

## ARTIST BIO

Vid Jamnik was born in 1993 in a family of no musicians except for one of his grandfathers, who has been playing accordion and clarinet for his own pleasure. Despite his encouragement and despite having been a big fan of what could be referred to as “oom-pah music” himself, Vid did not show any particular interest to learn to play a musical instrument at his young age. Until, when he was 8, his mother had decided to enroll him in the local music school, that is.

Having arrived late to the admissions event, Vid could only choose between percussion and piano, all other spots having been already taken. He picked the first and began by learning drums and xylophone. He did that with great pleasure and dedication, but when his teacher Davorin Jevšnikar introduced him to vibraphone, he immediately developed strong affection for its warm tone and expressive possibilities, making it his favorite of all the percussion instruments.

At about the same time he was first exposed to jazz and took part in his first of the many jazz workshops and master classes that followed – a summer jazz school in Grožnjan, Croatia, where he met the legendary Croatian vibraphonist Boško Petrović. Petrović took him under his wing and offered him countless performance opportunities alongside jazz greats, such as Jimmy Cobb, Georgie Fame, Jim Rotondi, Gianni Basso and Dusko Goykovich; thus providing the invaluable performance experience. Not having given up his fondness for classical music quite yet, he achieved great placing in several competitions, including a 2007 win in the Euritmia international young musicians’ competition in Italy. His musical path, however, took an inevitable turn in the jazz direction.

This led Vid to pursue jazz studies at the Carinthian State Conservatory (KONSE) in Austria, starting in 2007 while still in elementary school, continuing parallel to his secondary education in liberal arts at Gymnasium Slovenj Gradec in Slovenia, and graduating in 2012, before finishing gymnasium in 2013. In that period he formed his first band, Vid Jamnik Quartet, with which he later recorded his debut CD, *Last Minute!*, featuring three international guests. It was also during that time that, through the renowned composer Michael Gibbs, Vid got in touch with Gary Burton, who shared his knowledge and experience with the young vibes player, becoming a sort of a mentor figure in his musical life. It was also Burton who recommended Vid to attend Berklee College of Music.

Vid is a performance and jazz composition dual major student of Bachelor’s studies, Berklee Admissions Student Ambassador, received the college’s Most Active Mallet Performer Award, was selected for two consecutive years to record for Jazz Revelation Records’ compilation CD featuring best student bands and compositions, and represented the label at Umbria Jazz Festival in 2015; the recordings also made it to the compilation CD *Jazz Slovenia 2015*, presenting the best of Slovenian jazz. His group, *Urgent Detergent*, focusing on original music, played a Berklee-organized tour in France and made it to the finals of the EBU European Jazz Competition in 2015.

Vid keeps an active performance schedule, both as leader and sideman. He was a member of the Euroradio Jazz Orchestra in 2017, has toured twice as a member of the JM Jazz World Orchestra led by Luis Bonilla, featuring world’s best young jazz musicians, and also toured Taiwan three times with the *Mizform Project*, presenting a unique fusion of traditional Taiwanese music and jazz. He has just premiered a pioneering original work for outdoor iron sculptures and electronic jazz quartet as part of an ongoing project *Viva Jazz Forma* that fuses jazz with elements of techno and electronic music as well as bridges visual and music art worlds.

Vid Jamnik is a Balter Mallets Artist.

*“Mr. Jamnik is one of the most talented young musicians I have met in many years.”*