's Concert Series – Carnegie, PA*
- 3-26 *Slippery Rock University World Music Class – Slippery Rock, PA*
- 4-01 *Retirement Party – Detroit, MI*
- 4-29 *Tamburtizan 80th Anniversary Banquet – Pittsburgh, PA*
- 6-17 *Wedding – Petoskey, MI*
- 9-07-10 *Tentative TAA Extravaganza Milwaukee, WI*
- 9-23 *Wedding – Cleveland, OH*
- 9-30 *Private Party – Detroit, MI*

