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Born in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1987, I started playing drums at the age of 10 and have performed and recorded with numerous local <u>underground</u> and <u>popular</u> artists and bands since then, apart from my personal projects.

I started composing and producing music when I was 16-17 years old. I am self-taught in composition and production, yet through the years I've taken numerous private classes in drums (8+ years), piano, guitar and bass, as well as some music theory and solfege. Specializing in alternative rock arrangements and performance for an extended period.

Throughout my career I've always chosen to pursue two professional paths simultaneously, exploring possibilities all across the creative spectrum, working both as an independent artist, composing, producing, promoting and touring abroad with my personal projects – <u>Mental Architects</u>, <u>BROND</u>, <u>GRID</u>, VOYVODA as well as working as a communication professional, currently assuming the position of Creative Director for the agency <u>B+RED</u>.

After a short break from music in the past 2 years I am currently in development of my personal music production studio <u>North Attic Sounds that I wish to evolve into a more commercial direction with a huge focus on diversity in genres, artists and styles.</u>

One of the most commercially successful and popular projects I've worked for as a composer and producer was re-imaging and reproducing three of the most popular Christmas songs with an "alternative rock edge" for an imaginary band called <u>"The Jacks"</u> as part of a Jack Daniel's campaign.

As a principal composer and production advisor of the following songs: <u>We Wish You A</u> <u>Merry Christmas</u>, <u>Silent Night</u>, <u>Jingle Bells</u> co-arranged with Kiril Petrushev - Busty, with vocal performance by Dimitar Vassilev - Nufry.

I'm proficient in various music production software including but not limited to Ableton Live, Cubase 12, MOTU Digital Performer, ProTools & some Logic.

MUSIC BUSINESS RELATED EXPERIENCE:

Booking & Tour Management

I have experience in booking and production management at both scales. European club tours for independent bands and promoting numerous shows for international indie bands locally as part of the (now inactive) <u>"Post-Rock Bulgaria"</u> initiative.

Production Management

I've also worked as part of bigger production handling production management assistant duties for several <u>Enrique Iglesias European tour dates</u> in 2017, freelancing for the Bulgarian side of the production, handling logistics and production coordination between international sound, light and transportation contractors for dates in Austria, Czech and Poland.

MUSICAL HONOURS & AWARDS:

- Young Artist Support from Musicautor's Culture Fund Session for 2018
- In 2008, <u>became one of the 8 finalists in a national Drumset competition</u>, looking for the best drummers under 22 years old across the country organised by Dynacord;
- <u>Winner of the 2008 Jack Daniel's Battle Of The Bands</u> as part of Mental Architects CREDITS: (Composition, Arrangement, Lyrics, Drum Performance);
- <u>Finalists in the 2011 Jack Daniel's Battle Of The Bands</u> as part of GRДD CREDITS: (Composition, Arrangements, Lyrics, Vocal Performance);

ENDORSEMENTS:

- Antelope Audio Microphones EMU and Sound Shapers <u>https://youtu.be/7LWdCflfNPU</u>;
- Antelope Audio Verge Mics <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQ3map6KUKs;</u>
- Vater Drumsticks- <u>https://www.vater.com/artists/1353</u>

MUSIC-RELATED MEDIA APPEARANCES & INTERVIEWS:

- <u>https://bnr.bg/radiobulgaria/post/101129312?page_1_4=3</u>
- <u>https://www.btv.bg/shows/predi-obed/videos/maksim-stoimenov-nashata-pozicija-e-che-vseki-trjabva-da-misli-za-sebe-si.html#</u>
- <u>https://bnr.bg/aboutbnr/post/100938289/fine-artact</u>
- <u>https://lunatic.bg/the-mentalist/</u>
- <u>www.radiotangra.com/interview/read/31507.html</u>
- <u>https://bnr.bg/radiobulgaria/post/101129312?page_1_4=3</u>

Notable Compositions & Arrangement Portfolio:

• <u>PROJECT BEAT.</u> - (Human Rights Social Performance/Campaign)

SOCIAL MEDIA RESULTS: <u>BEAT.</u>

MAIN COMPOSITION INSTRUMENTS: Drums, Credits: Concept, composition, arrangement, performance

• <u>GRAD</u> - (Bulgarian Alternative Pop-Rock)

NOTABLE COMPOSITIONS: <u>The Lage</u> (Intro ends at 00:40) MAIN COMPOSITION INSTRUMENTS: Guitar, **Keys**, Sampling, **Vocals, Lyrics** PRODUCTION TOOLS: Steinberg Cubase/MOTU Digital Performer/PRO Tools LABEL: Self-Released

• <u>BROND</u> - (90's Alternative Rock)

NOTABLE COMPOSITIONS: Failure

MAIN COMPOSITION INSTRUMENTS: Guitar, Drums, Keys, Vocals, Lyrics PRODUCTION TOOLS: Steinberg Cubase/MOTU Digital Performer/PRO Tools LABEL: Magnetic Eye Records (US) • MENTAL ARCHITECTS - (Instrumental, Post-Rock)

NOTABLE COMPOSITIONS: <u>"Launch The Avalanche"</u> MAIN COMPOSITION INSTRUMENTS: Guitar, Drums, Keys, Sampling MAIN PRODUCTION TOOL: Steinberg Cubase VINYL RELEASE LABEL: <u>SUBSUBURBAN (Denmark)</u> Credits: Composition, arrangement, performance

INFLUENCES:

One of my biggest composition and production influences as of late has been **Justin Meldal Johnson** (Paramore; NIN; Beck, Poppy).

NON-MUSIC RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:

I've graduated High School in Sofia in First English Language School, taking classes in Cultural Studies in Sofia University afterwards, but continuously doing music throughout all of my conscious life while managing a developing career in communications as part of the teams of award-winning agencies: **Ogilvy, Noble Graphics, NEXT-DC**, etc. Becoming one of the first Bulgarians at that point to represent the country at the International <u>Cannes Lions</u> <u>Advertising Festival</u> as winners of the Young Lions Bulgaria Competition in 2013.

Currently I work as the Creative Director/Consultant for B+RED handling work for brands under the Unilever umbrella as well as Adidas, Pirinsko, Nike and many more. I oversee the creative department Creative QA, and team management. Recently I was selected as part of the jury for the FARA advertising festival in 2021 and 2023 respectively.

More on my communications expertise/awards/past employment, feel free to browse here - https://www.linkedin.com/in/maksimstoimenov/

DRIVER'S LICENCE: B

LANGUAGES:

Bulgarian native and C1 in English.

HOBBIES:

- Marathon running and competing mainly at hobbyist races and sometimes being top 10 at <u>National Level Championships</u>;
- "Dad" of two dogs Star & Skubi;
- Sometimes gaming;