

# NEWSLETTER



FONDACIJA  
HASTOR

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## The Signing of Scholarship Holder Contracts for the Academic Year 2022/2023



***"The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth."***

- Erasmus of Rotterdam

Centuries ago, Erasmus of Rotterdam concluded how important it is for young people to have a good education because it is they who initiate positive changes in society and represent the future of the country in which they live. Even today, young people who have devoted themselves to education and continuous work on themselves are the great hope of Bosnian society. Often on the way to education, young people need someone to support them when they encounter the challenges that education brings with it. For 16 years, the Hastor Foundation has been providing its scholarship holders with the support they need by firmly believing in their abilities and motivating them to make their dreams a reality.

On Saturday, November 12th 2022, by signing the scholarship agreement, the Hastor Foundation, together with its scholarship holders, opened the first page of another new book, which, like all the previous ones, will undoubtedly be filled with new and inspiring stories.

The scholarship holders were divided into several groups, and they were guided through the signing process by the director of the Hastor Foundation, Seid Fijuljanin, and members of the administration, Amela Dedić and Emra Kulo. At the very beginning, the Director cordially and solemnly greeted all scholarship holders, congratulating them on continuing their journey with the Hastor Foundation in the coming period. He once again reminded them of the importance of the mission and vision of the Hastor Foundation, which every year welcomes new members into its family, who will later contribute and help both their local communities and the entire Bosnian society through volunteering.

Over 500 scholarship holders signed the contracts, and among them were students who are scholarship holders for 16 years, which shows that the Hastor Foundation stays with many scholarship holders until the end of their educational journey. A true example of this is the story of our scholarship holder Almedina Fadžan, for whom this was the 12th scholarship contract signed in a row.



## The Signing of Scholarship Holder Contracts for the Academic Year 2022/2023

On that occasion, Almedina described her journey at the Hastor Foundation:

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*So long ago, in the academic year of 2009/2010, my first scholarship contract was signed. I was finishing elementary school back then, and I can freely say that I went through my entire high school and, now, higher education with the Hastor Foundation. It is not an ordinary scholarship nor am I an ordinary scholarship holder; it is a special relationship of help and support when I needed it most, not only in the field of education but also in my private life. All these years have made the Hastor Foundation an inseparable part of my life story. It painted my path with its color and I am grateful to it for every nuance it added that I now recognize in myself and my relationship with other people and the environment in which I live.*

Semra Islamović has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since 2008, i.e. for 14 years, and in the rest of this text, we present her story about how she became part of the Hastor Foundation and what it means to her today.

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*I have been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since 2008. At that time, teacher Ramo was looking for the best students from the “Muhsin Rizvić” elementary school, so I became a scholarship recipient at the suggestion of my teacher. At that time, at the age of eight, I still wasn't aware of how lucky I was and what it all meant for me, my parents, and my further schooling and education. Today, I realize that that very moment was one of the most important turning points in my life. From the first day, the Foundation was a great wind in my sails and whenever I approached them, they were always ready to provide support and help both to me and to all other scholarship holders.*



After getting acquainted with the rights and obligations that students have as long as they are scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, the director emphasized the importance of mentorship that scholarship holders participate in through the volunteer hours they spend monthly with elementary and high school students. Monthly meetings with students have been held online since the emergence of the COVID-19 in March 2020, however, director Fijuljanin used this opportunity to announce wonderful news - meetings with students will soon begin to take place live. The scholarship holders were delighted to receive this news, considering that after a long time they will once again have the opportunity to speak with the members of their mentoring groups in person, and try to fulfill their role in the best possible way. Amela Dedić and Emra Kulo emphasized the importance of a mentoring relationship, which often continues even after the end of education, between pupils and students, and that relationship is very often accompanied by a friendly relationship full of love, sincerity, and trust, which actually means that the Foundation succeeded in one of its biggest goals and that it will continue at that pace in the future.



# NEWS

## The Signing of Scholarship Holder Contracts for the Academic Year 2022/2023

Our scholarship holder Semra said how much volunteering has meant to her all these years, how much being a member of the Hastor Foundation has meant to her, and how it affects her today:

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*Through volunteer work, I met many people, made new friends, became more independent and creative, more ready for teamwork, and I shared various experiences both with children and with fellow mentors. In my first year of college, I had the opportunity to volunteer with children on the field, and I believe that my greatest successes were those moments when the children I mentored said that they learned something new from me. In my second year, I became part of the English language translation team, which, considering my profession, meant a lot to me. So far, together with my colleagues from this team, I have translated a large number of newsletters, annual reports, and articles on the Hastor Foundation's website, thereby gaining a lot of experience that will surely be useful to me in the future. That's a big improvement for me.*

Helping is a word with a meaning particularly important to all members of the Hastor Foundation because it represents the meaning of the Foundation and its sixteen-year existence and activities. Helping within the framework of the Hastor Foundation is a seed of good that spreads in the direction of young people ready to nurture it and pass it on to others. Each of the signed contracts is a testimony to the spread of that seed and we are proud of the fact that year after year it grows in those on which the world rests. Their actions will bear witness to the good that the Hastor Foundation encourages, and that is precisely why the very act of signing the contract is a ceremony that is especially valuable both to the Hastor Foundation and to all its members.



# SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

## Sara-Medina Šehović

The Hastor Foundation can boast of hard-working, ambitious and successful scholarship holders who achieve notable results in the field of education and science. The Foundation's team consists of young volunteers who contribute to its work, improving it with their knowledge and skills. It is precisely such values and commitment to volunteer engagement within the Hastor Foundation that earn the scholars the title of Scholar of the Month. Read below about Sara-Medina Šehović, the scholarship winner that won this title in November.

In the history of humankind, numerous traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation have been preserved, and today they serve as motivation for successful people to continue confidently walking towards their goals. An extremely motivating tradition was also preserved by the famous thinker and philosopher Confucius, and its fundamental idea is that the will to win, the desire to succeed, and the desire to realize one's full potential are actually the keys that will unlock the door to one's personal excellence. Through almost all of our published texts, we saw that numerous scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation found their golden keys that allowed them to enter the world of excellence. Such is the case with our long-term scholarship holder Sara-Medina Šehović, who comes from Goražde, the heart of eastern Bosnia. In her hometown, she graduated from the "Avdo Smailović" Primary Music School, playing the flute. In addition to successfully balancing attendance at two elementary schools, our Sara-Medina showed significant excellence in both, and that is why she was awarded as the best student of her generation.

After finishing elementary school, she enrolled in the "Richmond Park College" Secondary School, which she also successfully completed in 2020.

In the academic year 2020/2021, she entered the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sarajevo, and is currently in her third year of the first cycle of studies at the Department of Mechanical Production Engineering.

In the conversation with our scholarship holder, we noticed that she emphasized her love for learning, saying that it has existed since she knew herself and that this love never stopped, but changed forms over time, as she tried to create something useful that will benefit the community. Even in primary school, she started participating in general knowledge competitions, as well as in writing literary works and drawing competitions. In addition, she participated in many competitions within the primary music school. She especially singled out her first prize at the International Woodwind Competition held in Požarevac.

She points out that she has had a special love for physics since her elementary school days, and that love significantly determined her life path, since in a certain way she enrolled in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering because of it.





# SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

## Sara-Medina Šehović

Throughout high school, she participated in numerous physics camps organized by the Society of Physicists in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are really a great springboard for young people eager for science. Since she excelled in physics, she continued to participate in various competitions and won first place in the Federal Competition in Physics - Group B, Electromagnetism, Oscillations and Waves, as well as third place in the Selection Competition for the European Physics Olympiad. Sara-Medina believes that her biggest success is precisely the participation in the European Physics Olympiad in 2020, because the best young physicists from all over Europe gather at this competition. The successes of our scholarship holder did not stop with competitions in primary and secondary school. In support of her success is the claim that her average is 9.70 and that thanks to her knowledge and skills she was engaged as a demonstrator in the subjects Physics I and Physics II, while she is currently a demonstrator in the subject Kinematics. Sara-Medina was awarded the title of Scholarship Holder of the Month by her activity and diligent and up-to-date performance of volunteer tasks in the administrative team of the Hastor Foundation. Given that she has been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation since she was in the third grade of high school, it can be said that the Foundation was an important part of her education, but, as she herself points out, also an inspiration for success and the pursuit of her dreams.

*The Hastor Foundation recognized my results, which I am very proud of. Being a member of the Foundation is a success in itself because it is known that it is a community that gathers the best pupils and university students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

About the place and role of the Hastor Foundation in her education, Sara-Medina emphasizes the following:

*For me, the Foundation is not just financial help. What is most valuable to me are the knowledge, experiences and acquaintances I have gained while volunteering. Volunteering at the Foundation makes us active members of the community and, even if we were initially lazy and careless about our environment, volunteering made us see a bigger picture of our society. I have made many friends and met many people at the Foundation and I know that in the future I will always have someone to rely on. The foundation teaches us to be confident in ourselves and the people around us and that we should constantly work to improve ourselves and our environment. We are not even aware of how much we ourselves, as "ordinary" students and pupils, can change things around us. Imagine how much happiness we bring to the elderly we help while volunteering, how many children's smiles we make... The Foundation is actually a great treasure and has the ability to change our society for the better, it taught me many virtues and constantly encourages me to improve in all fields.*

We wish Sara-Medina to remain as hard working and successful as she has been so far, and we hope that such, truly frequent, examples that we have the honour and opportunity to observe within the Hastor Foundation will become a motivating factor for other members of the community to start actively acting and doing what that they love and continue to help each other because that is the core of our existence.

# RAM - RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

Omer Muminović

Rubric of active youth is a place where we introduce the most hard-working scholarship holders of the Foundation every month. Those are the scholarship holders who aim at investing their time and energy into achieving greater goals, improving themselves as well as their community. In the way in which RAM (working memory) is an indispensable part of a computer, the Foundation's work would not be the same without those scholarship holders who, besides volunteering at the Hastor Foundation, work very hard in their own local communities, representing the Hastor Foundation and its mission in the best possible way. RAM is a rubric dedicated to those who actively work on making themselves, as well as their community, better. It is our pleasure to say a few words about one of them each month, and this time, we are writing about Omer Muminović.

Omer Muminović is a scholarship holder who comes from a small and beautiful place located on the slopes of the Majevisa mountain - Teočak, and he has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for two years. He graduated from the Behram Bey madrasa in Tuzla with honors, after which he entered the Department of Economics and International Business at the University of Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST). In his free time, he enjoys reading, writing and going out into nature, and when his duties permit, he likes to watch the new episodes of the quiz "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

This scholarship holder's volunteer journey started in his native Teočak, where for a while he held the position of president of the Teočak Municipality Youth Council, and after enrolling in madrasa, Omer became

active in the Tuzla Community Foundation in the "Youth Bank" program. Thanks to his volunteerism, he visited many European countries and made a large number of important acquaintances that benefited him countless times.

Enrolment at the university and obligations did not prevent him from continuing his volunteer work at the "Source of the Hope" foundation" and the "Youth for Peace" association. As a volunteer in this association, he gained a rich first-hand experience and learned how to unite and repair, rather than divide and destroy, the common heritage and cultural treasures of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He says that all this helped him become part of the Hastor Foundation, which brings together young people from all over the country who share the same or similar interests.





# RAM - RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

Omer Muminović

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*Volunteering made me value things like friendship and helping others in need, and it helped me learn how to take advantage of the opportunities offered at various educations and seminars, which, in the end, improved my personal and professional development. Through my monthly volunteering at the Hastor Foundation, I try to pass on my practical experience to the younger scholarship holders and give them advice on how and where to look for information that will be useful to them in their volunteer and activist engagement, says Omer.*

Omer is currently on a student exchange in the USA as part of the “Global UGRAD Student Exchange Program” at the University of Houston-Victoria in Texas, and what is important to emphasize is that this year he is the only student from Bosnia and Herzegovina who passed the demanding selective process in this program.

Our scholarship holder continued his volunteering in the USA, in the “Meals on Wheels South Texas” organization, where he helps pack and distribute meals for socially vulnerable people, which shows how much this scholarship holder cares about working to change society and the community with his small steps.

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*When you come from a small country like Bosnia and Herzegovina to the USA, you change your perspective on some things and notice that everything is actually in your head and in your thoughts. If we are aware that even the smallest change we make can have some impact on others, on our local community and the people who live in it, we should make that change and go in that direction, and not think what others will say or discourage and demotivate ourselves, concludes Omer.*

He points out that he derives his motivation for constant activity from a certain revolt that awoke in him when he realized that the people he was surrounded by were often passive and uninterested in changes that would make life easier for many. He realized that he knows what he wants to achieve in life and that in order to fulfil the mission and vision of his life, he has to climb many steps. When he happens to stop, he just looks back at his previous experience, which in those moments motivates him and forces him to move forward. On his way to fulfilling his mission and vision, the Hastor Foundation and all its scholarship holders who are united around the same ideas - philanthropy and volunteerism - stand as strong support.





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*The Hastor Foundation has helped me a lot in my personal and professional development. It gave me the opportunity to transfer everything I have learned so far through informal and formal education and various trips to other scholarship holders. If you, as a person, collect knowledge and experience, and you have no one to pass it on to, it remains only for you and there is no dissemination of it. It was through the Foundation that I managed to encourage others to be active and to move from place to place and to start achieving their personal goals, ambitions and dreams, and it gives me great pleasure to see that I succeeded in my intention. The Hastor Foundation is a place that gives us the opportunity to come forward at any moment with an idea that it will generously and unconditionally support.*

Omer has a strong message for the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation:

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*Don't be afraid to be different and do things that will bring only good to you and others. You have to be brave to get out of your comfort zone and meet new people, but you also have to be aware of your possibilities and potential, which you will find out the easiest if you go outside your local community. When you spend some time with other people, learn new information, improve your knowledge and skills, then you are ready to go back to your house and try to change what you wanted before you left, and maybe you were not strong enough or did not have the extra experience to do it then.*

Through his successful academic and volunteer career, Omer has shown that with effort, dedication and constant work, there are almost no limits to the realization of personal and professional ideas. His trip to the USA and the rich volunteer experience that he continued outside the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina will surely serve as an example to all scholarship holders who plan to gain additional experience in other countries, and return to their native country and transfer their knowledge to others.





# ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

## Alma Drljević-Mašić

Much like the roots of a tree, scholarship holders remain connected to the Hastor Foundation even after they complete their education. Such roots are hard to tear up because of the relationship which can quite often be tremendously strong, unbreakable, and filled with connection, which is abundant with positive emotions and beautiful memories from the school days which are now behind them. In that way, former scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation keep a connection with the Foundation which was the main reliance and support in their lives. Time goes by, and people face all kinds of changes and many memories fade when replaced with new and more interesting events. There is only one thing that remains unchanged in every scholar's life regardless of age, and that is their attachment to the Hastor Foundation.

Written above is reflected in the relationship between our alumni and the Foundation. One of them is Alma Drljević-Mašić, who graduated from the Department of Social work at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo. She currently lives and works in her hometown Goražde. Since 2015, she has been employed as a professional associate for children's protection at the Social Work Centre. She is married and has two children.

Alma became a scholarship holder and volunteer of the Hastor Foundation in the initial days of the Foundation, in 2006 more precisely, and she kept that status up until completing her postgraduate studies which makes her part of the first generation of scholarship holders. On a monthly basis, Alma spent 16 hours of her volunteer work with a group of elementary school students from Goražde. She says that she volunteered usually on the weekends on the premises of the

elementary school. Her role primarily was to help students to master the material from subjects they had difficulties with.

Besides studying, they had free activities as well, where they hung out, played, had field trips and above all, through all of these activities, bonded emotionally knowing that they are part of the same family – the Hastor Foundation. In addition to volunteering in the field, our alumna also had the opportunity to volunteer as part of the administrative team in the Hastor Foundation office. As a then-student of social work, she tried to implement and direct what she had learned directly in the field by volunteering with younger scholarship holders.





# ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Alma Drijević-Mašić

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*I always looked forward the most to our monthly student meetings in which we had different workshops in order to make our role in the community larger and more significant. There are also the communal scholarship holders' field trips of which I have fond memories because to this day they create pictures of real friendship in my head.*

It is also very important to mention the financial support which was of great importance throughout her studies. As we already mentioned, she currently works on children protection and has an opportunity to work with families which are in a tough socio-economic situation. She gladly uses the opportunity to, if they have children who go to school, present to them the work and mission of the Hastor Foundation so that any child who wants to move forward gets a chance to be part of that life-long story.

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*Following the work of the Hastor Foundation until now, I can freely say that its role and mission are even more strengthened because of what we started, the current scholarship holders are developing even further and they are widening the range of the Foundation's work. Its role remained the same – to connect young people who are ready to take on current challenges in one place. A lot of fond memories connect me with the then-members and management of the Hastor Foundation because those people were the ones who went through all the challenges with us, and were the greatest support towards realizing our dreams. Every student needs some wind at their back whose presence is never forgotten. The Foundation has been that to all of us and that is why we carry it in ourselves while we look at some new generations occupying the space where we used to sign our contracts.*

When we look down the roads of success along which our alumni walk, we feel a sense of happiness, for we as well are going to walk along those same roads while carrying the Hastor Foundation in our hearts.



# CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Statehood Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The wise Hegel once said, ***The state must be treated as a great architectonic structure, as a hieroglyph of the reason which reveals itself in actuality.*** The great architectonic structure of our state has been built and shaped for centuries, with its first contours appearing on November 25, 1943. Today this day is celebrated as Bosnia and Herzegovina's Statehood Day, but 79 years ago it was the day when the State Anti-Fascist Council of the National Liberation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ZAVNOBiH) convened its first session and passed important decisions concerning the state and legal status of our country. Almost eight decades ago, the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina have stated their wish for a multicultural country. Eight decades later the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina still proudly and undoubtedly attract all the nations and nationalities under its wing and sends out the important message to the world that multi-ethnicity and equality should be respected and cherished, because diversity is our self-expression and a way to become broad-minded people. However, besides everything already stated, the multiculturalism of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be found many decades ago—even before the first session of ZAVNOBiH—so keep reading to learn more about an invaluable cultural heritage of our country.

This multiculturalism Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with its citizens, cherishes through the preservation and safekeeping of its diverse and rich cultural heritage. We sometimes forget that the scripts and literature make up a considerable part of our heritage and that books are the treasured wealth of the world and invaluable heritage of past nations. Both Bosnia and Herzegovina Statehood Day and multiculturalism suggested the topic of this month's section "Cultural Heritage."

One of the most distinguished examples of cultural heritage preservation is the Sarajevo Haggadah, kept with due care in the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The word "haggadah" (from Hebrew, meaning story, account) is a collection of religious rules and traditions arranged into the praying order observed on Passover, the holiday celebrating the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Haggadahs were especially important during the ceremonial family dinner—the Seder, when all household members and guests, book in hand, read or followed the accounts of the journey to freedom and everything else that was connected, in a ceremonial sense, with that well-known Old Testament story.



# CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Statehood Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Sarajevo Haggadah is composed of 142 leaves of parchment, 16.5 cm x 22.8 cm in size, made out of thin, bleached calf skin. The first 34 leaves feature 69 miniatures (drawings) showing the Creation of the World, slavery in Egypt, coming out of Egypt under Moses' leadership and all the way to the succession of Joshua, son of Nun. The last four miniatures are an exception, in that they are not biblical in character. The next 50 leaves contain the text of the Haggadah, written in the mediaeval Hebrew, Spanish-type square script. The last part of the book is a subsequently added poetic and ceremonial appendix containing poems by some of the most famous Hebrew poets from the so-called golden era of Hebrew literature: Yehudah Halevi, Yitzhak ben Yehudah ibn Ghiyyath, Salomon ibn Gabirol and others. Based on stylistic analysis of the illuminations and miniatures contained in its pages, it was determined that the book was made in mediaeval Spain, in the former kingdom of Aragon, most likely in Barcelona, around 1350. There is a high possibility that it may have been a present for the wedding of members of two prominent families, Shoshan and Elazar, because their coats of arms – a shield with a rosette and a wing – are featured on the page showing the coat of arms of the city of Barcelona.

According to a note from the book itself, it changed owners after the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. A note from 1609 says that the book does not contain anything directed against the Church, probably the result of a content check by the Inquisition. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the book was in the north of Italy, as confirmed by two short notes on its pages. The circumstances under which

it made its way into Bosnia, as well as when that happened, are still a mystery.

It is speculated that the Haggadah changed owners in the 16th century and entered Bosnia through Croatian cities Split and Dubrovnik. Not long after that, the Haggadah's first reliable trace in history appears again in 1894, when the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina purchased it from the Sarajevo Sephardic family Koen for the sum of 150 crowns. The place where the Sarajevo Haggadah will be kept and its future were influenced by World War II events. In the first days following the occupation of Sarajevo by the German forces in 1941, German authorities demanded that the famous leather-bound codex be handed over. The Sarajevo Haggadah was then put on a safer place. The quest for it is an indication enough of its extraordinary value.

Just recently the Sarajevo Haggadah has been displayed and become accessible to the general public, and it is kept in an especially secure place in the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These facts about the Sarajevo Haggadah – both those inferred through research and analysis as well as those known to us from the notes on its pages – make it a priceless resource for studying the cultural history of a nation and a living witness of the open-mindedness and multiculturalism of a society and country. The value of the Sarajevo Haggadah is also seen in the fact that it belongs to the world's most prized illuminated manuscripts, taking in consideration that there are only a few examples of this type of manuscript in the world.

# LENS

## The Signing of Scholarship Holder Contracts for the Academic Year 2022/2023

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# POET'S CORNER

## *What is Bosnia to me?*

Bosnia.  
One name.  
One name for which thousands and thousands of hearts  
known and unknown beat.

But what is Bosnia, truly?  
For some it is a mere stain on the map.  
But for me... For me it's a second mother.  
For me Bosnia and Herzegovina is the most beautiful country  
in the world.

And if the planet were a tree,  
and the countries its leaves,  
only one, one tiny leaf would be noticed  
by me and thousands and thousands of others.

Bosnia.  
She may be small,  
but I know for sure it is the strongest country in the world.  
Many enslaved her, but she always broke free.  
Many writers wrote about her.  
Many critics criticised.  
But never was it enough and never will it be.

Hear the spring of the Bosnia River at Ilidža rippling  
Hear the swaying trees of the Vlašić mountain  
Hear the church bells during the day. And the sounds of the  
adhan at night.  
Hear the wind walking across distant mountains.  
Hear the song of sevdalinka.  
Hear the ducats on the girls' chests, while they  
are dancing the kolo. And the shouts of the boys.

That is Bosnia.  
An anthem without a voice, a lily without hate and a country  
without fear.

*Ajdin Ibrahimović*