

## **CULTURE FLOWS ALONG THE DANUBE**

Draft program prepared by the Balkankult Foundation

Danube Fest Ulm

Ulm 6-15. 07. 2012.

### **The concept**

The Danube region has been blessed with cultural diversity which is not a product of a particular spiritual predominance. Rather, it is a unique whole radiating an unprecedented unity.

For a very long time now, the people living in the Danube region have mingled, interacted and inspired each other. Even today, these centuries' old ties among them have lost none of their cultural and political importance. On the contrary!

Exactly with this goal in mind and recognizing the motto of the festival "Departure and Encounter", draft program **Culture flows along the Danube** has been prepared by the Balkankult Foundation.

The proposed program would be aimed at:

- Supporting cultural dialogue among broader public
- Raising awareness of the unique nature of the Danube region in Europe
- Reaffirming art in the context of promoting understanding among various cultures from the Danube region.

The suggested program can be presented in the spaces of the Danube Office (ex libris exhibition, harpsichord concert, book presentation), the courtyard of the Danube Office (photography exhibition, harpsichord concert, bagpipe concert, preparation and sale of culinary specialties), a concert hall (harpsichord concert), public space (photography exhibition, bagpipe concert, preparation and sale of culinary specialties), gallery space (Danube View), theater hall (Divine Comedy, dance show). The programs can be organized in some other adequate locations.

The program draft can be altered or expanded (film program) according to the organizer's requests.

### **Exhibitions**

#### **Bridge - a symbol of cultural cooperation**

Ex Libris International exhibition on the topic "Bridge- a symbol of cultural cooperation" would include 140 original ex libris pieces, selected by an international jury panel out of 415 works by artists from 19 countries. The works have been posted on 20 boards (dimensions: 100 x 70 cm).

In addition, the exhibition will also be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of the Nobel Prize awarded to writer Ivo Andrić for his novel *The Bridge on the Drina*)

*"From everything that man erects and builds in his urge for living nothing is in my eyes better and more valuable than bridges. They are more important than houses, more sacred than shrines. Belonging to everyone and being equal to everyone, useful, always built with a sense, on the spot where most human needs are crossing, they are more durable than other buildings and they do not serve for anything secret or bad."*(Ivo Andric's 'The Bridge on the Drina')

The exhibition set-up would be done in the spaces of the Danube Office by associates of the Balkankult Foundation.

## **People from the Danube**

*The face is a reflection of life and the eyes are a window to the soul!*

All of life's changes - joys and sadness, happiness and unhappiness, births and deaths, successes and failures, struggles and melancholy - are most easily seen on people's faces, in their eyes. The faces of the unique people who live on the Danube may be the best way to visually convey the life on the Danube. We want to tell a possible story about people on the Danube in a very expressional way to the wider public - not just for the people in the Danube region, but to the rest of Europe as well. It is an homage to their rights to live how they want to.

There will be an exhibition of photos to be selected at the international competition starting in mid-January through the end of May 2012. An international jury panel will select 35 best photos which will feature in the exhibition.

The exhibition would include approximately 35 various- format photos (printed on capilene 0.5 mm). These works can also be exhibited in public places. A multi-lingual catalogue will be prepared for this exhibition.

## **The Danube View**

### **The Iwano Project**

The Iwano Project is an international art project originating from Novi Sad – Serbia. It has been successful for 11 years. <http://www.iwano.org.rs/>

Out of almost 700 outstanding works of art – some 20 authors from the Danube countries have been selected. They created their works on famous hand-made Japanese big- format paper “Kumohada Mashi“.

The exhibition should acquaint the cultural public with personal impressions of artists living in the Danube region to whom the Danube served as a direct or indirect inspiration.

The first art exhibition within the new program “The Danube View” has been scheduled to open in Ulm, a city on the bank of the Danube River.

The following 20 artists from the Danube countries have been selected: Lea Raszovsky (RO); Heinz Felbermair (A); Sergej Glinkov (U); Aron Barath (HU); Stefan Wehmeier (D); Marie Neugebauer (A); Manuela Hillebrand (A); Anita Dorner (HU); Babette Weidner (D); Cvetelina Maksimova Georgieva (BG); Sabina Spataru (RO); Alina Buga (RO); Michaela Nočiarova (SK); Nataša Teofilović (RS); Saša Pančić (RS); Robert Pauletta (CRO); Dragan Matić (RS); Aleksandar Pedović (RS); Ljube Vučinić (RS); Vanja Zenzerović (CRO).

## **Performance**

### **Divine Comedy**

**Production of “Bitef Theater”, Belgrade / <http://www.bitef.rs/teatar/>**

The Danube is not just a powerful river, it is a metaphore for live - concrete and universal. Dance performance “Divine Comedy“, produced by famous Bitef Theater, staged by renowned artists with international acclaim. Edward Clug will be in charge of the concept, choreography, set and light design while Borut Kržišnik and Milko Lazar will be in charge of music, Maja Mirković will take care of costumes while Bitef Dance Company will provide the performing artists: Ašhen Ataljanc, Nikola Tomašević, Strahinja Lacković, Miloš Isailović, Uroš Petronijević, Ana Ignjatović Zagorac, Nevena Jovanović, Milica Jević. The excerpts from the show can be downloaded at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=eZt\\_F8cDGYU&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=eZt_F8cDGYU&NR=1)

This outstanding art performance is a subtle rendering of Dante’s metaphysical questions and thus fits in the festival motto “Departure and Encounter“.

“I was not seeking to imitate Dante’s perception of Heaven and Hell, but to offer my own “, Edward Clug, a choreographer and the concept author said. Four male and four female dancers suggest a new reading of Dante’s work. By way of a fascinating dance language, minimal set and sophisticated performance, four male and four female dancers enable the viewers to experience Dante’s metaphysical circles in a completely new way.

## **Concerts**

## **Melodious River - Eine melodiosen Strom**

An unusual and extraordinary harpsichord program of the 18<sup>th</sup> century composers (music from the period when the Germans started to settle in Vojvodina) as well as of contemporary authors whose works have been dedicated to the Danube.

Performance by Professor Smiljka Isaković Ph.D. on harpsichord, an artist with international reputation, still the best harpsichordist in Serbia today. <http://www.smiljkaisakovic.com/>

The following program has been proposed: Pachelbel (1653/1706): Aria Sebaldina; C.P.E.Bach (1714-1788): Variationes uber die Folie d' Espagne; Georg Muffat (1653-1704): Passacaglia; J.Kaspar F.Fischer (1665-1746): Terpsichore (iz "Musicalischer Parnassus"); G.F.Handel (1685-1759): Chaconne in G; Isidor Bajić(1878-1915): Na izvoru; Vasilije Mokranjac(1923-1984): Three dances; Gencho Genchev (1942): Suite "By the River", dedicated to the Danube and Smiljka Isaković.

Spiritual music of Serbia, Bulgaria and Russia – soloist Divna Ljubojević and Melodi Choir.

<http://www.divna-melodi.com/>

## **My Bagpipes- concert**

The best piper in Serbia Maksim Mudrinić – Maksa, from the Vojvodina town of Sivac (a town once populated by the Germans), along with two fellow musicians (tamburitza and double bass) for more than 20 years have been performing traditional (ethnic) Vojvodina music in the style of "world music". This musical performance is special because it is played on Vojvodina pipes, a unique instrument in the Danube region, which has almost completely fallen into oblivion.

Maksa the piper and his fellow musicians would play traditional music of Vojvodina farmers erstwhile performed at various festive occasions and in inns. The concert duration -120 minutes.

<http://www.veengle.com/s/Maksa%20Mudrini%C4%87.html>

## **Literature**

### **The Danube Dialogue**

The presentation of the publication by authors Nenad Novak Stefanović and Stefan Barth on the occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlements of the Germans in Vojvodina.

Both authors have been raised on the banks of the Danube. The Danube features as the main theme in their literature and journalist works. Nenad Stefanović, a publicist, among other books, wrote *One nation*

*on the Danube* (Ein Folk an der Donau), which has been published in German as well (Munich, 1999). Stefan Barth, a publicist, authored a book “*A Neighborhood Boy*”, dealing with growing up close to the Danube. Stefan Barth is a board member of the Cultural Endowment of the Danube Swabians and representative of president Wilhelmine Schnichels.

Throughout their 10-day stay in the BKF residential center, the authors would moderate discussions on life as it relates to the Danube: experience, heritage, prejudice, inspiration, historic views, other people on the Danube, perspectives, overcoming the negative, cultural cooperation in the Danube region, the Danube messages.

After the discussions, the participants would edit the texts and prepare them for publication. The book would be issued as a bilingual effort: in Serbian and German. It would be promoted at the Danube Fest in Ulm.

### **Culinary Craft**

Exceptional delicacies of the Upper Danube Region (prepared by master chef from Bezdán, Petar Maksimović – a.k.a. Čonka)

- Fish stew (paprikaš ) This dish is being prepared only in the Danube region, in the region from the town of Baja in Hungary to Novi Sad in Serbia – best cooked by master chefs in the towns of Bezdán and Apatin.

To prepare this delicacy, you need fish from the Danube (carp), onion and pasta. All other ingredients will be provided by the master chef. The stew may be prepared in a pot on open fire (in which case some wood or a gas flame would be required) or on electric stovetop in a large pot (10 liters).

- Danube sardines

To prepare this dish, you need fish from the Danube (any kind), as well as onions, carrots, parsley, oil and white wine. The sardines are cooked in a large pot placed in the oven.

These exquisite dishes are prepared exclusively in towns near the Danube, from the town of Baja in Hungary to Novi Sad in Serbia. They are best cooked by master chefs in the towns of Bezdán and Apatin.

These delicacies would be sold at promotional prices!