



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

MAY 10, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 18

Concert of violinist Anja Bukovec at the Embassy

On Friday, May 3, 2013, the Embassy of Slovenia, in cooperation with The Embassy Series, organized a concert that featured one of the most renowned Slovenian violinists, Anja Bukovec.

More than 90 guests were welcomed by Ambassador Roman Kirn, whereas Mr. Jerome Barry, the founder of The Embassy Series, presented the work of the organization. Since 1994, the series has offered to its audiences the opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange -- to watch and listen to musical performances that highlight the contributions of a particular country.



Anja Bukovec accompanied by pianist George Peachley.

Anja, accompanied by pianist George Peachey, presented to the audience a wide range of musical genres, performing music by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Kreisler and Copeland, as well as themes from Fiddler on the Roof, arranged by John Williams, and from the musical The Addams Family, tango stints by Astor Piazzolla,

music by Slovenian composer Mihael Rožanc and Yugoslavian folk music by Božidar Milošević.

In his review, Gary Tischler wrote: "Bukovec approached her music in a kind of undaunted fashion—to use a sports analogy she seemed to step up to the plate with every part of the performance, respectful but also joyful on



Beethoven's Sonata for Violin and Piano in F Major, a performance that satisfied everyone's taste and longing for one of the great works in the Western canon." Furthermore, he pointed out that: "She has played with many of the best orchestras in Europe and won numerous musical competitions, so there is no question of pedigree. But she has another quality—a willingness to run across bridges, bridge gaps and mix genres with a stylish adeptness."

Born in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Anja Bukovec began her first violin lessons at the

age of five and,, at the age of thirteen, continued her schooling at the Music Conservatorium in Prague and later in Vienna and Cologne, where she graduated in 2001. Next to her technical perfection, she excels because of her distinctive style, highly virtuosic interpretation and communication with the audience that present classical music in a unique way attracting wide audiences. Her records, Gemini (2007), Follow (2008) and Chameleon (2009) are best sellers among classical records.

As a solo performer and member of chamber music

casts, she performed all over Europe, in Australia, China, Canada, and the United States. Anja has been collaborating with Alban Berg Quartet, Igor Ozim, En Shao, Uroš Lajovic, Marko Letonja, multiple BAFTA award winner Christopher Gunning and top pop/rock artists such as Jeff Healey. She also had the honor of performing exclusively for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Last time in Washington, D.C., she performed at the Kennedy Center.

More information about Embassy Series is available at: <http://www.embassyseries.org/>

EU

Europe Day

Yesterday, on May 9, the European Union celebrated Europe Day to commemorate the day in 1950 when French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposed consolidation of the coal and steel industries of Europe, binding nations so closely together that renewed war would be unthinkable. The "Schuman Declaration" is considered to be the beginning of the creation of what is now the European Union of 27 Member States -- very soon 28 Member States -- with half a billion people living in peace together.

Writing in the Huffington Post, Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of the E.U. Delegation to the United States, noted that: "Our current challenges are still considerable. But we need to look at the larger perspective and see how far we have come since 1950. I spent the first 17 years of my life growing up under a dictatorship in Portugal -- it meant a lack of basic freedoms, no democracy and wide-spread poverty. It isn't some distant history -- and yet

our free and modern Europe is such a far cry from those days."

"The values that united and guided the E.U. from war to peace have become values we project outside our borders and that others around the world want to embrace. With the United States, we work to promote peace and security in places that desperately need it, promote free and fair elections and fight for human rights," Ambassador Vale de Almeida writes. "Schuman foresaw that 'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.' He was absolutely right, and on Europe Day I'm happy to note that his vision of a peaceful, united Europe is alive and well."

A series of events as part of this year's Europe Week were held across Slovenia. Highlights included the European Film Week, which featured free screenings of 18 select European film productions and a drop-in session with the European Commissioner for the



Environment, Janez Potočnik, to discuss topics such as the European Union, European citizenship, environment, and economy.

Main squares of several cities across the country are hosting, from Tuesday to Saturday, various information and social activities as part of the Europe Week, including in Maribor, Celje, Ljubljana, Slovenj Gradec and Nova Gorica. The activities aimed to provide European citizens an insight into their rights and opportunities in the 27-nation bloc. A number of activities in which participants have been able to test their knowledge of the E.U., win prizes and discuss E.U.'s cultural heritage with European volunteers from other member states have also been taking place.

Piran - Indianapolis Exchange

The University of Primorska and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) have been engaged in video conferencing in tourism classes to connect students in the 2012-13 term. As part of the collaboration, Miha Lesjak, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Primorska, Faculty of Tourism -Turistica, Portorož, located in Piran, Slovenia, is currently on an exchange visit to Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). His visit is hosted by Sotiris Hji-Avgoustis, IUPUI faculty member. The future plans between The University of Primorska and IUPUI include continuation of video-conferencing of classes, academic research and projects, and exchange of academic staff. Discussion is underway to expand the current tourism relationship to other IUPUI academic departments.

Indianapolis, IN, and Piran became Sister Cities in September 2001; therefore, Mr. Lesjak is working with the Indianapolis-Piran Sister City Committee (IPSCC) members to expand the relationship between Piran and Indianapolis. He is assisting in developing resources for Indianapolis elementary and secondary teachers to include lessons on Piran and Slovenia. Other projects include advising on IPSCC participation in Indianapolis Sister Cities film festival and cultural festival (both events in September 2013).

On May 2, representatives of IUPUI and IPSCC joined Mr. Lesjak in meeting Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard for discussion of current and future Sister City projects. The presentation included exchange of gifts and letters from Mayor Ballard and Piran Mayor, Peter Bossman. Mayor Ballard will be traveling to Piran in September



Miha Lesjak with mayor of Indianapolis Mr. Gregory A. Ballard.

and is expected to be joined by IUPUI faculty members and IPSCC members. More information: www.indy.gov/globalindy

CULTURE

SEE Fest 2013

After five days in five locations and 40 films shown to diverse audiences in Los Angeles, the South East European Film Festival, SEEFest 2013, concluded Monday night at UCLA's Bridges Theater in Los Angeles with Turkish film Present Tense in a double bill with a short from Switzerland Where Do We Go from Here.

The Slovenian film shown at the festival on Friday, May 3, was Feed Me with Your Words (Nahrani me z besedami) by the young Slovenian writer Martin Turk. Walking a fine line between mystery, thriller and psychological drama, Turk's debut feature follows an estranged father and his older son on an anguished trip, and casts renowned Slovenian



A scene from the film Feed Me with Your Words.

actors Sebastian Cavazza, Jure Henigman, Boris Cavazza, Maša Derganc, and Miranda Caharija.

South East European Film Festival educates about and promotes cultural diversity of Southeast Europe through its annual presentations of films from this region and year-

round screenings and programs. Every year, SEE FEST organizes conferences and retrospectives, serves as the cultural hub and resource for scholars and filmmakers, and creates opportunities for cultural exchange between Southern California and Southeast Europe.

Jesenice



Panoramic view on Jesenice (Source: www.slovenia.info)

The town of Jesenice, which lies on the southern, Slovenian, side of the mountain range of Karavanke in the Upper Carniola region, got its name from the name of the ash tree (in Slovene: jêsen), which once grew in abundance locally. The German name for Jesenice is Aßling, which was first mentioned already in a 1004 deed of donation issued by King Henry II of Germany – at that time there were no settlements there and the name Assling only marked an area on the banks of the Jesenica Creek. Later, a settlement slowly started to grow around the area now known as Murova, where St. Leonard's church is located today. However, the history of Jesenice is closely connected with its ironworks and metallurgy industries, which until recently were driving force of the town's development in practically all areas.

The oldest source on the early history of Jesenice is

a list of mining rights, issued to the Carinthian counts of Ortenburg, dating to 1381, but the first settlements in the area were founded on the southern slopes higher in Karavanke (rather than in the Sava Valley,

where Jesenice now lies) due to need for wood, flowing water for mills, and iron ore. With the development of new techniques of extraction of iron from ore, the need for water energy grew, and the small streams on the slopes of the Karavanke were no longer sufficient. The ore-extracting industry was relocated in 1538, when Bernardo Bucellini from Bergamo gained permission from the Habsburg King Ferdinand I to move the ironworks to a larger water source, the Sava, creating a settlement that was to become Jesenice. The ironworks, however, continued to mine iron ore on the slopes of the Karavanke.

Different iron foundries belonged to different owners (the Zois, Ruard, and Bucellini families) and did not interact.



Above the town of Jesenice, one can find Golica (6,024 ft), a peak especially known for its fields of wild white narcissi, swathes of which cover Golica and surrounding pastures in late April and early May.



Jesenice in 1907.

This situation continued until the arrival of capitalist liberalism in the 19th century. Compared to other foundries around the world at the time, the Jesenice ironworks were very out of date. The need for their modernization was apparent, but this would have required vast amounts of capital, which was not available. Help was offered by a family of bankers from Ljubljana, the Luckmann family. They agreed to modernize the iron foundries, but demanded the foundation of a new shareholder company.

The company, named Kranjska Industrijska Družba (KID) (Carniolan Industrial Company), was founded on September 18, 1869 by the Luckmann family. This was the first time that all the Upper Carniolan ironworks were joined under a single administration, with central management in Ljubljana and business administration in Jesenice. The greatest achievement of KID was the discovery of a process for obtaining ferromanganese in a smelting furnace. This innovation

brought KID a gold medal at the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1873 and worldwide fame. The Jesenice ironworks achieved a status of a pioneering center of technical invention in the history of ironworking.

KID was also the basis for a new ironworks facility, which still provides employment today. The new facility started expanding quickly, from medieval-style iron foundries to up-to-date modern ironworks in just a few years. The town of Jesenice grew almost exponentially, with a great influx of people attracted to the newly created jobs.

In Slovenia, Jesenice is best known as the home of Slovenia's largest steel company, Acroni, and the hockey club it sponsored, Acroni Jesenice. Unfortunately, the latter doesn't exist anymore, but it is hockey club HD Mladi Jesenice, that continues the rich hockey tradition in Jesenice. The club has been very successful, indeed, as Anže Kopitar, its long time member is now ice hockey center and alternate captain of

the Los Angeles Kings of the NHL, the first Slovenian to play in the League. In 2012, Kopitar helped win the first Stanley Cup championship in the Kings' history.

As far as natural beauties, above the town of Jesenice, one can find Golica (6,024 ft), a peak especially known for its fields of wild white narcissi, swathes of which cover Golica and surrounding pastures in late April and early May. This marks the beginning of a popular time for mountaineers to visit, extending through the end of summer. The slopes provide great views of the Julian Alps and Austrian Carinthia, and the Ljubljana Basin can be seen from the summit on clear days.

Golica is perhaps the most famous as the subject of the 1953 Slavko Avsenik polka Na Golici (On Golica), perhaps the Avsenik Ensemble's most popular song, but also known to be the most played instrumental song in the world.

The slopes of Golica are today used as pastures for sheep, but until 1957 locals from the settlements at its foot would clear the entire slope of grass for hay. The best way to reach the peak is from Jesenice via the mountain village of Planina pod Golico, where Church of the Holy Cross (Cerkev Svetega Križa) is located. The church was built in the late 17th century by the Bucellini family, the Italian owners of mines in the surrounding area. After the church was built, the nucleus of the village Planina pod Golico developed around it. Until the mid-20th century, the village itself held the name of the church – Sveti Križ.

Embassy of Slovenia Invites You to the EU Open House

The Delegation of the European Union to the United States and the Embassies of the 27 EU Member States to the United States and Croatia will open their doors to Washington public during the seventh Annual EU Embassies' Open House Day. This annual event is a highlight of the Washington May calendar and is celebrated during the Europe Week.

Each embassy will be open to the public **from 10 am until 4 pm on Saturday, May 11, 2013**, offering a rare look inside the buildings and providing a unique opportunity for experiencing the country's cultural heritage and national traditions. Free shuttle bus service will be provided throughout the day.

If you want to learn about the best Slovenian tourist attractions, taste Slovenian cuisine and wine, admire an exhibition of Slovenian landscape paintings by Jože Svetina,



Slovenian embassy is located at 2410 California Street, NW (near Massachusetts Ave; 24th Street and S Street).

listen to polka music performed on accordion by Alex Gergar, talk with the friendliest staff about history, economy, and politics of Slovenia, or if you want your kids to listen to traditional Slovenian stories and play in the special kids' corner - -

than you will love the Embassy of Slovenia. We are looking forward to seeing you!

The schedule for the day is available at: <http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=51&L=1>



Shortcut to Europe:
European Union **EMBASSIES'**
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday **May 11th 2013** 10am - 4pm

Consular Hours in New York City

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and provide consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City **on Friday, May 17, 2013**, at the premises of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 600 Third Avenue, 24th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10016.

To schedule an appointment, please, fill out the form available at the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at vwa@gov.si by May 15, 2013, to allow

the embassy enough time to verify your data.

The embassy will suggest the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring along. You may also visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for documents required for most consular services. Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a Money Order made out to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.



TO DO LIST

[Avsenik Music Workshop](#)

Music School Avsenik invites all accordion players and other Slovenian musicians from abroad to attend an Avsenik Music Workshop. The workshop will take place in Begunje na Gorenjskem, Slovenia, from August 19 through 23, 2013. The participants will learn the special Avsenik technique of playing the instrument and have a chance to perform in a final concert on August 22. **Application deadline is May 15.** Entry form and the details are available at (in Slovene): http://shop.avsenik.com/images/stories/Razpis_delavnice_izseljenci_2013-konna_varianta.doc and <http://shop.avsenik.com/en/music-school/304-avsenik-za-izseljence>

For more information you can also contact: urad.slovinci@gov.si

[6th International Language Summer Camps in Slovenia](#)

Camp programs are made for children aged 5 to 15. All workshops will be held in the English and Slovenian languages. Other languages can be involved (see individual dates below). In the Camps, workshops, best suitable for children aged 10 to 15, will be held in English or German by native speakers. Children will actively experience the living world and learn to live in unspoiled nature together with their peers and farm animals, discover the environment, get to know the Slovenian countryside traditions and the way of life on a farm, practice and improve everyday communication in a chosen foreign and Slovene language.

The list of camps and more information are available at: <http://www.kozjanski-raj.si/en-US/When>