



Marko First was born in 1984 in Zagreb. In 1990 he enrolled in the Blagoja Bersa Music School in Zagreb, where he studied to play the violin. He also plays various other instruments such as guitar, bass guitar, harmonica, and various Croatian traditional instruments. He graduated in philosophy and sociology at the Croatian Studies in Zagreb, defending his thesis on "Philosophy of Music: Meaning, Expressiveness and Understanding". In 1999 he became a member of the Zagreb Folklore Ensemble of Dr. Ivan Ivančan, where since 2006 he has been the conductor of the orchestra. So far, he has collaborated and is collaborating with bands and orchestras: HRT Tamburitza Orchestra, Gubec Quartet, Cinkuši Music Company, Adastra, Picksiebner, Valungari, More Love Ensemble, etc. During 2010 and 2011 he performed as a soloist at the "100 Tamburitza" concerts in Budapest and Zagreb, and from 2009 to 2011 also as a soloist with the Russian National Orchestra of Traditional Instruments "Ossipov", at concerts in Strasbourg, Paris, Moscow and To the UN General Assembly in New York. From 2011 to 2013 he was a permanent member of the accompanying band Massimo Savić and Miroslav Škoro, and from 2017 he plays as a permanent member of the national ensemble LADO.