

BRIGA BIO

Born in Québec and raised in western Canada before her return to Montréal, Briga's music is a reflection of her fragmented identity: a hybrid of songs written in French and English, all accompanied by her fervent violin firmly rooted in eastern European and Romani folk sounds, learned from the days her father played the piano to put the children to sleep. Nicknamed Briga by her fellow band mates in the ex-Yugoslavian band Les Gitans de Sarajevo, her name means sorrow or burden.

Her 2nd album Turbo Folk Stories was released in 2012, after Briga toured the Balkans playing Romani (Gypsy) weddings with Bulgaria's no.1 Violinist and her mentor, Georgi Yanev. Featuring a mix of traditional Bulgarian, Macedonian & Serbian songs, as well as original repertoire that at times makes a light reference to the musical genres of Serbian Turbo Folk & Bulgarian Chalga. Turbo Folk Stories was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award as well as Quebec's ADISQ awards.

Recently awarded the 2013 Galaxie Rising Star Award, Briga released her 3rd album "Wake" in 2014, a concept album that explores her father's mysterious Polish/Jewish roots. Delivered with a Turbo Folk edge, wrapped up in heavy Balkan & Moroccan grooves, and polished with lamenting judo-arabic strings, Wake's sound is a gem that lies somewhere between the everyday and the monumental.

Briga is a rare breed of violinist. Not only is she classically trained, but she has a life time's experience travelling the world with a fiddle on her back, learning songs from local folks by ear. Her knowledge of music and different cultures goes beyond mere ethnomusicology. Briga continues to deepen her knowledge of traditional music from around the globe. This in turn inspires her to write new repertoire that takes tradition and pushes it to today's sounds. She lives and breathes music, passing it on to students and audiences everywhere.