



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NEW ORLEANS, LA, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

### **What Will the Aliens Think of Us? Blato Zlato to Launch Kickstarter Campaign for "The Discovery of Voyager"**

September 5th marks the 40th Anniversary of the launch of the Voyager 1 spacecraft, the farthest human-made object in space. Coinciding with this historic event, local Balkan band Blato Zlato announced a launch of their own on September 5th: a new Kickstarter campaign raising funds to develop and produce a multimedia performance at New Orleans Airlift's Music Box Village.

In 1977, two space probes named Voyager 1 & 2 were sent out to gain more information about the planets in our solar system and beyond. A team chaired by Carl Sagan compiled music, sounds, and images that were intended to be emblematic of life on Earth, placed them on golden phonographic records, and attached them to the Voyager spacecraft with the hopes that they would one day reach intelligent extraterrestrial life.

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the Voyager launch, Blato Zlato in partnership with New Orleans Airlift and other performers, including local musicians cellist/vocalist Helen Gillet and violinist Rebecca Crenshaw among others, are developing a multimedia performance that depicts an imagined discovery of the Golden Record on board the Voyager. Using dance, visual projection, sampled sounds, and live musical performance, the artists will tell an abstract story of the alien life forms who discover the record and try to make sense of it—and their "record player" is the Music Box Village itself. With a diverse cast of performers from New Orleans and beyond, the resulting sounds and music will be both foreign and familiar, terrifying and beautiful, and distorted with moments of clarity. The performance is scheduled for December 1-2, 2017.

Lou Carrig, accordionist and vocalist of Blato Zlato, explained, "New Orleans Airlift's Music Box Village is the perfect venue for us, alongside an array of world musicians, to experiment with

sound and create new music together in an environment that's unique and other-worldly. The Village was built by a large group of artists who created various musical houses that are playable as instruments themselves. Each house is created entirely from recycled materials, and they require musicians to play, experiment, and create music in a way that is not possible on traditional western instruments. Our performance at the venue will inevitably include elements of experimentation, playfulness, collaboration, and wonder. Performing at the Music Box Village always requires us, the artists, to think creatively and approach music with a beginner's mind, just as aliens might experience listening to Earth's sounds and music for the first time. We are so excited to work with New Orleans Airlift this fall to create a show where the audience will experience what it might be like to discover the sounds of another planet on a Golden Record!" More information on the Music Box Village can be found at [www.musicboxvillage.com](http://www.musicboxvillage.com).

In order to produce the performance which will pay tribute to this important scientific and cultural endeavor, Blato Zlato is excited to announce the launch of a new Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign. With a minimum fundraising goal of \$6,000, funding from this campaign will allow the producers to engage an array of musicians, dancers, and visual artists from New Orleans and beyond. All funds raised through the crowdfunding campaign will be used to compensate the performers and pay for costumes, props, and set needs for the production. [The campaign is located on the web](#) and for a donation between one dollar and one thousand dollars, backers can support this performance with their pledges. In exchange, Blato Zlato is offering a number of valuable rewards including posters from the show, copies of their new limited-edition vinyl 10" album "Voyage" and full-length CD "Swamp Gold", VIP tickets to "The Discovery of Voyager" at the Music Box Village this December, and a personal performance by the band at a donor's home or venue.

Blato Zlato ("Swamp Gold" in Bulgarian) is a New Orleans-based Balkan band featuring dreamy three-part vocal harmonies and hard-hitting instrumentals. Formed in 2015, the band performs folk and composed music from the Balkans and Eastern Europe, with a particular focus on Bulgarian songs and dark, improvisational arrangements. Their debut album, *Swamp Gold*, was released in January 2017 and features traditional Bulgarian and Eastern European melodies interpreted through languid, dark arrangements and improvisational continuous transitions. Their second release, a limited edition 10" golden vinyl named *Voyage*, features a re-interpretation of "Izlel e Delyo Haidutin," the Bulgarian classic included on the original *Voyager* Golden Record. *Voyage* will be released on December 1st, to coincide with "The Discovery of Voyager" performance.

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Kickstarter Campaign:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/blatozlato/1395965800?ref=339410&token=0bae705e>