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ZARKO IGNJATOVIĆ

CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE SLOVENE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

**Thursday 14 February 2008
at 7.00pm
Leighton House Museum**

**Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Association with
the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society**



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Foreword



EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



SLOVENSKO PREDSEDSTVO EU 2008
SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU 2008

I wish to extend a warm welcome to all of you who are attending tonight's performance at Leighton House of the Slovene classical guitarist, Žarko Ignjatović.

It is worth mentioning that the culture rendered the existence of Slovenes possible on the crossroads of the interests of much bigger nations until our dreams had been realised by independence of our nation. Music is an important part of our Central European and Mediterranean identity.

Today, a highly talented new generation of musicians and composers are emerging in Slovenia who are performing and writing music in an innovative style with original harmonies and rhythms. Žarko Ignjatović is a part of a new generation.

The Embassy of Slovenia is very proud to organise the classical guitar concert to celebrate the Slovene Presidency of the European Council and is happy to contribute to the International Series of European music organised by Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society (LACCS) and bringing new music to the repertoire of classical guitar.

Tonight's performance at Leighton House is a fine example of international cultural cooperation in the sphere of arts, and it wouldn't be possible without the sponsorship of Iskra Ltd, Adria Airways, Nova Ljubljanska Banka d.d., Alphatek International Instruments Ltd and Unior International Ltd.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy this special performance of Slovene classical guitarist Žarko Ignjatović and that it will inspire you to discover more about Slovenia, its culture and its musical heritage.

I hope you all have a truly memorable musical evening.

Iztok Mirosic
Ambassador

London, 14 February 2008

SLOVENIA – a shiny



Mountain Triglav



Slovene seaside



Town of Piran



Postojna Cave



Lippazaner horses in Lipica, Karst

BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Area: 20,273 km²

Length of borders: 1,370 km in total;
with Austria, 318 km; with Italy, 280 km;
with Hungary, 102 km; with Croatia, 670 km

Length of the Adriatic Sea: 46.6 km

Population: 2,008,516 (30.6.2006)

Nationalities: (2002 census):

Slovenian 1,631,363; Italian 2,258;
Hungarian 6,243; other nationalities:
149,259; nationality undeclared: 174,913;

Language: Slovene; also Italian and
Hungarian in nationally mixed areas;

Currency: euro

Capital: Ljubljana

GDP per capita in 2006: EUR 14,808

Growth in GDP in 2006: 5.2 %

Inflation in 2006 (annual average): 2.5%

Unemployment in 2006: 6.0% (surveyed
unemployment level according to ILO
standards)

Important dates:

- Independence - 25 June 1991

- Member of EU - 1 May 2004

- Introduction of the euro - 1 January 2007

Geographical division of Slovenia:

Alps: 42.1% of territory

Dinaric Alps: 28.1% of territory

Pannonian Plain: 21.2% of territory

Mediterranean: 8.6% of territory

Highest peak: Mt. Triglav: 2,864 meters

SLOVENIA AND THE WORLD

Slovenia lies at the heart of one of Europe's ethnic crossroads. Throughout history the territory of present-day Slovenia has been an important transitional zone in Europe, and thus continually subject to cultural, economic and political domination by centers of civilization outside its ethnic territory. From the time of their earliest settlement here in the 6th century, the Slovenes have had to struggle for living space and to safeguard their cultural, political and economic existence with more populous Germanic, Latin, Magyar and Slavic peoples. In this struggle the Slovenes lost nearly two-thirds of the territory they originally settled.

On 16 May 2007 the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) invited Slovenia to start the process of its accession to the OECD. After successfully undertaking the OSCE Presidency in 2005, Slovenia is now presiding the EU Council in the first half of 2008.

ECONOMY

Slovenia is among the most successful of the countries in transition from socialism to a market economy. It boasts a stable growth in GDP and is viewed as a safe country, ranked among the countries with the lowest degree of risk. Since its independence, Slovenia has privatized its economy, stabilized inflation and wage growth, halted rising unemployment, strengthened its currency, changed over to the common currency of European Union euro, relaxed the flow of capital and modernized its taxation system. Throughout its history Slovenia has always been a part of larger countries or even great empires. The country saw many changes in its economic system – from the mainly agricultural and artisanal period of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the slightly more industrialized Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the socialist state-centered industrialization of the former SFR Yugoslavia, to today's independent Slovenia, directed towards development and a market economy. At the time of its independence in 1991, Slovenia was the

wealthiest and most open Yugoslav Republic. Although Slovenes represented only 8% of the Yugoslav population, Slovenia exported almost one-third of all goods exported from Yugoslavia. After gaining independence, Slovenia managed to overcome the loss of the markets in the former Yugoslavia in a short period of time, as its trade flows were redirected towards the EU and the associated partners. In the economic sphere, Slovenia's level of development is quickly catching up with that of the EU. Its major trade partners are Germany, Italy, Croatia, Austria and France.

GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS, CLIMATE

Slovenia lies at the heart of Europe, where the Alps face the Pannonian plains and the Mediterranean meets the mysterious Karst. To the north is Austria; Hungary is to the east; Croatia to the south and Italy to the west. Green is the dominant colour. There are many woods and forests in Slovenia – covering more than half of the country – and numerous preserved and protected plant and animal species. In one of the last primeval forests of the Kocevje area, it is possible to hike through for days without ever emerging onto the plain. As a small, beautiful and picturesque country, Slovenia makes a great tourist destination. You can ski in the morning and surrender yourself to the luxury of the Adriatic Sea in the afternoon. It is very easy to get here as the country is connected with the rest of the world by a modern highway network, railway system, international airport and seaports.

PEOPLE

Slovenia has a population of 2 million, of which 83.1% (2002 census) are Slovenes. In Slovenia there are also two national minority communities of Italians and Hungarians. They are considered indigenous minorities, and their rights are protected under the Constitution.

LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

The country's official language is Slovene, which

...ing European star



southern slopes of the Alps and touches the Mediterranean, so it enjoys the best of both worlds, as well as climatic uncertainties from both North and South. However, the tradition of wine production is very long, going back at least to the time of the Roman Empire. Nowadays, 38 vine varieties are grown in 14 wine districts. This, together with the natural conditions mentioned above, provides a very rich diversity of taste, smell and colour in the different wines. With the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables, wild mushrooms, dairy products and fresh pasta available here, vegetarians are sure to enjoy their time in Slovenia, too.



Lippizaner horses in Lipica, Karst

makes use of the Latin alphabet. The Slovenian language has played a special role throughout Slovenian history. It is still considered one of the foundations of national identity. In spite of various influences, it has preserved its special linguistic features - the most notable being the archaic dual form. This is the grammatical number used for two people or things in all inflected parts of speech. The majority of Slovenes (almost 60%) are Roman Catholics, although there are around 38 other religious communities, spiritual groups, societies and associations registered in Slovenia.

TOURISM

Slovenia is especially attractive to those who enjoy mountains and lakes, or spending time on the ski slopes. There are more than seven thousand kilometers of marked mountain trails for hiking and climbing. You can also try high-adrenaline sports or spend time on the Mediterranean coast. Last but not least, Slovenia has numerous natural spas, where you can take care of your health with help of thermal mineral waters. Visiting Slovenia could provide an interesting mixture of leisure, recreation and exciting excursions. But you could also choose to "travel back through time" in museums, castles, churches and galleries and then go on to enjoy yourself in the evening at one of our casinos as well. We invite you to come and get to know the country yourself!

FOOD AND WINES

Slovenia is also known for its great wines and delicious traditional food. One recent eating trend in Slovenia is the "slow food movement". There are usually eight or more courses, the emphasis being on local produce, old-style recipes and a relaxed pace, with a different wine to accompany each course. Slovenia lies on the

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Waters of Slovenia The new state of Slovenia is a central European web of geographical diversity and regional vivacity, and its waters serve as a looking glass for this many faceted country. Snowflakes and raindrops eventually converge in numerous streams and rivulets, which then spume into gorges and across rapids, plunge down waterfalls, and wane in lake beds and river bottoms, from whence their large relentless bulk flows into the nearby Adriatic or the more distant Black sea.

Karst The Karst presents a distinctive type of earth with special karstic phenomena getting the name after the region Kras in the background of the Trieste Bay.

Lippizaner Horses Along the border between Italy and Slovenia from where the world known white Lipizzaner horse is coming, lies the Horse Stud Farm Lipica; a green oasis in the middle of the Slovene Karst. It was founded in the year 1580 by the Austrian Archduke Karl, who was at that time the regent of Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Istria and Trieste. He was told by horse-breeding experts that the Karst region was the most suitable area for a stud farm. During the Napoleonic Wars the stud farm was forced to move three times to Hungary, and during World War I it relocated to a site near Vienna. It remained property of the Court of Vienna until 1918.

Approximately 11% of Slovenia's territory is specially protected; the largest area with such a regime is the Triglav National Park with a surface area of 848 km². The Skocjan Caves were entered on the world heritage list at UNESCO in 1986, and the Secovlje salt pans and Cerknica Lake are included on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.



Winter in Ljubljana



Lake Bled



Winter in Bled

ŽARKO IGNJATOVIĆ, *Guitar*

supported by the
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

**CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE
SLOVENE PRESIDENCY OF THE EU 2008**

**THURSDAY, 14th FEBRUARY 2008 at 7.00pm
LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM LONDON W14 8LZ**

PROGRAMME

TWELVE PRELUDES

1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22, 24
MANUEL M. PONCE (1886 - 1948)

VALA (Vale), UK Première
ALDO KUMAR (b. 1954)
Inspired by Istrian Music

INVENCIJA (Invention), UK Première
IZHODI (Exit)
MILKO LAZAR (b. 1965)

AVTRON, UK Première
State of creativity
BOJANA SALJIC (b. 1978)

INTERVAL

JOBIMESQUE, UK Première
Homage to Antonio Carlos Jobim
PETER SAVLI (b. 1961)

LEVANTINE SUITE, UK Première
Prelude
Dance
Cantilena
Passacaglia
Postlude
DUSAN BOGDANOVIC (b. 1955)

CONCERTO IN MODO ISTRIANO
i. Moderato alla Mattinata
ii. Allegro Moderato (Danze rustiche)
iii. Piu Mosso
NELLO MILOTTI (b. 1927)

THREE LATIN IMPRESSIONS
UK Première
Alla Venezolana
Alla Brasileira
Alla Cubana
MIROSLAV LONCAR (b. 1964)

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The guitarist Žarko Ignjatović graduated at the Academy of Music in Zagreb (Croatia) under prof. Darko Petrinjak and at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Graz (Austria) in the class of prof. Marga Bäuml-Klasinc.

He completed his post-graduate studies at the Salzburg “Mozarteum” under prof. Eliot Fisk.

He also took part in numerous masterclasses all around the world (held by Julian Bream, John Williams, etc.) and won many prizes at national competitions.

He teaches at the Secondary Music School in Ljubljana and at the Pedagogical Faculty in Maribor (Slovenia). He is also president of the Slovenian Guitar Teachers Association (EGTA). He has been constantly developing his activities as a soloist as well as a member of chamber groups.

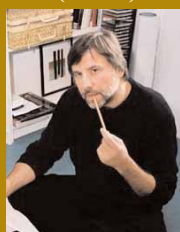
He has performed with cellist Nebojša Bugarski since 1993, with flautist Cveto Kobal since 1994 and in a guitar duo with guitarist Jerko Novak since 2001.

His first solo CD with compositions by Weiss, Piazzolla, Tippett, Bogdanović and Rojko came out in 1998, the second one, “Hic et Nunc”, with contemporary Slovene music in 2001. He also appeared on Cveto Kobal’s CD, “20th Century Flute Music” published in 2003. At the moment he is working on a new CD with Jerko Novak (already recorded in 2004, works by Johnson, Sor, Mertz, Granados, De Falla, Novak, York and Piazzolla) and with Nebojša Bugarski. The latter will contain two world first performances – compositions by Dušan Bogdanović and Marcelo Nisinman and was published in 2005.

Milko Lazar
(b. 1965)



Aldo Kumar
(b. 1954)



Peter Savli
(b. 1961)



Bojana Saljic
(b. 1978)



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