



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Lecture by Slavoj Žižek: More Alienation, Please! A Critique of Cultural Violence.

The Embassy of Slovenia, together with the Goethe Institute in Washington, DC and the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress at New York University's Washington branch, hosted on October 8 a lecture by one of Slovenia's most influential intellectuals: political philosopher and cultural critic Slavoj Žižek. Opening remarks were given by Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar, as well as by Goethe Institute DC Director, Wilfried Eckstein.

With his address to a full NYU auditorium, keynoted "More Alienation, Please! A Critique of Cultural Violence", Slavoj Žižek opened the EUNIC Iconoclash series of transatlantic conversations about the ongoing challenges of Islamist radical fundamentalism and its impact related to democracy and universal values of cultural heritage. Žižek writes on a diverse range of topics, including political theory, theology, and psychoanalysis. His lectures and appearances around the globe underline his position as



a leading contemporary thinker and cultural theorist. The shock over the terrorist attacks in Paris in January 2015 inspired Žižek to write an essay on Islam and modernism. In it, he addressed the rupture between the Western world's advocacy for tolerance and the fundamental hatred of Western liberalism within radical Islam; the same issue he also discussed in his lecture on Thursday evening.

The event, which was also streamed live, was moderated





The audience at the event.



Ambasssador Dr. Božo Cerar.

by Ulrich Baer, Vice Provost for Faculty, Arts, Humanities and Diversity at New York University, and followed by a discussion and a reception provided by NYU and the Embassy of Slovenia.

The series of lectures, presentations, panel discussions and online conversations entitled Iconoclash is a common endeavor of EUNIC - European National Institutes of Culture

network in Washington, DC, and is supported by the E.U. Delegation to the U.S. in Washington, DC. For further events in the series see: <http://washington-dc.eunic-online.eu/?q=iconoclash>



Slovenia and the U.S. Continue the Energy Diplomacy Consultations

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Diplomacy, Robin Dunnigan, visited Ljubljana from October 6 to 7. On this occasion, DAS Dunnigan led the U.S. side in another round of bilateral energy-diplomacy consultations and also addressed the attendees of the annual Gas Forum of the Energy Community.

At the meeting between DAS Dunnigan and the Acting Director-General for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Tomaž Lovrenčič, they discussed the matters of energy security and gas supply as well as ongoing projects and their impacts on the foreign policy and geostrategic landscape. The value of diversification of

energy sources as well as the importance of building of a low-carbon society were emphasized by both parties.

In the framework of the ongoing bilateral dialogue on the wider regional energy issues, DAS Dunnigan also attended a working lunch hosted by the Acting Director-General for E.U. Affairs, David Brozina, involving a discussion on energy-related opportunities in the Western Balkans. The discussion confirmed the view shared by the two countries about the need for further investment in the region, especially in the area of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

At the annual Gas Forum of the Energy Community,

DAS Dunnigan delivered a keynote speech entitled U.S. Commitment to Energy Security for all of Europe.



DAS Dunnigan with Acting Director-General Tomaž Lovrenčič.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Consular Hours in San Francisco

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC will be holding consular hours and providing consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in San Francisco on Friday, October 30th, 2015 at the premises of the Honorary Consulate for the State of California:

The Brandi Law Firm
354 Pine Street, Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

To schedule an appointment please fill out the form available on the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at vwa@gov.si by **October 26, 2015** to allow the Embassy enough time to verify your data. The embassy will suggest a time for your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you have to bring.

You may also visit the embassy website [http://](http://washington.embassy.si/)

washington.embassy.si/ (Consular Affairs, Visas) regarding 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 appointments are required.

Irena Tomažin and Miha Ciglar Perform at High Zero Fest



Slovenian performer and vocalist Irena Tomažin, sound artist Miha Ciglar and inter-media artist Martin Bricelj Baraga, presented the Sound Investments project in the Current Gallery in Baltimore as part of the opening night of High Zero, the premier festival exhibition, of improvised and experimental music on the East Coast, held between September 24 and 27. The project was a result of collaboration of the High Zero festival with Ljubljana's [Museum of Transitory Art \(MOTA\)](#) and Sonica Festival. The 16th edition of the High Zero Fest presented five amazing sound installations in three locations in west-downtown Baltimore. This year festival

brought together 13 local and 10 international musicians, but also involved a much larger subculture of musicians in Baltimore and on the East Coast. Sound Investments featured Irena Tomažin's Faces of Voices and Baraga's Spatial's Dental Metal. The festival's program also included workshops and concerts by Miha Ciglar and Irena Tomažin.

A week later, on October 4, in Baltimore, MoTA's Nonuments group presented a public action by building mini-monument models of The McKeldin Fountain. Based on the various primitive shapes of the brutalist architecture of the Fountain itself, the group created experiential models while discussing and sharing

stories about the complexity of this public space. McKeldin Square is zoned a free-speech area by the City of Baltimore and has a long history as a site of protest, including the "Occupy Baltimore" and the "Black Lives Matter" movements, the latter related to the death of Freddy Grey when the National Guard came to this site. Named Nonument Baltimore, the workshop at The McKeldin Fountain in Baltimore's Inner Festival was supported by a fellowship program with the Imaging Research Center (IRC) at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), CEC ArtsLink, Creative Europe program and by the Slovenian Ministry of Culture.



The Slovenian Theatre Institute (SLOGI)



Location of the Slovenian Theatre Institute in Ljubljana's Old Town Center (Photo: SLOGI Archive)

Part of the collection of sketches by Avgust Černigoj (Photo: SLOGI Archive)

What better way to learn about Slovenia's history, art and heritage than by visiting various museums spread throughout the country? When making a list of things to do in Slovenia, do not forget about interesting galleries and museum collections. We will do our best to introduce as many as possible in our newsletter.

The Slovenian Theatre Institute was founded in 2014 and is the legal successor of the National Theatre Museum of Slovenia, founded in 1952.

It houses material related to the Slovenian theatre history, which was obtained either from theatre archives or from personal collections. In 1978, the Museum was joined by the Movie Museum as an independent dislocated department and, in 1996, the united Slovenian Theatre and Movie Museum was divided into the Slovenian Cinematheque, joined by the Museum's movie department, and the National Theatre Museum of Slovenia.

The Institute aims at continued evolution of theatre culture at the national level and

raising the awareness of the role and importance of theatre in the development of society and individuals. The Institute is engaged in collecting, preserving, documenting, researching, examining, interpreting, promoting and presenting Slovenian theatre culture, its heritage and as a contemporary theatre art, both at national and international levels. A part of the collection consists also of set- and costume-design sketches, among which the most valuable are the sketches by Avgust Černigoj, the most famous Slovenian



Permanent Exhibition In pursuit of a theatre. From the Jesuits to Cankar (Photo: SLOGI Archive)

painter of Constructivism and the sole Slovenian artist ever having attended the prominent international school of architecture, design and visual art "Das Staatliche Bauhaus Weimar". The Institute organizes exhibitions and presents virtual exhibitions, publishes books in the theatre field, organizes various events (symposia, round tables, lectures, etc.) and pedagogic activities, houses theatre performances, etc.

The permanent exhibition titled In pursuit of a theatre. From the Jesuits to Cankar was opened in December 2013. The exhibition presents the beginnings and the main streamings of theatre in Slovenia, its integration into the European cultural context and its role in shaping the Slovenian national awareness.

In 2012, the Slovenian Theatre Institute (at that time National Theatre Museum of Slovenia), in cooperation with Novi ZATO, prepared the exhibition and its first virtual exhibition Alenka Bartl, Costume Designer. Since then the institute has prepared at least one e-xhibition yearly. The e-xhibitions are available in

Slovene and English language on web site: <http://www.repertoar.sigledal.org/razstave>.

Slovenian Theatre Institute is also involved in various international projects, supported by the European Commission. From 2008 to 2010 the Institute took a part in the TACE (Theatre Architecture in Central Europe). From 2012 the Institute has cooperated with Perspective (Association of Historic Theatres in Europe), involved in two projects: the international touring exhibition The History of Europe – told by its Theatres, and the project European Theatre Routes (Adriatic Route).

On October 15, 2015, the exhibition Borštnik Bound! and the virtual e-xhibition The Borštnik Ring Recipients 1970–2014, celebrating 50 years of the Maribor Theatre Festival, will be opened at the National Liberation Museum Maribor. The exhibition has been prepared as a joint venture of the Slovenian Theatre Institute, the National Liberation Museum Maribor and the Slovene National Theatre Maribor (the host of the Maribor Theatre Festival) in collaboration with Slovenian theatres, the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television, the



Slovenski gledališki inštitut
Mestni trg 17
Ljubljana, Slovenia
www.slogi.si

University of Ljubljana and the Celje Historical Archives. The additional partners in the virtual e-xhibition are Novi ZATO Institute and RTV Slovenia – Radio Slovenia. The exhibition pays respect to a distinctive jubilee, brings forth the best productions of the Festival (those that have left their mark in time and were marked by time), peeks into its backstage and applauds the audience, since without them, theatre would not exist – not now, not in the past and not in the future. It strolls through the gallery of -- so far -- 45 recipients of the Borštnik Ring, the highest award for lifetime achievement in Slovene theatre, it evokes their roles, appearances and voices. The exhibition will be open through February 8, 2016.



E-xhibition Maribor Theatre Festival 2013 (Photo: SLOGI Archive)

Slovenian Cultural Hour for Children in New York



On Sunday, September 20, 2015, in New York City, volunteers of Branch 93 of Slovenian Union of America and parishioners of the church of Saint Cyril, 62 Saint Mark's Place, hosted the second annual "Otroški dan", the Slovenian Cultural Hour/Children's Hour for children – young and

old(er). Father Krizolog and Dr. Silvester Lango welcomed the participants, volunteers Mia and Anton Branc prepared the meal, and Maria Whitmire, Elizabeth Gross and Tanya Vajk coordinated the event. The youngest child was baby Josephine Marie, born on Labor Day weekend in New York.

The children decorated cupcakes and moon cookies (and ate many, too), and played balloon volleyball as well as took a chance at the trivia challenges with prizes for correct answers. Branch 93 of Slovenian Union of America is already planning its next children's event when its hopes to present a puppet show.



SLOVENIA AT THE KIDS EURO FESTIVAL: PUPPET SHOW THE MOUSE WAS MAKING PORRIDGE

The Embassy of Slovenia cordially invites you to the eighth annual edition of the Kids Euro Festival. The festival, featuring free performances - puppet shows, magic, cinema, music and workshops, will take place in Washington, DC from October 24 to November 8, 2015.

Slovenia will be represented by Ms. Jelena Sitar Cvetko and Mr. Igor Cvetko of the Zapik Puppet Theatre with the show The Mouse Was Making Porridge (Miška kaško kuhala). Kids Euro Festival is brought to you by the 28 European Union Member States and The Delegation of the European Union in Washington, in collaboration with various American cultural organizations.

Schedule of performances (all free!):

Saturday, October 24 at 4 p.m. (performance in the Slovene language) at the Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

RSVP to: office.vwa@gov.si

Sunday, October 25 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20008

REGISTER AT: <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/family-fun-days/kids-euro-festival-mouse-was-making-porridge>

Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20008

REGISTER AT: <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/family-fun-days/kids-euro-festival-mouse-was-making-porridge-0>

Tuesday, October 27 at 11:00 a.m. at Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003

For a school group - Not open to the public

Tuesday, October 27 at 2:00 p.m. at Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003

REGISTER AT: <http://hillcenterdc.org/home/programs/2568/>

Wednesday, October 28 at 11am at Mann Elementary School, 4430 Newark St NW, Washington, DC 20016. Not open to the public.

Sunday, November 1 at 7 p.m. at The Children's Inn at NIH, 7 West Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814. For hospital patients and families only. Not open to the public

More information and registration: <http://kidseurofestival.org/the-mouse-was-making-porridge/>



**SLOVENIA AT THE KIDS EURO FESTIVAL: STORYTIME WITH THE AMBASSADOR:
LITTLE MOUNTAIN-FISH GOES TO SEA**

As part of the Kids Euro Festival, Dr. Božo Cerar, the Ambassador of Slovenia, will read his newly published children's book "Little Mountain-Fish Goes to Sea/Gorska ribica gre na morje", which tells the story of a curious little fish living in a mountain creek and the adventures that happen on its journey down the river to the sea.

Text: Dr. Božo Cerar

Translation: Vladimir Pregelj

Illustrations: Miro in Metka Zupančič

When: **Monday, November 2 at 1:00 p.m.**

Where: **Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20540**

More information: <http://kidseurofestival.org/little-mountain-fish-goes-to-sea/>



GARY BUKOVNIK'S EXHIBITION: FOREVER SPRING

Cleveland born and educated, Gary Bukovnik has lived in San Francisco for over thirty years. His work is represented in diverse public and private collections around the world. Working in watercolor, monotype, lithograph and metal sculpture, Bukovnik in his work fuses sensual vitality with fluid colorations, creating floral images of tremendous depth and intensity.

Bukovnik's work is well known throughout galleries across America, and his work has been shown internationally in Italy, Spain, Luxembourg, Japan and, most recently, in China. His work is represented in various public and private collections, including The Brooklyn Museum, NYC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC; and The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH. Gary is also represented in The List Collection, NYC; Fine Arts Museums, San Francisco; Bank of America; AT&T; Clorox; Neiman Marcus; and the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles.

When: **Ongoing through December 18;** Monday through Friday during business hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: **Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008**

Admission free.

For more information see: <http://garybukovnik.com/> and <http://www.bonfoey.com/>

READING BY ALEŠ ŠTEGER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

With his poetry, novels, and essays appearing in The New Yorker and other international magazines, Aleš Steger is the most translated Slovenian author of his generation. This reading (in German, English and Slovene) and discussion will address the flâneur concept in German literature and the role poetry plays in people's lives today in Berlin, the new/old European poetic capital. Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia.

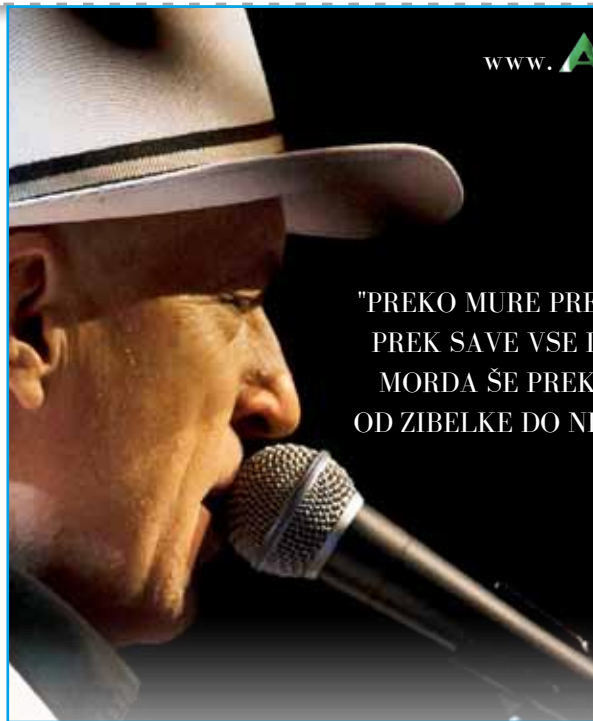
When: **Friday, November 6, 2015 from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM (EST)**

Where: **Goethe-Institut Washington, 812 7th St NW, Washington, DC 20001**

More information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reading-ales-steger-berlin-tickets-15313275419?aff=erellivorg>



Aleš Šteger.



Vlado Kreslin.

UPCOMING EVENTS - NEW YORK

CONCERT BY VLADO KRESLIN IN NEW YORK

Vlado Kreslin is one of the most influential Slovenian musicians, whose distinctive style combines elements of folk, pop and rock music, American blues and even gypsy music. He shared stage with R.E.M., Bob Dylan, Allan Taylor, Sean Cannon of the Dubliners, The Walkabouts, Andy Irvine and many more. Over the years, he toured Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, Canada, Germany, Austria, Spain, Bosnia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, Greece, Italy and the U.S.

When: **Friday, October 23, 2015; doors open at 7:00 p.m.**

Where: **RiverPlace Lounge, 650 west 42nd street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10036**

Space is limited. Entrance is free but reservations are a must. Suggested donation: \$20 per person to cover organizational expenses.

RSVP: tina@aventurin.si or call: 917 843 8485

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1911657135725976/>

FATHER PEDRO OPEKA IN NEW YORK

Father Pedro Opeka is a legend among humanitarian revolutionaries. Born in Argentina to Slovenian parents, Father Pedro has been a missionary in Madagascar since 1970, striving to improve the lives of one of the poorest populations on earth. He has received the Legion of Honor from France and nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. Still he continues to labor in Madagascar. In November, he will visit New York.

When: [Monday, November 2 at 6:00 p.m. \(Mass in the church\); 6:30 p.m. \(reception in the hall\)](#)
Where: [St. Cyril's Parish](#) at 62 St Mark's Pl., New York, New York 10003
Admission free, no RSVP is required.

TRANSMISSIONS - AN EXHIBITION FEATURING WORKS BY THE OHO GROUP AT MOMA IN NEW YORK

Transmissions: Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America, 1960–1980 focuses on parallels and connections among artists active in Latin America and Eastern Europe in the 1960s and 1970s. During these decades, which flanked the widespread student protests of 1968, artists working in distinct political and economic contexts, from Prague and Ljubljana to Buenos Aires, developed cross-cultural networks to circulate their artworks and ideas.

When: [September 5, 2015 to January 3, 2016](#)
Where: [The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019-5497; The Joan and Preston Robert Tisch Exhibition Gallery, sixth floor](#)
More information: <https://www.moma.org/visit/calendar/exhibitions/1588>

UPCOMING EVENTS - OHIO

MARTINOVANJE IN CLEVELAND

Štajerski–Prekmurski Klub of Cleveland invites you to the Martinovanje event to celebrate the new wine. Martinovanje marks the wine christening and opening of the 2015 wine barrels. The dinner-dance event will be held at St. Clair Slovenian National Home. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and a sumptuous dinner by Jože Tavčar and crew will be served at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Cleveland's Alpine Sextet.

When: [Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.](#)
Where: [St. Clair Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH](#)
Reservations: Call Tonica Simičak (440) 256-6716 or Mimi (Kozina) Cupar (440) 551- 0171.

GLASBENA MATICA CONCERT AND DANCE IN CLEVELAND

The Glasbena Matica Slovenian Singing Society invites you to an evening of "Remembering Musical Friends" on Saturday, November 21, 2015. Cleveland's legendary Slovenian chorus appears in a concert tribute to the people who inspire singers, musicians and music-lovers.

Listen to songs made popular by Frank Yankovic, Johnny Pecon, and Mary Udovich and Josephine Lausche, among others. There are also salutes to personalities who recently departed, including Slavko Avsenik, Paul Yanchar, Frank Ivancic, and Bishop A. Edward Pevec. You'll enjoy favorite Slovenian and American tunes. Angela Perrine directs the chorus and Michael Cercek accompanies it on the piano. After the concert, dance with Patty C and the Guys, the Button Box Band of the Year.

When: [Saturday, November 21, 2015](#). Doors open at 4:00 with refreshments, sandwiches and dinner specials available. The concert begins at 5:45. Patty strikes up the band after the show at 7:00.
Where: [Slovenian National Home, at 6417 St. Clair Avenue, in Cleveland, OH.](#)
Admission to the concert is \$17; under 12 free. Tickets are available from chorus members and the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, OH (216) 261-3263.

THANKSGIVING POLKA WEEKEND IN CLEVELAND

Treat yourself to a spectacular festival of music and dancing at the 52nd annual Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend, presented by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 26, 27 and 28, 2015. The Downtown Cleveland Marriott Hotel becomes America's polka headquarters with the finest Cleveland-Style entertainers, plus Denis Novato, the world button accordion champion in a rare U.S. appearance. The high point is the 2015 Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show in the Grand Ballroom on Saturday, November 28. Twenty-three Cleveland-Style and Slovenian-Style orchestras and entertainers play for three days of dancing. The line-up includes the Frank Stanger Orchestra (2014 Band of the Year) and Milwaukee's Jeff Winard Band in a salute to Frank Yankovic, America's Polka King, featuring Banjo Bobby Yankovic, Frank's son. Music is Thursday from 3:00 to midnight; Friday from 1:00 p.m. to midnight; and all Saturday evening after the 6:00 p.m. Polka Mass with Minnesota's Father Frank Perkovich and the Joey Tomsick Orchestra. Featured polka bands are led by Dick Tady, Eddie Rodick, Jeff Pecon, Del Sinchak, Mikey Dee, Joey Tomsick, Aaron Dussing, Joshua Kay, Linda Lee Brown, Frank Moravcik, and Ed Klancnik. Among the spotlight performers are the Chardon Polka Band, Fritz's Polka Band, Nashville's Joey Miskulin, Hank Thunander, the Fairport Jammers, Frank Svet, the Button Box Divas, and Patty C and the Guys (2014 Button Box Band of the Year).

This year's theme, "A Century of Polka," celebrates the 100th birthdays of Frank Yankovic and Johnny Pecon and remembers the music of Slovenia's Slavko Avsenik. Annual awards in polka excellence are presented as well as Polka Hall of Fame lifetime inductees. Featured talents include Denis Novato, Jeff Pecon and Jeff Winard. The All-Star Polka Big Band is under the direction of Tom Mroczka.

When: [November 26, 27 and 28, 2015](#)

Where: [Downtown Cleveland Marriott, 127 Public Square in Cleveland, OH](#)

For dance and show tickets, call the [Polka Hall of Fame](#), (216) 261-FAME, toll-free (866) 66-POLKA, or polkashop@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS - WISCONSIN

PIANIST ANA ŠINKOVEC TO PERFORM IN WISCONSIN

Ana Šinkovec Burstin is a four-time master's graduate from conservatories in Ljubljana, Brussels, Bergamo and Paris, and has studied with many eminent teachers, including Eugen Indjic, Dmitri Bashkirov, Vladimir Ogarkov, Karl-Heinz Kammerling. Ana is the recipient of international prizes, including 1st prize at the Nikolai Rubinstein International Competition in Paris. Since 2012, Ana has been regularly invited to play as a soloist with domestic and international orchestras. Ana performed Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Scriabin's Piano Concerto in Ljubljana, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in London at St. John's Smith Square; last March, she made her debut with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and performed Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in the U.K. Her performance as a guest soloist with Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin is her U.S. debut.

When: [Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts, 826 North 8th Street, Sheboygan WI 53081](#)

More information: <http://sheboygansymphony.org/concerts/2015-2016-season/russian-to-the-finnish>