

Dance & Music Workshop in Romani Mahala, Berovo, North Macedonia
With Šani Rifati & Milo Destanovci,
August 14th — August 21st, 2025



Berovo!



is a small town in the Malishevo mountains (1100 yds above sea level), known for its fresh air, delicious food, and last but not least, some of the best Romani musicians in the Balkans !

The Romani Mahala (neighborhood) in Berovo has been rich in traditional music and dance since the '60s, when many Roma migrated from Ratevo to Berovo. Famous musician families Destanovci, Kanturuski, and Demirovski are at home in Berovo. Other Roma families, Kanturski, and Alimanovski made up much of the world acclaimed Balkan brass band, Kocani Orkestar.

Stores, restaurants and bars are within walking distance of the Mahala, as well as old monasteries around that you can visit. There is also a clear lake in the woods for a refreshing swim.

The Hotel Manastir is a quiet and comfortable stay. You can order single, double or triple rooms. The dancing and teaching halls are in the hotel. It also has a nice green yard where you can sit and relax. – Have a look on their website

<https://www.hotelmanastir.com.mk/>



Daily Program:

The seminar includes 5 hrs of dance lessons every day, and one singing lesson per day. Instrumental lesson schedules will depend on attendance.

Dance lessons will be taught by **Šani Rifati**, **Milo Destanovci** - both experts in traditional Romani dance - and **Jovica Blazevski**. **Milo** was born in Berovo. He also is an accomplished Zurna and Kaval player. **Jovica** is an experienced dance instructor and choreographer who worked with Tanec, the Macedonian national folklore

ensemble, for many years. He will offer dances from different regions of Macedonia, so as to garner a broader understanding of folk dances within the country.

Instrumental lessons

ALL MUSICIANS, INSTRUMENTS, AND SKILL LEVELS ARE WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED

Instruments that our staff can utilize in classes or private lessons include:

- Clarinet/Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Kaval (Balkan flute)
- Violin
- Tamboura (Balkan guitar-like instrument)
- Accordion
- Tapan / Davul (Balkan Double-headed Drum)
- Doumbek / Tarabuka (Eastern hand drum)
- All instruments are taught by experienced teachers - they are all Roma, mostly with a classic education:

The Musicians:

Bajsa Arifovska		Clarinet, kaval, Tamboura, Violin
Ismet Alimanovski		Accordion, Singing
Mustafa Alimanovski		Trumpet
Enis Alimanovski		Tapan



Bajsa Arifovska



Milo Destanovci



Mustafa Alimanovski



Jovica Blazevski



Šani Rifati

Evening Schedule:

Guests, Staff and friends of the camp are encouraged sit together, eat, drink, listen to music, sing and dance.

Special Evening Guests:

Dzambo Agushevi I Dzafer Demirovski

Campers are also encouraged to join groups that will go into the Mahala for Bijava (Romani weddings).

Ttips to the incredibly rich musical towns of Strumica and Kocani may also be arranged dependent on interest level.

Pricing:

Base Fee covers seven nights, as well as breakfast, lunch and dinner (drinks are not included). All rooms have bathrooms. You may arrive earlier and stay longer. Extra days cost ~ 60€

Room Breakdown per week:

Single - 870€

One Bed in Shared Double Room - 800€

One Bed in Shared Triple Room - 700€

How to get there:

Flight into Skopje. Berovo is ~ 150 km from Skopje (2 hrs drive by car/taxi ~ 100€). Shuttle from the airport to Berovo and back will be offered for a small dependent on group arrivals and departures. For more information on the shuttle, be on the look out for an email after registration has been closed.

Registration: Until 30th of May 2025

Contact: berovo.mahala.2024@gmail.com,

(++49) 1774346444, 0049-30-21997068

More information about the musicians will be added soon;

