



20 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

EMBASSY NEWSLETTER

August 12, 2011

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SLOVENIAN INDEPENDENCE



CONCERT AT THE EMBASSY

On Thursday, August 11, the Embassy of Slovenia, in cooperation with the Embassy Series hosted a Slovenian student a cappella vocal play group, Oktet 9, comprised of nine singers and a professor of music.



Oktet 9.

The group is currently touring the United States and made its American debut in our Embassy with an hour long concert. Their program consisted of Slovenian folk songs (Majolka, Oj, Triglav moj dom), Slovenian pop songs from the sixties and seventies when the pop music was of high quality (Zemlja Pleše, Ko boš prišla na Bled, Ne čakaj na maj) and English and American, but internationally recognizable songs like Angels by R. Williams, Halo by Beyonce and such classic as Stand by me.

Over 100 people attended the concert and were enthusiastic about the group's approach to singing and amazed about the quality of (as they call themselves amateur singers).

The audience also had the chance to purchase CD-s that the group brought with them.

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All in all we had a wonderful and entertaining evening. Despite struggles at the beginning of their career, when they were still in high school, Oktet 9 now can proudly say that they have more than 50 concerts a year.

In 2008, they went on a tour to the United Kingdom; in 2009, they successfully planned a one month tour to Australia; in 2010, they took a tour to Croatia and Jersey (in English channel where they performed at a festival), and this summer they will be performing in the USA and Canada. Apart

from Washington, they will have concerts in New York, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Chicago, Boston, Toronto and Montreal.

You can follow Oktet 9 on their blog (www.oktet9.com).

Embassy of Slovenia wishes the members of the group all the best on their tour, and wants to express its sincere thanks to both founders of the Embassy Series, Mr. and Mrs. Barry for all the help in organizing the concert.



TOURISM

Slovenia in New York Times

Recently The New York Times published an article entitled “Slovenian Rhapsody”. As title suggests, journalist Seth Sherwood, who has travelled to Slovenia, found a country full of positive surprises.

His first destination was Ljubljana, “a kind of Slavic Copenhagen, a portrait of efficiency and prosperity.” He claims that despite of only 280,000 people live in the capitol, Ljubljana bursts of energy.



Piran.

The way then took him to the loveliest settlement on the Adriatic, to Piran. He admired peach, lime and strawberry colored houses with orange tile roofs. Only marina with its “rusted railings and creaky dinghies blighted the postcard image.” However, he adds that the Slovenian best-kept secret is the boundless blue of the Adriatic.

When approaching Maribor, pastel town houses disappeared which have been replaced by stolid Hapsburg buildings with the green Pohorje mountains and hills and fields with grapes behind. The city is famous for its winemakers and next year will become the European Capital of culture.

Seth Sherwood concluded his trip in the Postojna cave where he was inspired by ‘human fishes.’ This curious underground in the cave seemed to him as the perfect metaphor for Slovenia itself.

You can access the article on: www.travel.nytimes.com/2011/08/07/travel/in-slovenia-visiting-ljubljana-piran-and-maribor.

Archeological treasure: Vače

A traditional region belonging to the Lower Styria, that has its ties to many Germanic roots, the settlement of Vače is a beautifully humbling area. The settlement is best known for one of Slovenia's most cherished archaeological treasures - a Hallstatt period situla.



Period situla.

Mentioned treasure was discovered in 1882. Made of bronze, the vessel, with a triple figurative frieze is one of the oldest situla in Eastern Europe. The founder Janez Grilc sold the original situla to Karel Dežman, the Director of the Provincial Museum of Carniola. But now the beautiful vessel can be found in the National Museum of Slovenia. A replica stands 1.5 meters tall in the center of the town as a constant reminder of the rich historical past.

Not only is the Vače the home of the famous situla, but also resides near the geographic center of the country. The GEOSS, or geographic center, was conceived

by Jože Dernovšek. The location has an obelisk with a coat of arms, a plaque with a dedicating inscription, a lime tree and flags which all symbolize the heart, and the center of Slovenia.

The area also houses the Family Theatre Kolenc. Visitors can come and watch theatrical performances of traditional games that herdsman used to play with their children. These performances are a significant demonstration of Slovene culture and heritage, which is why reenacting these performances with your children are highly encouraged!

Located 36 Km from Ljubljana the town of Vače is a convenient and wonderful tourist destination, where you will be able to rest your eyes on archeological treasures and enjoy in theatre performances.



Obelisk at Geoss.



Congress of Vexillology

From August 1 to August 5, Washington, DC hosted a twenty-fourth (biennial) congress of vexillology (science about flags and their history) which was also attended by Slovenian delegation – Mr. Jožef Lajevc, the president of »Heraldica Slovenica« Society and dr. Tadej Jakopič, who gave a presentation of Slovenian state symbols – flag and coat of arms.

The congress fitted neatly into the context of the 20th anniversary celebrations of Slovenian independence and the 20th anniversary of the activities run by the society. This year also marks the 20th anniversary of Slovene national flag.

The organizer of this congress was the North American Vexillological Association.

Information about the Congress are available at www.NAVA.org.

Next congress will be held in Sydney, Australia.



Slovenian flag.



Getty Foundation International Travel Grants

The Getty Foundation awarded a generous grant to the College Art Association (CAA) to support the participation of international art historians at the CAA Centennial Conference in Los Angeles, to be held from February 22-25, 2012, at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

CAA hereby invites applications from international art historians, including artists who teach art history and art historians who serve as museum curators. Awards will support conference registration, travel, hotel accommodations, and include a per diem and a one-year membership to CAA.

Twenty applicants will be chosen by a jury.

Applications should include:

- *Completed copy of the application form*
- *A two-page version of the applicant's CV*
- *One letter of support from the chairperson, dean, or director of the applicant's school, department, or museum*
- *A one-page statement explaining how attending the conference will benefit the applicant's professional career.*

Please email to Lauren Stark at:

lstark@collegeart.org



List To Do

[1. New Exhibition “River”](#)

Slovenia, with its beautiful rivers, is a paradise for everyone: those looking to relax and the ones seeking more challenging outdoor adventures. Exhibition features a set of photographs by Jaka Vinšek, a young but very successful Slovenian photographer.

When: Ongoing - December 31, 2011

Where: Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California St., NW , Washington, DC 20008

More info: (202) 386-6601

[2. Wine Tour in Slovenia](#)

The tour leaders from Knoxville, Lydia Pulsipher, Professor of Geography, author, and Honorary Consul for the Republic of Slovenia, and her husband, Mac Goodwin, archaeologist, author, and a lover of Slovene wines for over 18 years are organizing a Slovenian Wine Tour. Together with friends of Slovenia they will visit several vineyards and winemakers.

When: October 16 through October 28, 2011

More info: web.me.com/macgoodwin/Wine_Tour_in_Slovenia/Slovenia_Wine_Tour.html

[3. Bled Strategic Forum](#)

Bled Strategic Forum 2011 will focus on the Power of the Future – on the new shapers and influencers. According to Joseph S. Nye, this century is witnessing two important power shifts – in the transition and diffusion of power. A power transition from one dominant state to another is a familiar historical event, whereas power diffusion is a newer process. Power in the form of information is changing international relations. We intend to explore these challenges at the Forum, and also discuss the role of smaller states in global affairs, food security, EU and China relations, the challenges of the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, and environmental and economic issues. U.S. Representatives are also expected to participate at Bled Strategic Forum.

When: September 9-10, 2011

Where: Bled, Slovenia

More info: www.bledstrategicforum.org

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www.washington.embassy.si.

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