

THE
SLOVAK - AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER

presents

A CONCERT

COMMEMORATING THE ONE
HUNDRED - TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY of

MATICA SLOVENSKA

Sunday the 12th of December, 1982 2:00 P.M.
in

CARNEGIE RECITAL HALL

Seventh Avenue and Fifty-seventh Street
New York, N.Y.



Matica Slovenska 1863-1983

Motto: Every nation has a spiritual mission to perform in this world. If it fails to perform it, it will disappear.

- E. Štúr

MATICA SLOVENSKÁ - (SLOVAK CULTURAL INSTITUTE)
(1863-1983)

After the partially successful Slovak revolt against the Magyars, in 1848-49, in which Slovaks fought for the establishment of their own state in the frame of the Austro-Hungarian multinational empire, P. J. Šafárik's 1834 idea of forming Slovenská Matica was renewed by J. Kollár's attempt in 1851, and finally by the famous Slovak National Assembly in June 1861 in the City of Turčiansky Svätý Martin. The Slovak National Assembly issued a petition called "Memorandum of the Slovak Nation" and also asked one of the Slovak leaders, Jan Francisci, to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the future Matica Slovenská.

The Memorandum which was presented to the Magyar dominated Hungarian parliament in 1861 contained these points (in summary):

1. Recognition of the separate entity of the Slovak nation.
2. Recognition of the national right of the Slovaks to use their Slovak language - in the schools and offices.
3. Recognition of the boundaries of Slovak territory (slovenské okolie).
4. Respecting the national and human rights of all the nations in the Hungarian Kingdom.

When the Memorandum was ignored by the Hungarian Parliament, the Slovaks sent a delegation, led by bishop Stefan Moyses to Vienna to petition the Emperor Franz Joseph I. The delegation met with little success. However, it paved the way for J. Francisci's temporary committee of Matica Slovenská.

After many compulsory changes in the constitution of Matica Slovenská, in August 1862, Jan Francisci received the emperor's approval to establish Matica, but still more restrictions were to be made in Matica's future activity. For example, Matica's meetings were to be restricted to one city only. Only then the final approval came to Francisci from Budapest on May 31, 1863.

After many years of trials Matica Slovenská became a reality at the constitutional assembly on August 4, 1863 in Turčiansky Svätý Martin.

The Slovak spirit, flag and national emblem (that was of course Matica's emblem too) were flying high on this glorious day.

The first president of Matica was catholic bishop Stefan Moyses. Dr. Karol Kuzmány, a lutheran, was the first vice-president. This was a historic gesture of unification of the confessionally divided Slovak nation.

In the year 1863, Slovaks celebrated the one-thousandth anniversary of their christianization. Matica was established in the memory of the Cyrillo-Methodian baptism, the christianization of the Slovak people and their writings.

The first paragraph of the Matica's constitution defines its purpose and goal: "Matica Slovenská is a union of lovers of Slovak life and the Slovak nation. Its goal is to awaken, spread and confirm the moral and intellectual activities of the members of the Slovak nation; to support the development of Slovak literature and arts; to support the material well-being of the Slovak nation; to support general development of the Slovak nation."

Matica gradually attracted many Slovak writers, poets, artists, scientists and Slovak patriots to Turčiansky Svätý Martin. Under Matica's influence the multilingual writings of Slovaks (Latin, Czech, German, Magyar, Croatian) became predominantly Slovak.

From the beginning, Matica aspired to unite and represent all attributes of cultural, scientific and social life of the Slovaks.

Matica also became the ideological center of the Slovaks. Several important organizations and institutions were founded from its ideological inspiration, namely: Živena, Slovak Women Association, the First Slovak National Printery, the Slovak Choir, the Slovak Theater and the Slovak Museum. From 1867 all textbooks for Slovak elementary schools were published by Matica. It increased research of Slovak culture and history, and increased the translation activities from Latin, German, English, French, Russian, Magyar and other languages. The tasks of Matica were many. All of them could be channeled to one cardinal task: defense against Magyarization and Germanization.

After the French Revolution, the development of the European nations definitely went the way of establishing the ethno-nations. In 1792 the Hungarian Parliament declared the Magyar language the official language in the

Kingdom. This led to anti-magyar revolts of the Slovaks, the Croats, the Rumanians and others. Austria, however, lost the war with Prussia in 1866. The Magyar leaders sided with Prussia. Thus Austria was forced to give great concessions to the Magyars in 1867. With their hands freed, the Magyars started a brutal magyarization anew. The minister of interior of the Budapest government, Magyar count Tisza, declared: "There is no Slovak nation in this land." The school system became a machine producing Magyars from non-Magyars. Many Slovak and other students were expelled from the schools simply because they dared to speak their mother tongue. Almost one-fourth of the Slovak nation was forced to emigrate, mainly to the United States. These emigrants, especially in the United States, Russia and France, carried on the national tradition.

The Slovaks, together with other nationalities, worked patiently toward their freedom. Finally the year 1918 saw the Austro-Hungary destroyed by the political blindness and chauvinism of its leaders. The American Slovaks and their Czech counterparts signed two agreements of cooperation in the United States. This was the impetus that led to the creation of Czechia-Slovakia (Česko-Slovensko).

One of the first important acts of the new, freer life in Slovakia was the re-establishment of Matica Slovenská. At the historical celebration in August 1919 in Turčiansky Svätý Martin, Matica greeted the Slovak people with this memorable message: "The Resurrected Matica welcomes the resurrected nation."

(Condensed from a study by Jerry J. Krupa)

PROGRAM

PART ONE

Metropolitan New York Byzantine Choir,
Professor Gabriel Žihal, Director
"Kto za pravdu horí" Rev. F. Horvath

Karol Prochotsky - recitation
"Moyzes' Speech"

Metropolitan New York Byzantine Choir
"Aká si mi krásna" E. Suchon
Bella-Horal

"Hoj, vlast' moja!" Mikuláš Schneider Trnavský
arranged, Prof. G. Žihal

Bohus Raposh, - recitation

Marienka Michna - pianist
"Rhapsody in b minor" J. Brahms
"Fireworks" C. Debussy

Jacqueline Schmidt - soprano

Marienka Michna - pianist
"Tancovala a ne znala" folk song from Zemplin
"Caro nome", aria from **Rigoletto** G. Verdi

Karol Prochotisky - recitation

"Mňa kedys' zvädzal svet" Pavol Orszagh Hviezdoslav

Rudolf Grega - tenor

Marienka Michna - pianist
"Pieseň Janka" from **Podpolianske polia** Š. Jurovský
"Ľšiel som ja tými lesmi"
"Milena, Milena" L. Lehotská - Krížiková
"Keby som bol vtáčkom" M. Schneider-Trnavský

INTERMISSION

PART TWO

Metropolitan New York Byzantine Choir

Professor Gabriel Žihal, Director

Folk medley:

"Ženíl bym sja ženil" arranged, Prof. G. Žihal

"Vež ty zajdu"

"A ja taká čarna"

"Ej joj tili tili"

Marienka Michna - pianist

First movement of Sonatina,

motto: "Hory moje, hory krásne" J. Cikker

Paraphrase on the quartet from

Rigoletto G. Verdi - F. Liszt

Luba Greguš - vocalist

"My Ship" I. Gershwin

K. Weill

"Memory" T.S. Eliot

A.L. Webber

Rudolf Grega - tenor

Marienka Michna - pianist

"Ja svoje srdce dám"

from operetta **Zem Usmevov** F. Lehár

"Tá modrá ruža Vám povie"

"Život je ruleta"

from operetta **Modrá Ruža** G. Dusík

"Vám jedine Vám"

from operetta **Vino pre Marinu** G. Dusík

Metropolitan New York Byzantine Choir

"Otče náš" D. Bortnianski

Bohuš Raposh - recitation

"Bombura" Samo Chalupka

Metropolitan New York Byzantine Choir

"Bože ráč zhladniť" M. Schneider-Trnavský

Metropolitan New York Byzantine Choir

List of Members

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Joe Barron | John Ladomirak |
| Terry Barron | Nancy Ladomirak |
| Anne Chorney | Ann Markus |
| John Chorney | ++ Mike Martin |
| Frank Chupka | Ann Medvecky |
| Mary Chupka | ++ John Medwick |
| Chris Csernica | Martha Medwick |
| Joe Csernica | ++ Robert Medwick |
| Ted Csernica | Irene Mihalco |
| Mary Dec | ** Betty Pisanchik |
| Joe Gilbert | ** Liz Pisanchik |
| Ann Gotch | Helen Popovich |
| Bill Gotch | Helen Schuster |
| Steve Haschin | Charles Sheppa |
| Daniela Hlinka | ** Michael Sikora |
| John Hnat | Mary Sim |
| Julie Hnat | Andy Skurna |
| Elias Ihnatolya | Mary Soga |
| John Kalapos | ** Mike Soga |
| Joseph Kapusta | Marge Soyka |
| ** Ronald Kapusta | ++ Elaine Spur |
| Sue Kapusta | Maria Strizak |
| Prof. George Kostraba | Anne Ujhazi |
| Eleanor Kozel | ** Soloist |
| | ++ Musician |

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ZAHRANIČNÁ
MATICA
SLOVENSKÁ



Z príležitosti vigílie 120. výročia založenia Matice slovenskej (4. aug. 1863). Ďakujeme Slovensko-americkému stredisku za myšlienku osláviť koncertom Maticu slovenskú.

Táto oslava je akoby prvou jarnou lastovičkou jubilejných osláv, ktoré budú z príležitosti 120. výročia Matice slovenskej v slobodnom svete.

Zahraničná Matica slovenská sa považuje za pravovernú pokračovateľku maticných snáh.

Aj keď sa považuje 30. august 1959 za deň založenia Zahraničnej matice slovenskej, v skutočnosti tento dátum je deň úradného prehlásenia a ustanovenia Matice slovenskej v zahraničí, a to právoplatne zvolených hlavných úradníkov: správcom nebohým Jozefom C. Hronským, tajomníkom Dr. Stanislavom Mečiarom a hospodárom Antonom Ondrušom. Z toho vyplýva, že Zahraničná matica slovenská nie je nová organizácia, ale skôr je matkou slovenských organizácií v slobodnom svete.

Zahraničná matica slovenská nie je konkurentkou slovenských organizácií, ale skôr matkou, usmerňovateľkou a burcovateľkou slovenského národného povedomia.

Toto svoje prvoradé a prvotné poslanie vykonávala Matica slovenská doma pod Tatrami a Vihorlatom dokedy bola opravdu slovenská. V tejto práci pokračujeme aj dnes. Svedectvo toho je tichá národná práca Zahraničnej matice slovenskej, zasielanie listov v podobe blahoželaní rôznym slovenským organizáciám v slobodnom svete z príležitosti rozličných jubileí. Pravda, jej blahoželaní sú iba tam čítané, kde vládne slovenský duch. Podobne pri oslavách k predslovu je pozvaný hlavný predseda Zahraničnej matice slovenskej len v takej organizácii, v ktorej žije pravý slovenský duch.

Sláva Slovensko-americkému kultúrnemu stredisku! Držte čistú slovenskú líniu a požehnanie Božie nebude vám chýbať.

Sláva všetkým členom a členkám Zahraničnej matice slovenskej!

Hamilton, Ont. Canada, November 21, 1982.

Msgr. František J. Fúga,
predseda Rudolf Považan,
tajomník Jan Hladký, hospodár

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The original Matica Slovenska will always be the most valued beacon of Slovak ideology.

Jerry J. Krupa
Roma Krupa

Maria Krupova
Diana Krupova

My best wishes are with you at this opportunity to commemorate the anniversary of Matica Slovenska.

J. Dobias
Ontario, Canada