

Bulgarian Voice Angelite

Their voices are fascinating, their style of singing and ornamentation is archaic, distinctive and rooted in centuries of local tradition. The Bulgarian Voices Angelite have been singing together all over the world, for 25 years. They have performed shows at the Nobel Prize Award, in Red Square in Moscow and at the Grammy nomination in 1999. Their international success throughout the years proves their uniqueness and quality.

Formed in 1952, prior to the fall of communism, the Bulgarian Voices Angelite were largely unknown to the world, but in the years since the Iron Curtain was lifted, the ensemble have managed to enchant the world with their singular blend of classical and folk traditions. This blend is further supplemented by their mysterious and cryptic manner of singing— peculiarly suspended, frequently dissonant (e.g. with major and minor seconds), and completely void of vibrato. To say that the Bulgarian Voices Angelite is a mere folklore ensemble is to overlook its true potential. They have established an authentic style of their own by managing to advance in the sphere of art music, drawing inspirations from modern Bulgarian composers e.g. Philip Koutev, Stefan Kanev, Dimitar Dinev, Stefan Mutafchiev, and Nikolai Kauffmann, embarking on journeys with rock (Elio E Le Storie Tese), jazz (Moscow Art Trio), throat singing (Huun-Huur-Tu), hip-hop, and classical fusion (Sarband), whilst preserving its Balkan heritage derived from musical exchanges between Russia, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. Listening to the choir, the boundaries between East and West, young and old, pop and classic seem to disappear.

The Bulgarian Voices Angelite has released many critically acclaimed albums internationally and are multiple Grammy nominees. Globe Music Media Arts is their U.S. record label, and JARO Medien is their European label.

The Bulgarian Voices Angelite offers something that goes beyond the common folk cliché. One listener might think of archaic sound-worlds from far-distant times, another of the marriage of avant-garde and the medieval. The cryptic, mysterious, perhaps even somewhat mystical quality that characterizes the choir's sound arises primarily from the singers' preference for a second voice which is maintained a slight interval to the leading melody. The Bulgarian Voices Angelite produces sounds of the most peculiar vocal timbre, almost as if it was not produced by the human vocal apparatus at all, but by an instrument from some foreign corner of the world. The singers use glissando, shouts, and crazy rhythms. This results in a kind of nearly-dissonant friction as well as a great radiant power similar to an unfolded colour spectrum. The Angelite's voices fan out into a colourfully glowing sound palette that plays with overtone resonance.

The Bulgarian Voices Angelite has performed practically everywhere: this is the choir that amazed the royal families in Holland and Denmark, this is the choir who has performed for the Maharajah of India, and at the Nobel Peace Prize Awards in Oslo. This is the choir for whom Phil Collins recently wrote the song "Transformation," featured on the soundtrack and DVD of Disney's "Brother Bear" hit movie.

In 2013 the Bulgarian Voices Angelite released their current CD “Angelina”: a remarkable music programme, in which the folklore of the ancient times enriches and renders its emotional energy to the music of today.