



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 29

# Slovenia Gets New Government

Slovenia's 12th government, headed by Prime Minister Miro Cerar, was sworn in on Thursday, September 18, as the National Assembly endorsed the 16-member cabinet by 54 votes to 25 with 6 abstentions after a ten-hour session.

The Party of Miro Cerar (SMC), which won the early election on July 13, formed a coalition with the Pensioners' Party (DeSUS) and Social Democrats (SD), both of which had been part of the outgoing Alenka Bratušek cabinet. Thus, four members of the new government will continue at the departments they ran in the former, Alenka Bratušek, cabinet, namely, foreign minister, Karl Erjavec; Gorazd Žmavc, minister



The new Slovenian government lead by Miro Cerar was sworn on September 18th.

without portfolio for Slovenians abroad; Dejan Židan, agriculture, food and forestry minister; and labor minister, Anja Kopač Mrak.

Other cabinet members are: Janko Veber, defense minister; Dušan Mramor, finance minister; Jožef Petrovič, economic development and technology minister, Vesna Györköös Žnidar, interior minister; Goran Klemenčič, justice minister; Peter Gašperšič, infrastructure

minister; Milojka Kolar Celarc, health minister; Irena Majcen, minister of the environment and spatial planning; Violeta Bulc, minister without portfolio for development, strategic projects and cohesion; Boris Koprivnikar, public administration minister Stanka Setnikar Cankar, minister of education, science and sport; and Julijana Bizjak Mlakar, culture minister.



## Kalorama Tour at the Embassy of Slovenia



Some 100 guests attended the event.

The 29th Kalorama House and Embassy Tour took place on Sunday, September 15, 2013, from noon to 5 p.m. Organized by the Woodrow Wilson House, this self-guided walking tour and open house featured several Washington embassies and residences in the Kalorama neighborhood, including the Embassy of Slovenia, which traditionally participates in this fundraising event, the proceeds

of which benefit the Woodrow Wilson House.

Next to the bright and modern premises of the Slovenian embassy, this year the tour featured the Embassy of Latvia, historically known as the Alice Pike Barney Studio House, the Cultural Center of the Korean Embassy, the Ambassadorial Residence of Egypt, the Embassy of Luxembourg, to mention a few. The highlight of

the tour was Washington's only presidential museum and a National Trust Historic Site, the Woodrow Wilson House, where the jazz band Chrystal Chandelier entertained the guests.

The house and embassy tour, however, not only offered a unique opportunity to see the interiors of selected Kalorama buildings but also offered an opportunity to experience the many cultures represented by the official embassies from foreign countries located in the Kalorama neighborhood.

At the Embassy of Slovenia, visitors could taste some of the traditional Slovenian food, such as Carniolian pork sausage and the typical Slovenian festive dessert "potica", a walnut roll cake. They could view an exhibition by Slovenian American artist Miro Zupančič, titled Horizon, listen to Slovenian music, and enjoy watching videos of Slovenian landscape and learn about the economic and business features of Slovenia.



Presenting Slovenian cuisine.



Video nook.

# Andrej Blatnik Presents His New Book at the Library of Congress

The European Division of the Library of Congress, in partnership with the Embassy of Slovenia, organized on September 25, a literary event with Slovenian writer and professor at the University of Ljubljana, Andrej Blatnik. Blatnik discussed his latest English-language book, *Law of Desire*, a collection of 16 tales about "urban nomads" lost in a labyrinth of pop culture, published by Dalkey Archive Press. Prof. Blatnik also discussed publishing and reading habits in Southeast Europe.

Andrej Blatnik was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He received his master's degree in American Literature and a Ph.D. in Communication Studies. He works as an editor in Cankarjeva publishing house, and teaches publishing studies at the University of Ljubljana.



Blatnik presented his latest English-language book, *Law of Desire*.

In 1993, he participated in the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in Iowa City; in 1995, was a guest at the International Writers Center at the Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia

and, in 1998, at the Ledig House International Writers Colony. In September 2014, he was artist in residence in New York City, sponsored by the Slovenian Ministry of Culture.

His stories have been published in 29 different languages. Next to *Law of Desire*, his books available in English include *Skinswaps* (Northwestern University Press, Chicago, 1998) and *You Do Understand* (Dalkey Archive, 2010). He is included in many anthologies, including *Best European Fiction 2010*. Blatnik also works as a translator. He translated several books from English into Slovenian, including Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* and *The Sheltering Sky* by Paul Bowles. He won some major Slovenian literary awards and received various fellowships, including the Fulbright.



The event was part of the European Division's program.

## Ambassador Visits Baltimore for the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner

Upon the invitation of Rear Admiral Brad Williamson, Commander of Standing NATO Maritime Group Two, and Captain Dean Rawls, Commanding Officer of U.S.S. Leyte Gulf, Ambassador Dr. Cerar joined aboard the U.S.S. Leyte Gulf the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner. The ambassador, together with the members of the diplomatic corps and other high-level guests, enjoyed the performance by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, and on the sides met with Maryland Governor, Martin O'Malley.



Ambassador Dr. Cerar with Captain Dean Rawls.



Ambassador Dr. Cerar with Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and his wife.

## SPORTS

### Medals for Slovenia at Canoe Slalom World Championship

Slovenia's canoeists bagged three medals on September 20 and 21 at the ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships in Deep Creek, Maryland. Benjamin Savšek won silver in men's C1 single competition, rounding off the feat by clinching the team's bronze in the same category with his two teammates, Luka Božič and Anže Berčič. Savšek, who won bronze at last year's Worlds in Prague, placed second, following a flawless final run on Saturday. Gold went to the favorite, Fabien Lefevre of the United States, and bronze to Germany's Anton Franz.

Moreover, Luka Božič and Sašo Taljat, on Sunday became world champions in men's canoe



Ambassador with medal winners.

doubles. The Slovenian double beat France's Hugo Biso and Pierre Picco and Slovakia's Ladislav and Peter Škantar to capture what is the third individual gold and, overall, 17th medal for Slovenia at the canoe slalom Worlds. Taljat and Božič put up a flawless performance, taking just the right amount of risk in the final to top off a successful season after a World Cup win in London, second spot in Slovenia's Tacen, and bronze at the European championships in Vienna.

Ambassador Dr. Cerar rooted for the Slovenian team at Deep Creek and congratulated the team members for their medals – golden, silver and bronze.



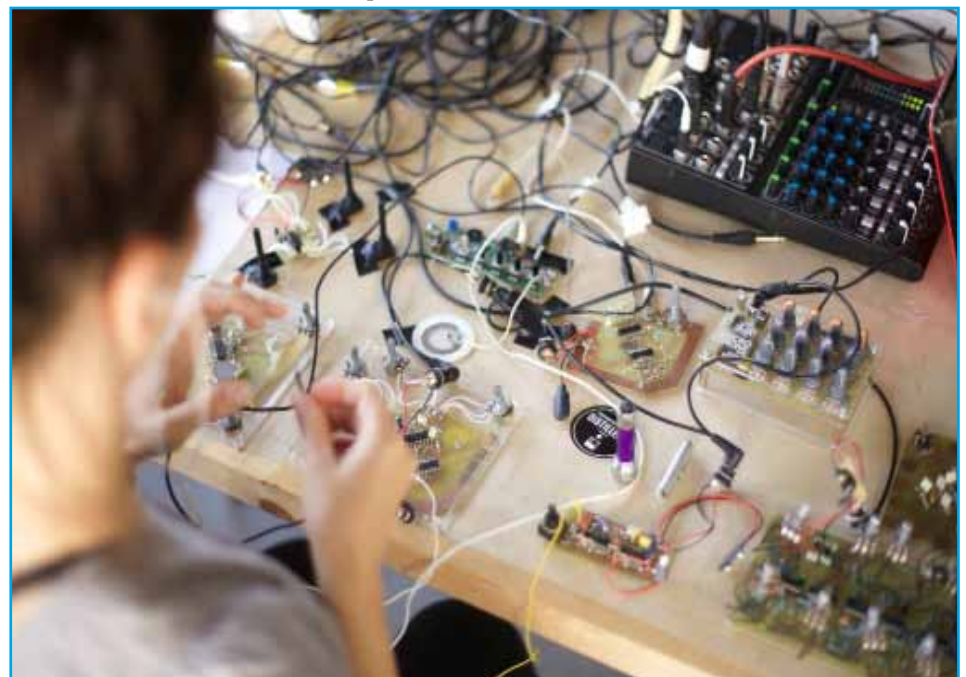
Slovenian canoe team.

## CULTURE

# Theremidi Orchestra Workshop and Performance in New York

"Sound Happens in the Group" was the telling title of TheremidiOrchestra performance, held at the scenic Industry City Distillery in Brooklyn's Sunset Park, with strong reference to collective approach in making music – and their make-it-yourself instruments. From September 10 to 14, Theremidi Orchestra (TO) conducted a workshop and a performance at Eyebeam/CT-SWaM (Contemporary Temporary Sound Works And Music) in New York. The concert and guest appearance was curated by Eyebeam Alumnus Daniel Neumann.

The 4-day workshop, run by members of Theremidi Orchestra, had two goals: participants would build their instruments from kits assembled by Theremidi Orchestra, and



Audiovisual project by Theremidi orchestra. (Photo: TO archive)

form their very own orchestra for a performance scheduled a few days after. Both, the participants (a total of seven applied), and the members were excited about the results and the mutual

appreciation of each other's work. The instruments – Theremidi, MicroNoise, TouchTone – are developed in cooperation with other participants and are based on open-source electronic



The workshop. (Photo: TO archive.)

(September 20-21) at the New York Science Hall. Attendance at the Faire, which praises U.S. and international makers, was a great success; the TO's DIY instruments workshop and hands-on stand attracted attention of the Maker Faire board, which bestowed on them 'Best in Class' and 'Editor's Choice' awards.

Theremidi Orchestra (TO) is an audiovisual community-inspired collective initiated by participants of the Theremini and Teremidi physical interface workshop, organized by Ljudmila – Ljubljana Art and Science Laboratory -- in May 2011. Rather than a subject, TO is a verb, an ongoing workshop of noise and drone production. This hands-on electro noise ensemble exists in the present continuous, while referring to the history of electronic music. TO has a DIY/DIWO approach in making music and sound experiments, developing its own instruments based on open-source electronic circuits. Currently, TO consists of nine active members coming from different professional backgrounds (Ida Hiršenfelder, Dare Pejjić, Tina Dolinšek, Robertina Šebjanič, Saša Spačal, Dušan Zidar, Luka Frelih, Tilen Sepič, and Simon Bergoč).

So far, the orchestra performed, exhibited and held workshops at over thirty festivals and exhibitions, mostly in Europe, e.g., Píksel Festival in Bergen, Norway; LiWoLi Festival in Linz, Austria; PoolLoop in Zürich, Switzerland; U3: Triennial of Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Art in Ljubljana, Slovenia; and Eyebeam/CT-SWaM, New York, to name just a few.

circuits, assembled at TO's domicile, the Ljubljana Art and Science Laboratory (Ljudmila). In a short time, new bonds were created and knowledge about experimental electronic music was exchanged. The most valuable exchange was that of the knowledge of electronic DIY instruments, collective mind-set, and production mode of art and

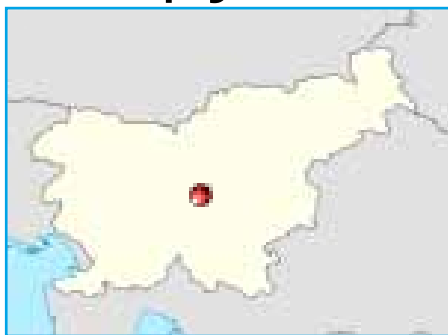
science ensemble, deeply involved in maker culture and art scene in Slovenia and Europe. Results were also noted at a triple-bill public performance, held jointly with the workshop participants, local sound artist Ben Owen, and Theremidi Orchestra.

During their stay in the U.S., Theremidi Orchestra also attended the Maker Faire



The workshop. (Photo: TO archive.)

# Grosuplje



Only a few miles outside Ljubljana, on the outskirts of the Dolenjska region, lies the municipality of Grosuplje. The area is rich in cultural and historical heritage: the settlement of Magdalene mountain near Grosuplje dates back to the early Iron Age, while Šmarje-Sap, the second largest town in the municipality, has been the cultural and religious center of the western part of the Dolenjska region for more than 700 hundred years. Furthermore, in the neighborhood of Turenček ("Little tower«") in Šmarje-Sap, the first Slovene grammar school was in existence as early as 1504. The town of Grosuplje was first mentioned in written sources as a cultural and business center in 1136 but started to flourish only after the arrival of the railway. Its strategic location helped Grosuplje to quickly develop into a modern town, which is becoming increasingly more popular as a place to live, work and spend leisure time in.

## MAGDALENSKA GORA/ MAGDALENE MOUNTAIN

The Magdalene mountain area was once the site of a prehistoric settlement with man-made terraces and ramparts, and is



Grosuplje. (Photo credit: [www.grosuplje.si](http://www.grosuplje.si))

today one of the most famous archaeological sites in Slovenia. An archaeological path leads past the still visible remains of the Iron Age hill fort and provides us with an insight into the lives of its ancient inhabitants.

## RADENSKO POLJE

The picturesque landscape of Radensko polje has been shaped

through millennia of symbiosis between man and nature. As the smallest of the nine karst fields of Slovenia, it allows us to explore all typical karst phenomena concentrated in a small area. The field is surrounded by steep wooded slopes, while in its middle the isolated limestone hill of Kopanj rises up mysteriously. In autumn and spring, the field turns into a vanishing lake. In



Radensko polje. (Photo: [www.grosuplje.si](http://www.grosuplje.si))

winter, the snow and the ice lend a special charm to the area, while rich colors decorate it throughout the summer. Many rare and endangered species have made their home here. Due to its landscape rich in animal life and the large number of endangered species, Radensko polje is part of the European ecological network Natura 2000.

## ŽUPANOVA JAMA – THE MAYOR’S CAVE

This underground treasure of the Slovene Karst boasts all manner of karst phenomena and shapes: stalactites and stalagmites of all shapes and colors, chasms, shafts, calcareous panholes with crystal-clear water and, in the winter, icicles in the Ice Cave. The cave is also home to a number of animals and plants, which have adapted to its dark and damp environment. The Mayor’s Cave is a textbook example of the karst underground. The cave consists of seven beautiful underground halls connected by 600 meters (abt. 2000 ft.) of well-tended walkways.



The Mayor’s cave. (Photo: [www.grosuplje.si](http://www.grosuplje.si))



Tabor Cerovo. (Photo: [www.grosuplje.si](http://www.grosuplje.si))

## TABOR CEROVO

The small fortified church at Cerovo is one of the few remaining churches in Slovenia that were fortified against the onslaught of the Turks. Dedicated to St. Nicholas, it was built in the 13th century, probably on the remains of an older settlement. At the beginning of the 16th century, the peasants built a defensive wall around it to serve as protection in times of Turkish

raids. Besides protecting the lives of the inhabitants, the church also served as a safe storage place for the farmers’ food and valuables. The only way to pass to the other side of the wall was across a wooden drawbridge. There are also three watchtowers, which lend a better view of the surroundings. Numerous two-storey crenels were used for shooting with crossbows. A special feature of the church is the arched wall painted with frescoes from the 16th century.



Magdalene Mountain church.



**SLOVENIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION LECTURE SERIES: THE LIFE AND WORKS OF BORIS PAHOR, BY LUKA ZIBELNIK**

In his presentation, Luka Zibelnik will discuss the amazing literary opus of one of Slovenia's most influential writers, Boris Pahor. The talk will focus on Pahor's best known, prize-winning and most translated work, Necropolis. A Nobel Prize nominee, holocaust survivor, and writer of a multitude of books, celebrated his 101st birthday this year. Necropolis is a relatively hidden jewel of literature, which describes Pahor's inner thoughts and memories at a visit of Natzweiler-Struthof, one of the concentration camps in which he was imprisoned during WWII.

When: [On Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio](#)

A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.

More information: Anthony W. Hiti, AIA, President, Slovenian American Heritage Foundation; tel. [\(216\) 696-3460 x 306](#).

**CONVERSATIONS IN CULTURE: "SLOVENIA: LOVE THE COLORS OF ACCORDION"**

Slovenian accordionist Marko Hatlak explores the versatility of the accordion in a solo concert featuring baroque, contemporary and folk music. Hatlak's unique, original interpretation of each individual piece, regardless of the style, evokes an emotionally thorough and authentic experience in the audience. At one moment we witness energetic melodies in the rhythm of the tango, at the next we travel with him to the hidden corners of the Balkans from their northern fringes to their southern borders on the wings of folk music. His performance of baroque and contemporary music opens up the immeasurable depths of harmonies of the composing genius J. S. Bach, and innovative compositions of the present time. Hatlak uses a comical tone to tell stories about the pieces he heard, and spices up some of them by singing. He attracts the entire audience to musical interaction and makes the scene pulsate in lively Balkan rhythms. (In conjunction with the Embassy of Slovenia).

When: [Wednesday, October 15, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Delegation of the European Union, 2175 K Street, NW, Washington, DC \(use entrance on 22nd Street\)](#). Free admission.

More information: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/slovenia-love-the-colors-of-accordion/>

**MARTINOVANJE IN CLEVELAND BY ŠTAJERSKI-PREKMURSKI KLUB OF CLEVELAND**

Štajerski–Prekmurski Klub of Cleveland invites you to its Martinovanje to celebrate the new wine. The French have Beaujolais Nouveau Day to celebrate one new wine, the Slovenians have Martinovanje to celebrate the tapping of all new-wine barrels. The dinner-dance event will be held at St. Clair Slovenian home with doors opening at 6 p.m. and a sumptuous dinner by Josey Cerer and crew served at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by guests "Europa" from Toronto, who play all styles of music.

When: [Saturday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Clair Slovenian home , 6409 St. Clair Ave, Cleveland, OH 44103](#)

**MARTINOVANJE IN NEW YORK**

Once again, SUA Branch 93 and the New York Slovenian community hope to welcome you and your families to this traditional Slovenian "Thanksgiving" feast of the new wine and of Saint Martin. Alex Gergar from Bethlehem will play the accordion for the occasion.

When: [Sunday, November 9, 2014, from 11a.m. to 2 p.m.](#)

Where: [Saint Cyril, 62 Saint Mark's Place, after the 10:30 Slovenian Mass.](#)