



The Founder of the Ljubljana Festival is the City of Ljubljana

The Patron of the 2019 Ljubljana Festival is the Mayor of the City of Ljubljana, Mr Zoran Janković.

**PRESS RELEASE**

*Ljubljana, May 2019*

## **LJUBLJANA FESTIVAL – CULTURAL HUB AT THE HEART OF YOUR SUMMER CULTURAL EXPERIENCE**

*Every summer the Ljubljana Festival makes an important contribution to the cultural life of Ljubljana with a carefully selected programme covering a wide variety of genres. Today's press conference in the Red Hall at Ljubljana Town Hall served to present this year's 67th Ljubljana Festival, which will run from July until September. Once again the festival will feature ballet and opera performances, musicals, chamber and symphonic concerts, the International Fine Arts Colony, workshops for children and young people, the Ljubljana Festival on the Ljubljanica, and much more. Even before the official start of the festival, you will have the unique opportunity to hear Verdi's Requiem conducted by the great Plácido Domingo, in his first appearance as a conductor in Slovenia. This pre-festival event will be followed at beginning of July by the most eagerly awaited cultural event of the year: the opening of the 67th Ljubljana Festival, which gets under way with Aida, one of the best known and most frequently performed operas not only of Verdi's oeuvre, but in the entire history of opera. Director Dražen Sirišćević's imaginative staging will make the most of the outdoor setting and the opera will include an appearance by thoroughbred Lipizzaner horses from the stud farm in Lipica. The events of the Ljubljana Festival take place throughout the summer and Slovenia's capital will continue to welcome some of the biggest names in music – performers of worldwide renown – right up until September. Performers at the 67th Ljubljana Festival will include: flamenco dancer María Pagés, bass guitarists Marcus Miller and Stanley Clarke, the modern dance company Aterballetto, the Teatro Regio from Turin with Verdi's La Traviata, the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra with Daye Lin, the Seongnam Philharmonic Orchestra with violinist Sergei Krylov, the Munich Radio Orchestra and the Bavarian Radio Chorus conducted by Ivan Repušić, a concert of opera arias with baritone Thomas Hampson and soprano Elena Moşuc, Mahler's Second Symphony with soprano Valentina Farcas and mezzo-soprano Bettina Ranch, the Russian musicals Onegin's Demon and The Master and Margarita performed by the LDM Novaya Scena theatre company from St Petersburg, prima ballerina Svetlana Zakharova and friends, the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor*

***Charles Dutoit, and many other artists. The programme also includes smaller, more intimate concerts by first-rate chamber musicians. This gala concert that ends this year's summer festival is particularly significant in that it is part of the farewell tour of one of the greatest conductors of the modern age, Zubin Mehta, who will conduct the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Colour your 2019 with superlative cultural experiences and attend the events of the 67th Ljubljana Festival.***

Even before the official start of this year's summer festival, Ljubljana will play host to the famous tenor **Plácido Domingo**, making his first appearance in Slovenia as a conductor. The legendary musician is the holder of numerous honorary doctorates and the winner of multiple Grammy Awards. Over the course of his long career, he has sung more than 150 tenor roles – more than any other tenor to date. Perhaps best known as one of the celebrated Three Tenors, in recent years he has enjoyed a growing reputation as a conductor. In Ljubljana he will conduct **Verdi's** monumental **Requiem**, one of the greatest and most beautiful works in the entire classical repertoire, with soloists **Elvira Hasanagić** (soprano), **Annalisa Stroppa** (mezzo-soprano), **Arturo Chacón-Cruz** (tenor) and **Roberto Tagliavini** (bass). The soloists will be accompanied by the **Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir** and the **Chorus of the Slovene National Theatre Opera and Ballet Ljubljana**.

(17. 6., Cankarjev Dom)

### **Opening of the 67th Ljubljana Festival**

The 67th Ljubljana Festival officially opens in the city's central Congress Square with a performance of **Aida**. Verdi's *Aida* is one of the best known and most frequently performed operas not only of Verdi's oeuvre, but in the entire history of opera. Staged countless times since its premiere in 1871, it has become a staple of the repertoire of opera houses around the world. This year's Ljubljana Festival performance is a co-production of the **Ljubljana Festival, the Croatian National Theatre Split, the Slovenian Philharmonic** and the **Slovene National Theatre Maribor**. Director **Dražen Siriščević's** imaginative staging of *Aida* will make the most of the Congress Square setting and the opera will include an appearance by thoroughbred Lipizzaner horses from the stud farm in Lipica.

(2. 7., Congress Square)

### **Orchestras and conductors**

Worth highlighting in this year's programme is the appearance by the **Israel Philharmonic Orchestra**, without a doubt one of the finest and most prestigious orchestras in the world. It was founded in 1936 by Bronisław Huberman and its inaugural concert was conducted by Arturo Toscanini. The Israel Philharmonic has performed all over the world in prestigious concert halls and at major festivals. At the age of eighteen **Zubin Mehta** abandoned the study of medicine to devote himself entirely to music. Today he is the director of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino festival in Florence (Italy), the Music Director of the Israel Philharmonic and an honorary conductor of many of the world's most prestigious orchestras. The closing concert of the 67th Ljubljana Festival will be one of the stops on the farewell tour of one of the greatest conductors of the modern age.

(5. 9., Cankarjev Dom)

Few symphony orchestras can boast a tradition as rich and long as that of the **Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra**, which has underlined its excellence through numerous performances in the cultural centres of Europe, the United States of America and Japan and appearances at major international festivals. Guest conductors and soloists who have worked with the orchestra include some of the biggest names in music. The Slovenian Philharmonic begins its new season with a performance under the baton of Swiss conductor **Charles Dutoit**, who has worked with some of the world's most famous orchestras and has received countless accolades for his work, including the Royal Philharmonic Society's Gold Medal in August 2017. Since 2018 he has been principal guest conductor of the St Petersburg Philharmonic.

(6. 9., Cankarjev Dom)

Conductor **Ivan Repušić** leads a performance by the **Munich Radio Orchestra** and the **Bavarian Radio Chorus**. The Bavarian Radio Chorus was founded in 1946. Famed throughout the world for its extraordinary stylistic versatility, the ensemble covers a broad spectrum of the choral repertoire. The Bavarian Radio Chorus has performed in Asia and appears at the most prestigious European festivals. Founded in 1952, the Munich Radio Orchestra still occupies a prominent place in Germany's musical landscape today. The orchestra has had nine principal conductors over the course of its 67-year history, most recently the Croatian conductor Ivan Repušić, who has led it since 2017.

(17. 7., Cankarjev Dom)

Founded in 1982, the **Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra** is considered one of China's best orchestras and is increasingly well known on the international circuit, having performed around the world (United States, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Turkey, India, South Africa, Indonesia, Korea and Thailand) and collaborated with artists of the calibre of José Carreras. The orchestra will be conducted at this concert by **Daye Lin**, its music director since 2016. Appearing with the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra will be two fast-rising names in classical music – cellist **Jiapeng Nie** and violinist **Tianwa Yang**.

(4. 9., Slovenian Philharmonic Hall)

## Two evenings of great opera

A highlight of the festival programme in July is the concert of opera arias with singers **Thomas Hampson** and **Elena Moşuc**, both of whom have appeared in the world's greatest opera houses and proved their mettle in numerous roles that have established them at the pinnacle of operatic art. The Romanian-born soprano Elena Moşuc was winning international competitions when still a student. The American baritone Thomas Hampson is likewise the recipient of numerous prizes and distinctions. The two soloists will be accompanied by the **Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra** under the Romanian conductor **Nicolae Moldoveanu** in a performance of the most beautiful melodies of the giants of opera.

(11. 7., Cankarjev Dom)

**La Traviata** is characterised by a timeless love story and peerless melodies. The libretto by Francesco Maria Piave is based on the controversial novel *La Dame aux camélias* by Alexandre Dumas  *fils*. Verdi completed his masterful score in a burst of creative

enthusiasm in less than two months. Although the premiere of the opera at the Gran Teatro La Fenice in 1853 was met with jeers and whistles, it achieved success the following year at the smaller Teatro San Benedetto. On this occasion *La Traviata* will be performed by the famous **Teatro Regio of Turin**.

(28. and 29. 8., Cankarjev Dom)

### **Soloists and chamber ensembles**

The internationally acclaimed soprano **Valentina Farcas** and mezzo-soprano **Bettina Ranch** will appear with the **Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir** and the **Megaron Chamber Choir**, which has taken top honours at a wide variety of choral competitions. **Hansjörg Albrecht** will conduct Mahler's magnificent Symphony No. 2, also known as the "Resurrection Symphony", which was one of the composer's most popular works, even during his lifetime.

(15. 7., Cankarjev Dom)

Following last August's chamber concert, violinist **Sergei Krylov** returns to the Ljubljana Festival. This Russian-born virtuoso, notable for his profound expressive insights and intense lyricism, has performed with many leading musicians and orchestras. Krylov will appear at this concert with the **Seongnam Philharmonic Orchestra**, conducted by the South Korean conductor Gum Nanse, who in 1977 became the first Korean to win the Herbert von Karajan Foundation's International Competition for Conductors. Founded in 2003, the Seongnam Philharmonic Orchestra is extremely active and, despite its youth, has already achieved a remarkably high level of performance.

(8. 7., Slovenian Philharmonic Hall)

The **Cameristi della Scala** (La Scala Chamber Orchestra) with soloists **Massimo Mercelli** and **Massimo Quarta** offer a programme of works by Tartini. Since its foundation in 1982, the orchestra has appeared in many of the most prestigious concert halls and collaborates frequently with top instrumental and vocal soloists. The Cameristi della Scala will actually perform twice at this year's Ljubljana Festival, first in Ljubljana and then, a day later, in Piran. Both concerts are part of the European cross-border project "tARTini", which brings together institutions in Piran, Ljubljana, Trieste and Padua with the aim of stimulating cultural tourism and promoting cultural heritage.

(1. 8., National Gallery)

The **Waidhofen an der Ybbs Chamber Orchestra**, based in the Austrian town of the same name, a place with a rich orchestral tradition, has existed in its present form since 1973. The orchestra plays an important role in the cultural life of the surrounding area and, through its collaboration with the local music school, offers gifted young artists a door to the world. Despite the hard work of leading the orchestra, conductor **Wolfgang Sobotka** has since 2017 been the President of the National Council, the lower chamber of the Austrian Parliament.

(5. 7., Slovenian Philharmonic Hall)

**Vortices** is the musical project of composer **Pavel Mihelčič**, whose oeuvre covers orchestral, theatrical, vocal-instrumental, choral and chamber music and works for soloists. He is the artistic director of the contemporary music ensemble MD7 and a

regular guest at Ljubljana Festival, where he has appeared as composer and performer in a range of projects and concert evenings. The artistic direction of the project is entrusted to the artistic director of the Opera and Ballet of the Slovene National Theatre Maribor, **Simon Krečič**, while the evening will be linked together by the actress **Nataša Barbara Gračner**, a permanent member of the Slovene National Theatre Ljubljana's Drama company, reading texts by Mihelčič.

(9. 7., Knights' Hall, Križanke)

Bringing musical variety to Ljubljana this summer is the internationally renowned crossover artist **Norbert Kael**. This Hungarian pianist, composer and arranger skilfully combines classical music and jazz, inventively transforming famous works from the classical repertoire while retaining their essential melody and character. His passion, style and imaginative concert programmes have wowed crowds all over the world.

(12. 7., Knights' Hall, Križanke)

The **Belgrade Chamber Choir** is made up of twenty prominent professional musicians. Founded in 1966, the choir has performed in Russia, Germany, Greece, Montenegro, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary and the Czech Republic, in addition to numerous performances in Serbia. In 2004 the choir appeared at the prestigious Moscow Easter Festival, becoming the first Serbian choir ever to do so. Since its foundation, the choir has been directed by **Vladimir Marković**, who is also active as a producer, arranger and composer.

(18. 7., St James's Church)

The cello and piano duo **Igor Škerjanec** and **Vladimir Mlinarić** appear in the Knights' Hall with a programme consisting of works by Vivaldi, Beethoven, Škerjanc and Brahms. A soloist with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Igor Škerjanec is also active as a chamber musician and a soloist with various other orchestras both in Slovenia and abroad. Of particular note is his work with the Trio Luwigana, with which he has travelled over almost the whole of Europe and North America. The other musician at this evening's concert, Vladimir Mlinarić, is also a member of the Trio Luwigana. As a soloist and a member of various chamber ensembles, he has performed in the major musical centres of Europe, United States, Canada, Russia, Chile and China.

(19. 7., Knights' Hall, Križanke)

The staged concert *Songs of Wars I Have Seen* will be performed by members of the **Ljubljana International Orchestra** conducted by **Živa Ploj Peršuh**, as part of the Jump Start project, which offers talented young musicians the opportunity to participate in an international training residency of the highest calibre. Each year, in conjunction with the Triple Bridge European Career Centre for Artists and the Music Up Close Network, it gives young musicians from all over Europe the opportunity to benefit from a unique musical association with renowned artists. This year's guest is the German composer and director Heiner Goebbels.

(19. 7., National Opera and Ballet Theatre)

The story of the **Musica Viva Academic Chamber Orchestra** dates back to 1978, when violinist and conductor Viktor Kornachev founded a musical ensemble of nine young graduates of Moscow's music academies. Ten years later, the ensemble had grown into a fully fledged orchestra. Under current director **Alexander Rudin** – who also gave the



group its name *Musica Viva* – Latin for "living music" – it has become a formidable musical ensemble and is today ranked as one of Russia's finest orchestras. For their Ljubljana concert they will be joined by soloists **Elena Korzhenevich** (violin) and **Emin Martirosian** (cello).

(22. 7., National Gallery)

The Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra is preparing a concert with the acclaimed mandolinist **Avi Avital**. Winner of the prestigious Aviv Competition in 2007, Israeli musician Avi Avital is the first mandolinist in the history of the competition to be so honoured. A passionate and charismatic musician, his performances have electrified audiences around the world. He is also the first mandolin soloist to be nominated for a classical Grammy.

(29. 7., National Gallery)

The **Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt** was founded in Tbilisi (Georgia) in 1964. Its move to Ingolstadt (Germany) in early 1990 opened a new chapter in its story. Despite the move to a different cultural and geographical environment, it maintains its Eastern European identity, at the same time acting as an important cultural ambassador for the city of Ingolstadt. For its Ljubljana concert the orchestra will be conducted by the Armenian conductor **Ruben Gazarian**, who since 2015 has also been its artistic director. The soloists will be **Fabrizio Meloni** (clarinet), **Vicente Campos** (trumpet) and **Giuseppe Albanese** (piano).

(30. 7., Slovenian Philharmonic Hall)

The concert evening *Death and the Maiden* places the spotlight on the vocal-instrumental works of two Romantic composers who are among the most notable composers of lieder: Hugo Wolf and Franz Schubert. *Songs for female voice and strings* and *Death and the Maiden for soprano and strings* have been arranged by the artistic director of the **Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra**, Klemen Hvala. The fourteen-member ensemble was founded in 1993 with support from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia. The soloist is the soprano **Nika Gorič**, who has completed a master's degree and a doctorate at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

(31. 7., National Gallery)

Innovative guitar virtuoso and educator **Mak Grgić** is a rising star of the international music scene. After training in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Vienna and, finally, Los Angeles, where he studied with Scott Tennant, he was invited to join the Artist Diploma programme at USC Thornton School of Music in Los Angeles – the first guitarist in the university's history to be admitted to this elite programme. At his Ljubljana concert with the **Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra**, he will perform Rodrigo's famous *Concierto de Aranjuez*, one of the most popular guitar concertos of the twentieth century.

(6. 8., National Gallery)

Pianist **Vadym Kholodenko** will give two separate concerts. Born in Kiev in 1986, Vadym Kholodenko performed his first concerts in the United States, China, Hungary and Croatia at the age of thirteen. **On 7 August he will give a solo concert of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Godowsky in the Knights' Hall.** The next day, **8 August, he will be joined at the National Gallery** by the violinist **Alena Baeva**, with whom he has been working for over a decade. Born to a musical family in Kazakhstan, Baeva began playing

the violin in early childhood before continuing her training at Moscow's famous Conservatory. In 2003 she went to study in Paris at the personal invitation of the legendary cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich. At this concert, she and Vadym Kholdenko will perform works by Schubert, Schumann and Richard Strauss.

The international Baroque ensemble **Il terzo suono** consisting of four established musicians was founded in 2005. The ensemble performs regularly at major European festivals, raising the profile of Slovenia's musical and cultural scene. The ensemble's Ljubljana concert will feature the works of three great Baroque composers – Antonio Vivaldi, Giuseppe Tartini and Georg Philipp Telemann – performed on authentic baroque instruments.

(9. 8., Devil's Courtyard)

**Bernardo Brizani** and **Miha Haas** will perform works by Boccherini, Beethoven, Schumann, Schubert and Paganini in the intimate atmosphere of the Knights' Hall. Cellist Brizani was born in Ljubljana in 1993 and began playing the cello

at the age of five, soon showing signs of the remarkable talent that enabled him to enrol at the Ljubljana Academy of Music to study cello as soon as he finished primary school. Parallel with his studies in Ljubljana, he trained at the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole near Florence (Italy) with the celebrated cellist Natalia Gutman, and in 2016 completed his master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik

in Detmold (Germany). Joining him on the piano is Miha Haas, who began his musical training at the Ljubljana Conservatory before continuing at the Ljubljana Academy of Music with the renowned pianist Dubravka Tomšič Srebotnjak and completing a master's degree at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels with Aleksandar Madžar.

(12. 8., Knights' Hall, Križanke)

The **Kodály Quartet** has been active for more than five decades and is one of the world's leading chamber ensembles. The quartet's story began in 1966, when it was founded by four students from Budapest's Franz Liszt Music Academy. Six years later it was renamed in honour of the famous Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály. Over the last decade, the quartet's members have performed in practically every country in Europe, the United States, Central and South America, Australia, the Far East and New Zealand. Violinists Attila Falvay and Ferenc Bangó, violist János Fejérvári and cellist György Éder will offer the Ljubljana audience a selection of works by composers of the middle and late Romantic period.

(13. 8., National Gallery)

The great flautist Jean-Pierre Rampal once said of **Claudi Arimany** that he is "one of those virtuosi who put technique, sonority and the colours of phrasing at the service of musicality and sensitivity, something not within the grasp of many." Arimany, regarded as one of the finest flautists active today, was born in Granollers, Catalonia. He will appear in the National Gallery with the **Ensemble Goffriller**, consisting of teachers from the Istituto Musicale Vincenzo Bellini in Catania, Sicily. The Ensemble was born out of a fertile interchange of artistic experiences among musicians of recognised merit, trained at Italy's most prestigious music academies and active in leading orchestras and chamber ensembles.

(14. 8., National Gallery)

## Ballet and dance

Seville-born **María Pagés** is internationally renowned for her personal aesthetic conception of the art of flamenco. A dancer who understands that art has no limits, she has conquered a place in her own right in the global dance panorama. She returns to Slovenia with her latest flamenco choreography *An Ode to Time*, a reflection on the relentless passing of time and its effects on the human body, desire, art and life. Drawing inspiration from her personal and professional life, she skilfully interweaves numerous elements into the piece, including the ideas of historical figures such as Plato, Marguerite Yourcenar, Jorge Luis Borges, John Cage, Marcel Duchamp and Octavio Paz, among others.

(4. 7., Križanke)

**Aterballetto** is an Italian modern dance company founded in 1979 by Vittorio Biagi. It is one of the most important dance companies in Italy and the country's first permanent ballet-producing organisation to be independent of an opera house. It performs regularly in prestigious venues around the world. The company's style is marked by the ability to shift across a wide range of musical styles, from classical to pop and jazz.

(16. 7., Križanke)

Born in the Ukrainian city of Lutsk, **Svetlana Zakharova** began dancing at the age of six. A mere four years later, she was admitted to the Kiev Choreographic College. In 1995 she entered the international Young Dancers' Competition in St Petersburg. The youngest contestant, she took second prize and was invited to continue her training in the graduation course at the St Petersburg Vaganova Academy. It was the first time in the school's history that a student was allowed to skip two grades. The following year she joined the Mariinsky Ballet and a year later, in 1997, aged just 18, she was promoted to principal dancer. Since 2003 she has been a member of the Bolshoi Ballet. She is highly regarded for her technical expertise and talent and is considered one of the greatest ballerinas of her generation. She will appear with group of top dancers, all of them soloists from leading ballet companies, in a selection of some of the most beautiful pieces in the ballet repertoire. They will be joined by the **RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra** conducted by Pavel Klinichev, also of the Bolshoi Theatre.

(3. 9., Cankarjev Dom)

## Musicals

The contemporary musical **Onegin's Demon** represents a new phenomenon that combines contemporary art with the tradition of Russian theatre and the high standards of Broadway. It is also notable for its use of 3D video content, which gives the musical a cinematic dimension. The musical reveals man's deepest feelings and leaves no room for stereotypes or censorship.

(19. and 20. 8. 2019, Križanke)

**The Master and Margarita** is one of the most famous and controversial novels of the twentieth century. A victim of the censors, it was not published until years after the death of its author, Mikhail Bulgakov. The first person to attempt to stage the novel as a musical was Andrew Lloyd Webber, who abandoned the ambitious undertaking after a year. The project was later revived by a group of top Russian artists, who have



succeeded in creating an unforgettable spectacle that draws the audience right into the heart of the action, thanks to 3D scenery, “aroma effects” and a dramatic atmosphere. The diabolical note is stressed by the involvement of six composers, six librettists, 66 actors and 666 costumes. The musical’s creators have come up with an intriguing blend of fantasy and reality which, with the help of advanced technology, leads the audience through the labyrinth of human passions and reveals some of the hidden meanings of the great novel on which it is based.

(22. and 23. 8. 2019, Križanke)

**Grease** has been delighting audiences ever since it first hit the stage almost fifty years ago. The bad boy–good girl love story centred on Danny and Sandy is a timeless tale of youth and friendship and has been a blockbuster success all over the world, ranking as one of the five most popular musicals of all time. In 2018 production company Prospot d.o.o. and the Ljubljana Festival teamed up to bring Slovenia its own version of this musical. It was adapted for Slovene audiences by singer-songwriter Tomaž Domicelj, responsible for the excellent translation of the original songs, and actor Boštjan Gorenc, aka Pižama, who created the sparkling dialogue. June's premiere in Cankarjev Dom's Gallus Hall was met with standing ovations and ever since then the young actors, singers and dancers of the cast have been filling halls throughout Slovenia.

(12. 6., Križanke)

The musical **Mamma Mia!** revives the musical legacy of legendary group ABBA. Since its 1999 premiere in London’s West End, it has been seen by more than 54 million people in over 40 countries and 170 cities around the world. This romantic story, full of optimism and vital energy, is set on a Greek island. Directed by Jug Radivojević, the musical is performed by a cast featuring some of Slovenia’s biggest names: Simona Vodopivec Franko, Alenka Godec, Damjana Golavšek, Uroš Smolej, Gojmir Lešnjak, Marjan Bunič, Matjaž Kumelj and many others. With fantastic choreography by Mojca Horvat, and with Patrik Greblo conducting, Abba’s legendary hits will be performed in Slovene in a fine translation by singer-songwriter Tomaž Domicelj.

(25. 8., Križanke)

### Relaxed evenings at the Ljubljana Festival

**Marcus Miller** has been dubbed one of the most influential artists of our time. At the top of his game for over 30 years, he is a two-time Grammy Award winner, winner of the 2013 Edison Award for Lifetime Achievement In Jazz (Holland), winner of the 2010 Victoire du Jazz (France) and in 2013 was appointed a UNESCO Artist For Peace. His characteristic bass sound can be heard on a limitless catalogue of musical hits: Bill Withers’s “Just The Two Of Us”, Luther Vandross’s “Never Too Much”, songs from Chaka Khan, David Sanborn, Herbie Hancock, Eric Clapton, Aretha Franklin, George Benson, Elton John and Bryan Ferry, to name but a few. With his distinctive style – a unique combination of funk, groove and soul – Miller has been referred to as one of the most significant bass players in jazz, R&B, fusion and soul.

(8. 7., Križanke)

Over the course of a musical career lasting more than 45 years, four-time Grammy Award winner **Stanley Clarke** has acquired the status of a legendary virtuoso on the bass guitar. He is

the first bassist in history to double on acoustic and electric bass with equal ferocity, and the first jazz fusion bassist ever to headline tours. His boundless creativity and sold-out concerts around the world have made him such a popular figure that he has even appeared on magazine covers. He has released more than 40 albums. Together with pianist Chick Corea and drummer Lenny White, he founded the influential jazz fusion band Return To Forever, who changed the history of music alongside fellow travellers Weather Report and Mahavishnu Orchestra. This will be his first appearance in Slovenia with his own band.

(9. 7., Križanke)

This concert evening at Križanke brings together two of Slovenia's most prominent wind orchestras. The **Slovenian Railways Wind Orchestra**, as we know it today, is the only one of Slovenia's once numerous railway bands and orchestras still performing. The current conductor, the eleventh to wield the baton since the orchestra was founded, is Franci Lipovšek, who took over in 1999. Under his leadership, the orchestra began to develop significantly and started taking part in competitions, resulting in an increase in the quality and complexity of the music it plays. The **Trbovlje Workers' Band**, on the other hand, has been among the most popular amateur wind orchestras for decades, having confirmed its high quality and long musical tradition with first places at wind competitions in Slovenia and multiple successes at WMC Kerkrade, the world's biggest international wind music competition. Since 2007 it has been led by Jože Kotar.

(10. 6., Križanke)

As tradition dictates, the first evening of summer will once again be dedicated to the **Summer Night** concert in Ljubljana's Congress Square. This concert, which attracts an audience of all ages, will dust off some of the most beautiful songs from the rich catalogue of timeless Slovene pop hits and present them in a new guise. At the same time, the event serves to welcome the summer – long hot days and a wide variety of evening entertainment and activities on the streets of Ljubljana. Once again this year, the **RTV Symphony Orchestra and Big Band** will join forces and, together with numerous top soloists, pay homage to the golden age of Slovene popular song and Slovene musical giants. This year's Summer Night is dedicated to Marjana Deržaj, a Slovene musical legend and a woman who was often greater than the music itself.

(20. 6., Congress Square)

The **Ljubljana Festival on the Ljubljanica** is a festival of chamber music that this year reaches its fourth edition as part of this summer's 67th Ljubljana Festival. Take a trip aboard a pleasure boat on the Ljubljanica, a river with a rich history, and let students from the Ljubljana Conservatory of Music and Ballet and the Ljubljana Academy of Music charm you with their youthful energy and musical talent. Surrender to enchanting melodies as you take in the riverside sights of Ljubljana's Old Town.

(27.-30. 6.)

**Tomaž Domicelj**, an icon of Slovenia's singer-songwriter scene, returns to the Ljubljana Festival following a one-year break. His new concert *New Acoustic* continues the story of the three previous concerts in the Pure Acoustic series. Domicelj, who turned seventy last year, is in top vocal, instrumental and creative form, as demonstrated by his latest radio and concert recordings. His playing – on a wide variety of acoustic guitars – singing and commentary will be accompanied by **Zdenko Cotič, aka Coto**, known to his

fellow musicians as Slovenia's answer to Eric Clapton. "Coto and I have been friends for 45 years," says Domicelj, "but this will be our first official collaboration. Our only problem is – what NOT to play. New Acoustic is only scheduled to last a few hours, after all..."

(5. 7., Devil's Courtyard)

**Vlado Kreslin's** traditional concert at the end of August heralds the imminent end of the summer and, at the same time, the end of the summer festival. Kreslin's sensitive original music and wonderful arrangements of folk songs have been filling the outdoor theatre of Ljubljana's Križanke complex for almost three decades, and continue to delight audiences. Having performed most frequently with his group Mali Bogovi and the traditional Beltinška Banda, he has punctuated his musical career with a range of collaborations with a great variety of domestic and foreign musicians such as Rade Šerbedžija, Josipa Lisac, Vlatko Stefanovski, Mary Coughlan, Siddharta, Severa and Gal Gjurin, and many others. This year once again he will bid farewell to the summer with his black guitar and, as usual, will be joined on stage by an interesting range of musical guests.

(30. 8., Cankarjev Dom)

With his new **Marko Hatlak BAND** project, accordionist Marko Hatlak dips a toe into pop, Latin, funk and rock waters. Drawing inspiration from Jamiroquai, Stevie Wonder, Michel Camilo, Prince and Jože Privšek, he translates it into an energetic, entertaining and rhythmic blend of youthful dance music. In the Marko Hatlak BAND project he is both accordionist and vocalist, as well as composer and lyricist. The concert will also be an opportunity to hear songs from Hatlak's new album *Ko ni Noč in ni Dan*. The band will be joined on stage by a special guest – the great guitarist Vlatko Stefanovski.

(21. 9., Križanke)

From 14 to 19 July, Križanke hosts the **22nd International Fine Arts Colony**, led by selector **Tomo Vran**.

This year's 67th Ljubljana Festival will also include a series of **masterclasses**. These will take place at the Ljubljana Conservatory of Music and Ballet under the artistic direction of Branimir Slokar, who has nurtured many remarkable trombonists over the course of long and fruitful career. Young musicians will be able to attend the masterclasses as soloists or as members of a chamber group. The masterclasses are led by twelve internationally renowned teachers: violinist Latica Honda-Rosenberg, violist Wolfram Christ, cellist Jens Peter Maintz, double bassist Petru Iuga, pianist Aleksandar Madžar, oboist Emanuel Abbühl, flautist Felix Renggli, clarinettist François Benda, bassoonist Eckart Hübner, trumpeter Matthias Höfs, horn player Radovan Latković and trombonist Jürgen van Rijen.

(15. 7.–8. 8., Ljubljana Conservatory of Music and Ballet)

### Accompanying events

Children have an opportunity to develop their talents at the following **free themed creative workshops**: a dance workshop called Committed to Steps (August 2019) and the Little Art Colony (15.–19. 7., Pergola).

Academy-trained sculptor Zmago Posega (Postojna, 1959–Šempeter pri Gorici, 2009) appeared on the art scene in Slovenia together with the rest of *Generation 82* in the 1980s, a time when numerous artistic explorations were gathering pace and the prevailing opinion was that the style, symbol and structure – and also the modes of art – developed by the art of minimalism and conceptualism no longer made sense. **Hommage à Zmago Posega** will be on view in the Atrium at Križanke. The exhibition is curated by Nelida Nemec.  
(16. 8.–3. 9., Atrium)

## Sponsors and supporters

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the **City of Ljubljana** and its mayor **Zoran Jankovič**, without whose generous support it would not be possible to put on a festival programme lasting more than two months. We would also like to express our gratitude to all our sponsors and supporters. Thanks are also due to the media for their coverage of our events, and to all who attend the festival.

The advance ticket sales period is not the same for all events. Advance tickets are available for one month from the date tickets go on sale for an individual event. Advance tickets are available to the general public at a 10% discount and to Ljubljana Festival Club members at a 20% discount. To become a member of the Club, visit [ljubljanafestival.si/klub/](http://ljubljanafestival.si/klub/), where you can also purchase tickets. Tickets are available from the Križanke box office, Eventim outlets, Petrol service stations, post offices, Kompas shops and railway ticket offices in Ljubljana, Celje, Koper and Maribor.

Thank you for taking the time to discover the Ljubljana Festival programme.

**More information and tickets at [ljubljanafestival.si](http://ljubljanafestival.si).**

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The founder of the Ljubljana Festival is the City of Ljubljana, which also provides financial support:



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**The Founder of the Ljubljana Festival is the City of Ljubljana. The Festival has been a member of the European Festivals Association (EFA) since 1977.**