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A note from Bernard Pesjak at www.pesjak.com

We are pleased to announce a launch of a new web page Learn Slovenian. The page is a result of the need for Slovenian language courses that exists among Slovenian communities, which has been indicated through many inquiries known to me regarding this service.

The web page is a humble beginning and will hopefully grow with your help in a form of suggestions, ideas, comments, opinions etc. We invite you to visit the page and to send us information about any company that you are aware of that offers Slovenian language lessons as well as about any such product. Visit the page here www.pesjak.com/LearnSlovenian.htm

Voice Scholarship Open to Slovenian Students

Joe Valenčič

Singing is key to the continuation of Slovenian music in America. Now Slovenian students of voice can apply for a special scholarship to pursue their musical calling. The Cleveland Institute of Music is accepting applications for the Josephine Valencic Scholarship in Voice.

The Valencic scholarship covers a portion of the cost of tuition for a Cleveland Institute of Music student who is of Slovenian heritage, a citizen of Slovenia, or a member of a chartered Slovenian-American organization. Applicants must be enrolled in the Preparatory voice program. The scholarship is awarded for a full year.

The family and friends of Josephine Valencic funded the scholarship to honor the memory of a Slovenian mother who nurtured a love of music and heritage among children. With this scholarship, the first for Slovenian-American singers, they hope to perpetuate the tradition of Slovenian vocal music for future generations.

The deadline for applications for the Slovenian Voice Scholarship for Fall 2008 is September 15, 2008. To apply, contact the Cleveland Institute of Music at (216) 791-5000 or check the CIM Web site at www.cim.edu.

Laibach Volk Concerts

Email from Mike Kopmeyer

MIKE: Phil do you know if the group Laibach might include Cleveland or a nearby city on its North American tour next month? Thank you, Mike Kopmeyer
polkaboy2001@yahoo.com

PHIL: Do you have any info on their tour?

MIKE: They have about six concerts scheduled for September, all on the west coast except for N.Y.C.; the latest one published is for 30 September in N.Y.C. Any chance that they could be convinced to return the Cleveland? I've attached the schedule from their website:
www.laibach.nsk.si Thanks, Mike



Labor Day weekend at Slovenska Pristava



Get ready for another great holiday weekend at Slovenska Pristava. Join us on Friday August 29, 2008 as we feature Veseli Begunjčani from Avsenik's home village of Begunje Slovenia. Formed in 2007 Veseli Begunjčani is a relatively new band of professional musicians. 2008 marks the first full year for the band, which will perform over 30 events or "veselica's". Come watch, listen and dance to the wonderful Slovenian sounds of Veseli Begunjčani. The veselica

at Slovenska Pristava will start with dinner served by Joe Tavcar and staff from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Reserve your meal by calling Elizabeth Zalik at 440-537-1941. After dinner Veseli Begunjčani will entertain us late into the night. All members and friends are invited.

www.veseli-begunjcani.com

Leto 2007 je rojstno leto narodno zabavnega ansambla Veseli Begunjčani. Gre za povsem nov ansambel na slovenski glasbeni sceni, kar pa seveda ne velja za njegove člane. Vsi člani ansambla smo, kot se temu reče, "prekaljeni glasbeni mački", saj imamo za seboj dolgoletne izkušnje na glasbenih odrih tako doma kot v tujini. Igrali smo v že priznanih ansamblih: Gašperji, Zupan, Karavanke, Vaški muzikantje, Gorenjski kvintet, Gregorji in pri godbi Gorje.



Dom članov ansambla so Begunje na Gorenjskem z bližnjo okolico, razen simpatične pevke, ki prihaja iz vesele Štajerske. Težko bi rekli, da kdo ne pozna Begunj, tega prelepega kraja pod Begunjščico, iz katerega izhaja tudi legendarni narodno zabavni ansambel bratov Vilka in Slavka Avsenika, začetnik tovrstne glasbe. Ime ansambla smo, iz spoštovanja do ansambla bratov Avsenik in narodno zabavne glasbe, povzeli po njihovi veseli "viži", napisani v daljnem letu 1954, z naslovom Veseli Begunjčani.



Ansambel Veseli Begunjčani sestavljajo:

- Jure Valjavec, klarinet (drugi z leve)
- Niki Legat, trobenta (prvi z leve)
- Blaž Stroj, bariton, kontrabas (drugi z desne)
- Aleš Erman, kitara (prvi z desne)
- Rok Ristič, harmonika (tretji z desne)
- Sandra Križan, pevka (na sredini)
- Dejan Zupan, pevec (tretji z leve)

Vote for the King of Klobasa at the

Polka Hall of Fame Sausage Festival

Saturday, September 27, 2008



Whose Slovenian sausages are the tastiest in all the land? You be the judge. Cast your vote for top klobasa at the 5th annual Slovenian Sausage Festival, hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, Saturday, September 27, at SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. Your favorite polka bands and sausage-makers offer you eight hours of non-stop music and munching, from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Over the past five festivals, the Polka Hall of Fame has served nearly 7,000

Slovenian sausages. Sample sausages from several makers and then select your winner. Prizes are awarded in the People's Choice and the juried Best of Fest categories. Dance off those excess calories with the finest Cleveland-Style orchestras, featuring Eddie Rodick, Rob DeBlander, The Hoboes, Frank Moravcik, The Culkar Combo, Johnny Koenig and Bobby Yankovic with a tribute to America's Polka King, Frank Yankovic.

Sausage-makers include Azman and Sons Meat Market, Maple Heights Catering, Old Country Sausages, and Raddell's Sausage Shop, last year's champion. An assortment of sweet and savory treats and refreshments awaits you between musical numbers. The 2007 King of Klobasa -- or Queen of Klobasa -- is crowned at 6:00 p.m.

The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum traces the story of the city's home-grown sound from its roots in the old Slovenian neighborhoods with audio exhibits, historic photographs and original instruments. Museum members enjoy special events and vote for top musicians and recordings of the year. The gala Awards Show ceremony celebrates this all-American music each November.

Advance tickets at \$6 are available at the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd Street, in Euclid. Same-day admission is \$7. SNPJ Farm is at 10946 Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio, off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306 and six miles west of Ohio Route 44. Call the Polka Hall of Fame for tickets and details, (216) 261-FAME or toll-free (866) 66-POLKA.



Johnny Vadnal Accordion and Archives

Donated to Polka Hall of Fame in Cleveland

Joe Valenčič



The accordion and music memorabilia of Johnny Vadnal, Cleveland's Polka King, have been donated to the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum by Alice Vadnal, wife of the late legendary bandleader. The Vadnal archives comprise recordings, films, photos and scrapbooks documenting the 70-year career of one of the leading exponents of the Cleveland-style of American polka music.

A key item in the collection is Johnny's Italo-American accordion, with which he performed favorite tunes, such as "Slap Happy Polka," "My Alice Waltz," and his theme song, "The Wayside Polka." The collection is being catalogued and preserved at the Polka Hall of Fame and Museum in Euclid, Ohio. An exhibition and program series on the Johnny Vadnal Orchestra are scheduled for next year.

"Slovenian music meant so much to Johnny," said Mrs. Vadnal. "He shared that love with his fans. I know the Polka Hall of Fame will keep his memory alive for future generations to enjoy his music."

Johnny Vadnal was one of the major figures in the development of the Cleveland-style polka, an American dance music that emerged from the Slovenian settlements of Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and elsewhere, in the 1930s and 1940s. He organized a family band in 1938 and developed a brisk accordion sound, with lyrical waltzes that became one of his trademarks. Many of his recordings were based on Slovenian folk melodies, updated for ballroom dancing. Brothers Frank and Tony added signature guitar and vocal stylings, respectively.

Johnny earned a national recording contract with RCA Victor in the late 1940s and scored a major hit with a waltz titled, "Yes, Dear," selling 50,000 copies in the first week of release. He hosted the first Slovenian television show, beginning in 1949, as well as a nationally-syndicated weekly radio broadcast from Cleveland, his hometown. A true polka pioneer, Johnny was one of the first five musicians inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame in 1989. He passed away in February at age 84.

"It's hard to imagine polka music without the magic of Johnny Vadnal," said long-time radio host Tony Petkovsek. "He put romance in each waltz and a party in every polka. Now the Polka Hall of Fame will perpetuate that legacy." Petkovsek serves as the organization's Chairman of the Board.

"We're grateful Alice Vadnal has entrusted the Polka Hall of Fame with the photos and news stories that were so important to Johnny," added Cecilia Dolgan, President. "We also received many rare, one-of-a-kind recordings which we are digitizing. He was an amazing musician. New technology will help us share his artistry."

The Polka Hall of Fame and Museum was founded in 1987 by the American Slovenian Polka Foundation, made up of musicians and leaders of Slovenian and ethnic organizations. It is the world's only museum to showcase Slovenian music. The Museum is located in the historic former City Hall in Euclid, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. Galleries include interactive music exhibits and vintage instruments. Treasures from the Hall of Fame archives are currently on display in the Ethnographic Museum in Slovenia.

The Polka Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio. Admission is free. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5:00, and Saturdays, 10:00 to 3:00. Polka CDs are available in the museum store. As a nonprofit organization, the Polka Hall of Fame and Museum relies on fundraising and memberships. Each year, members nominate and vote for polka achievers. For more information, call (216) 261-FAME, toll-free (866) 66-POLKA, or check the website, www.polkafame.com.

"The Premier Polka Event for 47 Years"

THANKSGIVING POLKA PARTY

◆ NOVEMBER 27 - 28 - 29, 2008 ◆



Tony Petkovsek's Cleveland-Style Polka Extravaganza



At the Downtown Cleveland Marriott Hotel
Public Square and St. Clair Ave.

2008 Room Rates: \$105 daily includes tax and parking!

Celebrate an annual tradition since the early 1960's.

The Weekend features over 15 leading polka bands: Fairport Jammers, Tomsick, Wojtila, Moravcik, Kravos, Linda Lee Brown, Thunander, Hank Haller, Walter Ostanek, Joey Miskulin, Jeff Pecon, Eddie Rodick, Mickey Dee, The Kres Slovenian Folk Dancers - and more!

Special Tribute to Frankie Yankovic and Kenny Bass

Supporting **Tony Petkovsek's Polka Radio**
America's longest running Polka Show
"since 1961"

WELW AM1330 2 Hours Daily 2 - 4pm / Saturdays 12 - 2:00pm
and Worldwide on-line www.247polkaheaven.com



Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame

TICKETS: 605 E. 222 St., Euclid OH

Awards Show **XXI** on Saturday 2:00PM - Nov. 29th

New Location! Slovenian National Home 6 417 St. Clair

-- Show tickets \$15

Complete details and reservations available:

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216-692-1000 // (800) 800-5981



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Current Events

June 25 - August 31 -

"Two Capital Cities: Ljubljana-Washington." An exhibit of contrasting photos from Ljubljana and Washington. Embassy of Slovenia.

Upcoming Events

September 25 - November

10 - A River's Gifts: Archeological Excavation of the Ljubljanica River in Photographs

The Closing of the Newspaper 'Ameriška Domovina'

by Ms. Johanna Bajc

The American Home/Ameriška Domovina is closing after over a century of service to countless Slovenians living outside of Slovenia. Not only has the American Home become a true Slovenian-American and Slovenian-Canadian institution, uniting Slovenians in those countries, but it has also reached Slovenians in South America, Australia and beyond. The American Home/Ameriška Domovina has made many rich contributions to the preservation of Slovenian culture and heritage and provided news and knowledge of all things Slovenians to Slovenians living abroad.

Among the many credits that are due to the American Home/Ameriška Domovina is the promotion of positive relations between the United States and the Republic of Slovenia. Because of the American Home/Ameriška Domovina, Slovenians living outside of Slovenia were informed of current events in Slovenia, student exchange programs, scholarship opportunities and seminars specifically designed for Slovenians living abroad. For these and many other reasons, the American Home/Ameriška Domovina will be sorely missed.

Compliments to publishers, owners and English language editors, Mr. & Mrs. James Debevec, to Slovenian editor Dr. Rudolf Sušelj, and to all previous publishers and editors who gave so generously of themselves to create and maintain what is truly a Slovenian-American institution.

The following recent message from "**Friends of Ameriška Domovina**" is a fine example of just how incredibly meaningful the American Home / Ameriška Domovina was to Slovenians living in North America:

American Home/Ameriška Domovina is our Statue of Liberty. Her beacon beckoned us to come to a land of freedom and opportunity. She chronicled the waves of immigrants and emigres that washed ashore. Her open arms welcomed us into America's bosom. She nursed us into the American way, nurtured

our young, cheered our youth, proudly posted our accomplishments, encouraged all, tended to the infirm, and buried the dead, even as many said nasvidenje to her when they ventured forth on their own. Her heart has pumped the blood of our Slovenian-American community for 110 years. Time has taken its toll on this heart as her pace has slowed. Is it time for us to say to her nasvidenje? Perhaps, but not today. Rather it is time to say hvala lepa for the many sacrifices, toils and troubles which can never be fully repaid. We can only say boglonaj, or may our good God repay you and only He can.

Slovenia Wins First Olympic Swimming Medal

Beijing, August 13 - Winning a gold medal is often considered the standard of excellence at the Olympics. But sometimes placing second is a huge victory. Sara Isakovič steamed to second place in the women's 200 meters freestyle to win Slovenia's first medal at the Beijing Games and its first ever in swimming at the Olympics.



Sara Isakovič, 13 Aug 2008

Often buried behind the headlines of world records and well-known athletes are the stories of first-time medalists at the Olympics. In Beijing, Sara Isakovič added her name and her country to the list.

"This is the first time in Slovene swimming that someone has achieved a medal," she said. "And it is a big honor for me."

Isakovič won the European title in the 200-meter freestyle earlier this year. On Wednesday, she was the silver medalist in the event. She finished only 0.15 of a second behind the world record set by Italian Federica Pellegrini in the race. Isakovič touched the wall in 1:54.97.



Sara Isakovič wins Olympic silver for Slovenia in the women's 200m freestyle.

"This is fantastic. My dreams have come true," said Isakovič, who just could not believe her amazing result: "I wouldn't even dare to predict 1:54. I had not expected we would swim this fast."

The 20-year-old Slovenian swam true to her style, touching as only the sixth after the first 50 meters and then slowly progressing towards the top places.

"I really gave out all my best until my last molecule of energy," she said. "So I just tried to finish it. And I was second. If maybe you are thinking I am disappointed for not winning gold, totally not. Because a silver medal is a huge achievement for me."

Isakovič says friends and family were getting up at three in the morning local time in Slovenia to watch her race.

"I have many supporters from all around the world too," said Isakovič. "I know my ex-schoolmates watched me. Also in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, England, also in Serbia since I am half Serbian. My whole family there supported me. So it means a lot to them of course."

Following her silver medal performance, Isakovič is already thinking of an upgrade.

"Definitely in the next Olympics, I am going for gold," she said.

And should she qualify for the 2012 London Games, her family will likely not have to cope with as large a time difference to watch her.

Sara Isakovič is after the games heading for California where she will study at Berkeley University, joining Slovenian swimmers Jernej Godec and Damir Dugonjic.

Polavder Wins Judo Bronze in Beijing

Beijing, August 15 - Slovenian judoka Lucija Polavder won bronze in the +78 category at the Beijing Olympics on Friday, earning the second medal for Slovenia at the Olympics and the

second judo medal for the country ever.

Polavder, who is ranked fifth in the world, suffered defeat in the semi-final at the hands of reigning Olympic champion Maki Tsukado.

In the fight for third place she was far superior to the much heavier Kim Nayoung, but she was unable to get the Korean to the floor and ended up winning on account of a koka or penalty point for inactivity.

"I have realised my dream and what I'm going through right now will be hard to repeat," a shining Polavder said after the fight.

Polavder's had less than half an hour to recover after the crushing defeat against Tsukado, who scored an ippon three minutes into the fight.

"It was tough to concentrate after this fight. Everyone helped: the coach gave me final instructions and Urska [Zolnir] massaged my arm."

Tong Wen of China won by scoring an ippon against Tsukada just 16 seconds from time. Cuban Idalys Ortiz won the second bronze.

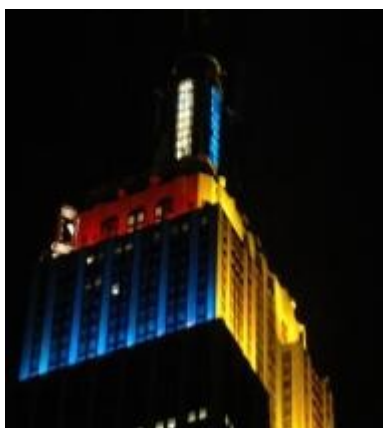
Slovenia now has one silver, won by swimmer Sara Isakovic, and one bronze at the Olympic Games, with several other prospective medalists yet to finish competition.

This is also the second Olympic judo medal for Slovenia after Urska Zolnir won bronze in Athens in 2004.

The Empire State Building Shines in Slovenian Colors

New York City, August 13 - The Empire State Building is shining with Olympic spirit: Each of its top four sides are being lit with the different colors of 66 competing countries.

The Empire State Building's manager says it is the first time the iconic building has split the tower's sides with four separate country's lights.



The Empire State Building

The lighting honors the top 66 countries taking part in the Summer Games in Beijing, based on the number of athletes from each country. The lights began on Aug. 7 and continue through the end of the games on Aug. 24.

The first and last day's lights honor the U.S. and China.

The Empire State Building on Wednesday was lit from sunset to midnight to salute Cuba on its north side, Slovenia on its west side, Ukraine on its south side and Spain on its east side.

Slovenian Parliamentary Election 2008

The next parliamentary election in Slovenia will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2008. Should the voter decide to cast the vote via mail, he or she is required to file the claim for mail-voting with the National Voting Commission by August 22, 2008. The claim should be send directly to the Election Commission at:

Državna volilna komisija
Slovenska 54
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

The claim can also be sent in by fax at 011 386 1 43 31 269 or by email at rvk@gov.si (however, due to the signature requirement, only scanned documents may be emailed).

Slovenian citizens with a registered permanent residence

in the Republic of Slovenia, but temporary living abroad, can send the claim for mail-voting via mail either to a diplomatic-consular representation of RS or directly to the National Voting Commission at the aforementioned address. The claim can be found on the website of the National Voting Commission at www.dvk.gov.si and should be filed by August 21, 2008. Slovenian citizens, with a permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia, deciding to vote at the diplomatic-consular representation of the Republic of Slovenia, will be entered into the special election registry.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.dvk.gov.si/>.

Slovenian Food Products in the United States

For those of you who are interested in buying Slovenian food products in the United States we are providing you with a link to an online shop [igourmet.com](http://www.igourmet.com):
<http://www.igourmet.com/shopp/e/prodview.aspx?cat=&subcat=&prod=3759>.