



*Fuad* Backovic - Deen was born in Sarajevo on April 14, 1982. After completing High School in Sarajevo, he remained in the city and studies at the Economic University. Deen has always had a strong passion for music, so while going to High School he also attended classes in Musical High School where he was able to focus on opera and solo singing.

Deen took his first steps into the music field when he was only twelve years old. At that age he recorded his first song in the "Studio number 1," owned by Bosnia and Herzegovina Public Broadcasting System. This first project resulted in his talent being noticed by not only many music critics, but also important people in the Bosnian music production industry. In 1997, Deen received a proposition from Gordan Radic-Gogi, the frontman of the group "Seven Up," to become the lead singer of this boy band.

He accepted the offer, and, in the following five years, "Seven Up" released two albums named "Otvori Oci" ("Open your eyes") and "Seven" respectively. Their success was not limited to the music market in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but instead spread to neighboring countries as their popularity grew. The success and popularity of the group was soon followed by many prestigious awards.

In 1998, because of his exceptional vocal abilities, Deen received an offer from the National Theater of Bosnia and Herzegovina to accept the role of lead singer for the opera choir during their production of "Carmina Burana." Accepting this offer presented Deen the opportunity to showcase all of his abilities as a lyrical tenor. His vocal abilities earned him praise from some of the most prestigious artists in the Ex-Yugoslav republics, including Davorin Popovic (Index's), Kemal Monteno, Hajrudin Varesanovic - Hari Mata Hari, with whom Deen sang a duet, as well as the beautiful Croatian singer Vlatka Pokos, with whom he recorded the great hit "Poljubi me" ("Kiss me"), and, finally, last year he recorded a duet with Serbian superstar Anabela (Funky G) named "Ja imam nekog" ("I have somebody").

We should also note that during his career, this youthful artist has performed numerous times in the Bosnian competition for the "Song of Europe" Eurosong, and has accomplished exceptional results. In 1998, with the boy band "Seven Up," he took second place, performing the song "Daj spusti se" ("Come

on, get down"). Two years later he returned to the competition as a solo artist and took sixth place with the song "10 milijona ljubavi" ("10 Million Loves"). In 2003 he tried his luck once again with a song named "Taxi", and came just short of winning with a second place finish. Finally, in 2004, Deen won the Bosnia and Herzegovina Eurosong competition and will be representing his country in Istanbul this May at the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest.

Deen's first solo album, "Ja sam vjetar zaljubljeni" ("I am the wind of love"), was released in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the production house "Naraton". "Naraton" recorded exceptional sales of over 60,000 albums (CD and MC) for this first solo endeavor. This number does not count the illegal copies which are also a reality in this country. "Naraton's" specialist in sales estimated that, including these illegal copies of the album, the approximate number of sales would be somewhere around 100,000 copies in Bosnia and Herzegovina which is a phenomenal number for this small country. The album was also released in Serbia and Montenegro, and Macedonia, this time by the "City Records" publishing house. During the album's promotion in Serbia, it was announced that throughout its first three weeks on the charts, the album outsold the most popular star in Serbia. The final sales numbers from this territory were never released, but the fact that "City Records" offered to release new material to all the mentioned territories, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, suggests that this project exceeded all expectations.

While "City Records" released the material in Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, it was production house "Orfej" that released the album in Croatia and Slovenia. The success of the album in these two territories is exhibited by the fact that the biggest production house in Croatia, "Croatia Records," took over the rights to publish Deen's next material. For his next CD, "Croatia Records" has given Deen the same rights as its most popular group, "Colonia," another direct indication of the success of his solo project. Furthermore, Deen's vocal talents can be heard on over 30 different albums, which is a great success taking in consideration that Deen is only 21 years old.

We can not talk about all of these successes and not mention the numerous awards that Deen has received in response to his musical success. "Oscar Popularnosti" (Music Oscars) are given by music professionals in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was one of the first awards Deen received upon the release of his first album. In 2002, he received seven of these Oscars, including Album of the Year, Single of the Year, and Artist of the Year. In the years following the release of his first CD, various media in Bosnia including TV "Hayat", Radio "M", Radio "Stari Grad", and "Dnevni Avaz", pronounced Deen as an absolute winner and the best artist of the year. At the first "Radijski festival," Deen received the "Grand Prix" prize for the Best Song of the Year for his interpretation of the song "Lazi Me" ("Lie to me"). The recognition continued at the first Bosnia and Herzegovina "Davorin" awards with wins in four

prestigious categories; Album of the Year, Production of the Year, Song of the Year, and Pop Singer of the Year.

The neighboring countries outside of his native Bosnia and Herzegovina also honored Deen. During the manifestation "Viktor i Viktorija" in Serbia Deen received an award acknowledging him as the "most listened to" singer in Serbia & Montenegro as well as Macedonia At Croatia 's "Hit proljeca" festival, Deen came in first place with the song "Poljubi me" ("Kiss me"). The awards we have listed here are the most prestigious of the multitude of awards and recognition Deen has received for his solo album "Ja sam vjetar zaljubljeni" and his performances.

*The* many concerts that Deen has played in Bosnia and Herzegovina Serbia & Montenegro Croatia Slovenia and Macedonia are only part of the picture. His music also touches the people who emigrated from these countries and settled in Switzerland Germany and many Scandinavian countries, to name a few. Deen's talent, as illustrated in this biography, gives you just a taste of how and why Deen has become such an influence and power in the music industry in this territory.