

Grant to Gora Gora Orkestar for Festo Festo

\$1000 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - August 2022

Report by Tung Pham



July 28, 2022: Gora Gora Orkestar

With the support of the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund, Gora Gora Orkestar was able to reboot Festo Festo, a monthly residency featuring klezmer and Balkan music/dancing that takes place at the Mercury Café (Denver). Gora Gora Orkestar, a brass band, and Hadgaba (more recently known as Denver Klezmer All-Stars), are co-hosts. Due to epidemic, quarantine and safety restrictions, Festo Festo was stopped early in February 2020 after gaining traction with local community support. Thanks to AWLF, we were able to restart in July of 2022 and began our featured artist series in August.



January 26, 2023: Planina

Funds used to support Festo Festo went directly to featured guest artists, including Big Brooklyn, Hal Aqua and the Lost Tribe, and BarbelFish Balkan Band. Additional expenditures during this time included professional photography, live sound and art design. During this time, Festo Festo leadership has sought additional funding opportunities through grants and sponsorship and continues to collect donations at each event. Looking forward, we are aiming to continue featured artist programming in 2023, including: Merkava (February), Gaitani Dance Troupe (March), Polkanauts (April), Boulder Klezmer Consort (May), and Korvin Orkestar (June).



August 25, 2022: Hadgaba

Each event features sets of music performed by the host groups and the guest artist group. A very special feature is the community jam session at the conclusion of every evening. We have had great success in being an inclusive space where musicians and dancers of all abilities are able to access the music and participate. Attendance has been 30 to 60 participants each time, with 120 attending our special New Year's Eve celebration. Community members included amateurs, veteran dancers, music instructors and professional musicians. We have also been successful in attracting younger as well as older adults. As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen this tradition of community building, starting with our guest artists who have asked to share their music for the jam session.



October 27, 2022: Big Brooklyn



November 17, 2022: Hal Aqua and the Lost Tribe