



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Accordionist Marko Hatlak Performs in Washington

Within the framework of the Conversations in Culture, a monthly series which features some of the best of European culture, including music, visual arts, theater, culinary arts, and literature, presented by the Delegation of the European Union in Washington, D.C., Slovenian accordionist Marko Hatlak, on October 15, performed for some 100 guests. After introductory remarks by the Deputy Head of the E.U. Delegation, Mr. François Rivasseau, Marko Hatlak explored the versatility of the accordion in



Marko Hatlak performed within the framework of the Conversations in Culture series.

a solo concert featuring baroque, contemporary, and folk music.

In a diverse program, he presented pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach, Astor Piazzola, Richard Galliano, Vlatko Stefanovski, as well as Vlado Kreslin, Iztok Mlakar, Slavko Avsenik, and Metallica, using a unique, original interpretation of each individual piece. During the performance, he enlivened the program with amusing stories

about the pieces, and spiced up some of them by singing, fascinating the audience with an unforgettable experience.

Hatlak has been present on Slovenian and international stages since 2000. He played as a soloist with symphony orchestras in Slovenia and abroad – Moscow Philharmonic, Jena Philharmonic, RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra, and others; in chamber music ensembles





Address by the Deputy Head of the E.U. Delegation, Mr. François Rivasseau.



The event was attended by some 100 guests.

with various internationally renowned musicians – Stefan Milenković, Vlatko Stefanovski, Stefan Hussong, Miho Maegaito, Una Palliser, Mate Bekavac, Karmina Šilec, Neil Innes and Tommy Emmanuel; and in tango and ethno ensembles – Marko Hatlak & Funtango,

Distango, and Terrafolk. In this period, he recorded several records with a repertoire of tango, contemporary, baroque, classical, and ethno music. He provided music for film and theater as well as performed shows for primary school students.

The event was organized in conjunction with the Embassy of Slovenia, which provided for the evening some Slovenian wine and tourism publications, while the delegation arranged a reception with some traditional Slovenian food.

## E.U.-U.S. JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

# “Safe Implementation of Innovative Nanoscience and Nanotechnology” (SIINN)

ERA-NETs are “European Research Area networks” that combine national and regional resources to create transnational programs of research, often including international partners like the U.S. The SIINN ERA-NET promotes the safe and rapid transfer of research results in nanoscience and nanotechnology (N&N) into industrial applications. SIINN will bring together today’s fragmented research activities

on the potential risks of manufactured nanomaterials for environment, human health, and safety.

Ten funding agencies from 8 countries, including the United States, launched the Third Joint Transnational Call 2014 of the ERA-NET SIINN on October 1, 2014. This call provides an excellent opportunity for E.U.-U.S. scientific cooperation, with funding for U.S.-based researchers by the National

Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

Funding will be offered to innovative projects focusing on:

- Exposure assessment
- Toxicity mechanisms
- Effects of manufactured nanomaterials on human health
- Environmental impacts of manufactured nanomaterials

The deadline for the online submission of electronic proposals is January 16, 2015, 12:00 noon CET (6:00 a.m. Washington, D.C. time).

The electronic online submission system will be put into operation in mid-October 2014 and will be available at: <https://www.siinn-submission.eu/>

Details about the call volume and the participating countries and regions are available on the SIINN Call 2014 website: <http://www.siinn.eu/en/joint-calls/2014-third-siinn-call/,161>

We strongly recommend contacting your regional/national funding agency for regional/national program details. Details

of the participating funding organizations and their national/regional regulations can be found in Appendix A and B of the Guidelines for Applicants: [http://www.siinn.eu/bin/Annex\\_III\\_-\\_SIINN\\_3rd\\_Call\\_-\\_GfA\\_final\\_30.09.2014.pdf](http://www.siinn.eu/bin/Annex_III_-_SIINN_3rd_Call_-_GfA_final_30.09.2014.pdf)

A partner search tool for the SIINN Call 2014 can be found at: <http://www.nmpteam.com/>



EMBASSY STAFF

## Welcome to Mateja Dolenc and Taylor Cluff

The embassy staff wants to extend a warm welcome to two new members, Ms. Mateja Dolenc and Mr. Taylor Cluff, both of whom joined the embassy last month. Ms. Dolenc will work as embassy's administrative and financial attaché and will also be helping in the consular department. Before coming to Washington, she worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and spent six years at the Embassy of Slovenia in London, UK. She is posted in the U.S. for four years.

Mr. Cluff will be offering consular assistance at the embassy. He graduated in May 2013 from The Ohio State University with a Master's in Slavic and East European Studies. Before that, he earned his Bachelor's degree in 2011 from Brigham Young University. Prior to joining the embassy, he worked as a research



Mateja Dolenc.

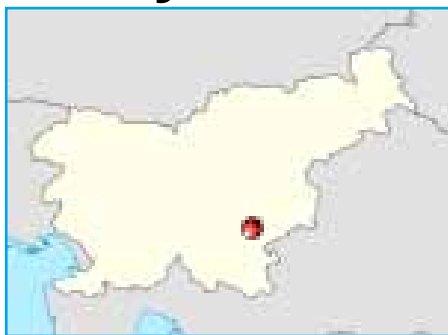


Taylor Cluff.

assistant in Eastern European and Central Asian politics, and for a foreign language tutoring company. Mr. Cluff lived and worked in Slovenia from 2007 to 2009, where performed volunteer

missionary work and taught English and French classes and became fluent in Slovenian! We wish our new colleagues all the best in all their endeavors and welcome them with open arms.

# Pleterje



Pleterje, the only Carthusian monastery in Slovenia, lies in the vicinity of the village of Drča in a valley at the foot of the Gorjanci hills in the Dolenjsko region of Slovenia. The valley is part of the lowland below the wine-bearing slopes of the Pleterje hill, south of the town of Šentjernej.

The Pleterje monastery was founded by Herman II, Count of Celje, already in 1407. The charterhouse was later destroyed by the Turkish invasions, and then rebuilt resembling a fortress. Archduke Ferdinand II handed the Pleterje charterhouse to the Jesuits of Ljubljana in 1595, to whom it belonged until 1773. In 1839, Pleterje became privately owned but was later, in 1899, repurchased by the Carthusian order, which in 1904 completed the rebuilding of the charterhouse.

The monastery complex consists of two distinct parts. The first is the Old Carthusian Monastery, which consists of the Old Gothic Church, the storied sacristy, as well as the remains of the cloisters with part of the chapter house and refectory. The second is the New Carthusian Monastery with its component buildings that are



The Pleterje monastery from air.

closed to visitors. The church of the Holy Trinity, a rich library and an art collection remain from the original monastery. The east wing of the monastery, which is open to visitors, contains the collection of the Dolenjska Museum, depicting life in the monastery and the local area as well as a collection of articles made from eggshells. The

monks also offer for sale their famous Pleterje brandies and bottled pears.

An open-air museum lies at the approaches to the monastery complex. Beautifully set in a secluded valley, Pleterje Skansen is situated in the village of Vratno, with the parking place for the monastery. The open-air museum is spread out across a



The wine-bearing slopes of the Pleterje hill.

lovely green field. A village of wooden, thatched-roof houses, together with farm outhouses, barns, hayracks (kozolec), farm tools, wells, black kitchens, etc., showcases the village life and culture under the Gorjanci hills in the south of Slovenia at the end of the 19th century. The facilities are connected to various farm activities such as viticulture and winemaking, cattle and pig raising, hen-houses, domestic crafts, preparation of food, and woodworking. Occasionally, presentations of farming customs and crafts are also organized. Visitors can also see domestic animals as well as purchase souvenirs in the museum shop.

Not far from Pleterje, a visitor can explore the karst cave of Kostanjevica, the largest karst cave in Slovenia. Here, rain water and underground water spent millennia creating magnificent, dreamlike stalactites and stalagmites formed in an interesting way, and some of the formations



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were even given names such as St. Nicholas, Christ, the Sabre, etc. The cave was additionally transformed by tectonic movements. Today, it is equipped with an electric lightning system and offers around 300 m (1000 ft) of charted routes. A guided tour through the cave lasts 45 minutes. The most impressive part of the cave is open to tourists, but cavers are still

exploring the entire complex.

More information and source:  
<http://www.skansen.si/skansen/Welcome.html>  
<http://pleter.si/>  
[http://www.kartuzija-pleterje.si/ang/index\\_ang.html](http://www.kartuzija-pleterje.si/ang/index_ang.html)  
<http://www.kostanjevicka-jama.com/>



An open-air museum lies at the approaches to the monastery complex, showcasing the village life at the end of the 19th century.



Kostanjevica cave is also the natural habitat of the horseshoe bat.

**PUPPETEER NIKA SOLCE AT THE KIDS EURO FESTIVAL 2014**

Enjoy the amusing antics of the witty fox, as it tries to play tricks on its forest friends the rabbit, Mr. Wolf, and others, in these humorous Slovenian folk tales. Through folk songs and puppetry, Nika Solce of Puppet studio Lutkarnica brings these stories from Slovenia to life in an enchanting, interactive performance. For children ages 2 and up.

Presented as part of the Kids Euro Festival, a two-week festival of free family events and performances throughout Washington, D.C. presented by European Union Members and local arts organizations. To learn more and register visit: <http://kidseurofestival.org/>

When: **Tuesday, November 4** at 2:30 p.m.

Where: **Takoma Park Library, 416 Cedar St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012**

More information: <http://kidseurofestival.org/slovenia-perf/>

When: **Friday, November 7** from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Where: **Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003**

More information: <http://hillcenterdc.org/home/programs/2118>

When: **Saturday, November 8** from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Where: **Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008**

More information: <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/family-fun-days/kids-euro-festival-about-fox-and-other-forest-animals>  
<http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/family-fun-days/kids-euro-festival-about-fox-and-other-forest-animals-0>



**MILONGA AT THE CASTLE! WITH MARKO HATLAK**

It's going to be a special evening of dancing and live music in Knoxville. A wonderful musician, Marko Hatlak, is visiting from Slovenia and is going to play an evening of live tango music for our dancing and listening pleasure! And we'll be dancing at the Williamswood Castle, which is a magical venue. This is going to be a beautiful night – wonderful music, a gorgeous setting, and dancing with friends!

When: **Thursday, October 23, from 7 to 9 p.m.**

Where: **Williamswood Castle in South Knoxville, TN (near Ijams Nature Preserve)**

A donation of \$10-15 is suggested

<http://knoxvilletango.org/>

**MARTINOVANJE IN CLEVELAND BY ŠTAJERSKI–PREKMURSKI KLUB OF CLEVELAND**

Štajerski–Prekmurski Klub of Cleveland invites you to its Martinovanje to celebrate the new wine. The French have Beaujolais Nouveau Day to celebrate one new wine, the Slovenians have Martinovanje to celebrate the tapping of all new-wine barrels. The dinner-dance event will be held at St. Clair Slovenian home with doors opening at 6 p.m. and a sumptuous dinner by Josey Cerer and crew served at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by guests "Europa" from Toronto, who play all styles of music.

When: **Saturday, October 25** at 6:00 p.m.

Where: **St. Clair Slovenian home , 6409 St. Clair Ave, Cleveland, OH 44103**

## **MARTINOVANJE IN NEW YORK**

Once again, SUA Branch 93 and the New York Slovenian community hope to welcome you and your families to this traditional Slovenian "Thanksgiving" feast of the new wine and of Saint Martin. Alex Gergar from Bethlehem will play the accordion for the occasion.

When: [Sunday, November 9, 2014, from 11a.m. to 2 p.m.](#)

Where: [Saint Cyril, 62 Saint Mark's Place, after the 10:30 Slovenian Mass.](#)

## **POLKA HALL OF FAME MUSIC AWARDS AT DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND**

For the first time, the Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show will be staged in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in Downtown [Cleveland, Ohio](#), on Public Square, Saturday, November 29, 2014. The gala Awards Show will be the high point of the three-day Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum, Thursday, Friday and [Saturday, November 27, 28 and 29](#), at the Marriott.

Two long-time polka musicians will be inducted at the Awards Show, Cleveland musician and radio host Denny Bucar and the late accordionist and bandleader Don Lipovac of Kansas City. Both were voted in for their lifetime achievements by the membership and board of the Polka Hall of Fame and announced at a preview meeting on October 9. They will be honored at the stage event on November 29, along with six individuals to be added to the Trustee Honor Roll. Winners will also be announced in nine categories, including Polka Band of the Year, Polka Musician of the Year, and Polka Album of the Year.

The Polka Hall of Fame is located at 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio, in the historic former Euclid City Hall. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11:00 to 4:00. Admission is free. For details, contact (216) 261-FAME or [www.polkafame.com](http://www.polkafame.com).

## **PSALMS IN NEW YORK performed by CARMINA SLOVENICA**

"Chorus can take over from us and experience for us our innermost and most spontaneous feelings and attitudes, inclusive of crying and laughing." Žižek.  
The choir manifests a collective body and, as an organism, reflects a human desire to merge. At the same time, it manifests social phantasms. The collective becomes an individuum and an individuum becomes a part of the collective. A non-individual voice, a sound of the multitude of voices -- a choir, the whole union of bodies in a crowd creates an illusion of humanity as a single human being. Analogical of this monology (the choir works as a single character), the choir on stage (the choir works as a multitude) works as a mirror and partner of the audience. In Toxic Psalms, the Chorus represents the views of the contemporary society holding up certain moral and cultural standards -- much like the media does in our daily lives.

Choregie project by Karmina Šilec.

When: [January 8–11, 2015](#)

Where: [St. Ann's Warehouse, 29 Jay Street, Brooklyn 11201](#) -- just east of the Manhattan Bridge (aka DUMBO) <http://www.stannswarehouse.org/directions.php>

More information: [http://www.stannswarehouse.org/current\\_season.php?show\\_id=100](http://www.stannswarehouse.org/current_season.php?show_id=100)  
[http://www.stannswarehouse.org/current\\_season.php?show\\_id=100](http://www.stannswarehouse.org/current_season.php?show_id=100)

Watch the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qshuAZwC4Kw>