

## MARTA SEBESTYEN

Born in Budapest (1957), Marta grew up surrounded with music. Her mother, a music teacher studied with the great composer, scholar and ethnomusicologist – Zoltan Kodaly. At 12 years age, she already knew that her life would be bound to music. Having a wonderful voice, she is one of the most authentic interpreters of the hungarian traditional folk music – is a real world star. She gave and is still giving concerts all over the world both as a solo artist and also as a guest performer with several hungarian and international folk groups. Marta sang for H.M. Queen Elisabeth II., the japanese Emperor or the spanish Royal Family upon diplomatic events. Her collaboration with the french group Deep Forest “resulted” a Grammy Award in 1996, she recorded with Peter Gabriel and has been discovered by other genres as well such as the film. She was the voice of the “English Patient” awarded with 9 Oscars (*also for the music!*) in 1997.

Most important awards:

- 1974 – Young Master Of Folk Arts*
- 1984 – Singer of the Year / King Stephen, Rockopera)*
- 1988 – Niveau Prize For The Hungarian Culture*
- 1991 – Liszt Ferenc Prize ( the most prestigious musical prize in Hungary)*
- 1993 – Emerton Prize*
- 1994 – The Officer’s Honorable Cross of the Hungarian Republic*
- 1996 – Grammy Award in worldmusic category for the Deep Forest Album – La Boheme*
- 1996 – Golden Giraffe (Prize of the Hungarian Record Industry)*
- 1997 – Emerton Prize, Folksinger of the Year*
- 1998 – International Interlira Prize*
- 1998 – Déri János Prize (1 golden Forint)*
- 1998 – The Oscar for best Filmmusic and Main Theme in the film “The English Patient”)*
- 1999 – Kossuth Award (the highest prize given by the goverment for artists in Hungary)*
- 1999 – For Budapest Prize (for making Hungarian folkmusic world famous)*
- 2000 – Hungarian Arts Award*
- 2000 – Hungarian Heritage Award*
- 2003 – Prima Primissima Award - (Hungarian Prize “Best among the Best” – folkartist category)*
- 2004 – SFOA, Diploma alla Carriera/ Italy/*
- 2004 – Honorable citizen prize in the 1.st district of Budapest*
- 2004 – PREMIO, Chianciano Fellini Award / Italy/*
- 2005 – Middle Cross of the Hungarian republic Award of the Minister of Culture of Bulgaria,*
- 2005 – Middle Cross of the Hungarian republic*
- 2005 – Knights Cross of the Italian republic, given by Azeoglio Campi / Head of State*
- 2006 – Honorable citizen prize in the XIX.th district of Budapest*
- 2007 – Ambassador of the Hungarian Culture / together with Nobel Prize Winner writer Imre Kertész, the great pianist Zoltan Kocsis, Lady Valerie Solti / widow of the great conductor Sir George Solti/, Iván Fischer the famous conductor and Laszlo Feber the famous painter/*
- 2007 – Honorary member of the Hungarian Academy of Arts*