

The voice- Of Slovenia

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Letter from Adrian Vatovec Adelaide

Our concert of Slovenski Pevski Zbor Adelaide on April 14, 2002, went exceptionally well. We had a large audience in attendance and the atmosphere was excellent. The Australian Youth Choir, Veronica Vargas - flamenco and soprano Johanna Allen gave memorable performances which was the whole objective of a tenth anniversary concert. The occasion was recorded and videotaped.

Australian Youth Choir and Johanna Allen amongst their performance also sang songs written by myself and Slovenski pevski zbor Adelaide also performed a song written by late father (1928-2000, he also started the choir) and myself. I am sure he would have enjoyed the concert immensely.

We finished the concert on a high point with Slovenski pevski zbor Adelaide and the Australian Youth Choir jointly singing "slovensko narodno pesem Marko skače" in Slovenian!, to the delight of the audience. The Australian Youth Choir learned Marko skače in no time at all.

Many thanks must go to Slovenian Club management committee (Ernest Orel - President) and Slovenian Club Cultural committee (Rosemary Poklar, Patricia Les and Irene Vatovec) for making the event an outstanding success. Also special mentions to Glas Slovenije for your support, Adelaide Slovenian Radio committee and SBS radio (Elica Rizmal, who attended from Melbourne).

*Lep pozdrav,
Adrian Vatovec*



Slovenski Pevski Zbor Adelaide with Australian Youth Choir performing the Slovenian traditional song 'Marko Skače'.



Adrian Vatovec with soprano Johanna Allen

Members of the Slovenski pevski zbor:

Alda Batista, Ivan Benc, Emil Borlak, Mimi Božanič, Danilo Dodič, Veronika Ferfolja, Karlo Filipčič, Reska Gabršek, Ivan Golja, Franc Goyak, Tone Gustinčič, Tone Ivančič, Marjo Jenko, Jože Jerebica, Franc Končina, Ana Likar, Ivanka Pungenčar, Andrej Šmon, Adrian Vatovec, Alojz Vatovec, Cassandra Vatovec, Polda Vatovec



From the Football World Cup Slovene Star Midfielder Zahovic Sent Home after Row with Coach Katanec

SEOGWIPO, 06 JUNE – Slovenia's highest-profile football player Zlatko Zahovic left the World Cup in South Korea, according to a decision of the Slovene Football Association (NZS). This is the latest twist in a scandal that has shaken up the Slovene football team after a severe dispute broke out between Zahovic and the coach Srečko Katanec following Slovenia's defeat in the opening group B game to Spain. Soon after the row, Katanec has announced his plan to step down as the team's manager after the World Cup, while the NZS decided that Zahovic can stay. However, remarks that Zahovic has made after this decision obviously topped everything, prompting the football association to reverse its decision and send the midfielder home.

Insults made to the manager in between and after the game with Spain, improper behaviour at the hotel, breaching of the agreement that the incident should not be discussed in the public anymore, abuse of other players' trust and false statements made after training, these were all the reasons leading to a decision that Zahovic has to leave.

The decision was reached in agreement with Katanec, according to the NZS.

While the football association was obviously unsure of how to settle the dispute, the Slovene general public seemed to side firmly with the coach.

According to an opinion poll published on the web-site of a Slovene commercial television network, more than 80 percent of football fans were convinced that Katanec was right and Zahovic wrong.

The row broke out after Zahovic was substituted in the second half in the match against Spain and consequently accused the coach of belittling him, noting that he would sit on the reserve bank if the manager thinks he is out of shape, but does "not want to be insulted".

Katanec, on the other hand, told news conference that he had to listen to all sorts of things, from accusations that he can be bought by anyone to remarks about his Croatian origin.

Katanec and Zahovic have a history of disputes, however as they both seemed too important for the team, the football association has so far somehow managed to make them see eye to eye. It is Katanec who many feel should be credited with the "Slovene football miracle", as he brought the team on a winning streak after taking over as manager in 1998.

**SLOVENIAN CHOIR
ADELAIDE
SLOVENSKI PEVSKI ZBOR
ADELAIDE**

**10th ANNIVERSARY
CONCERT
1992 - 2002**

Master of Ceremonies

Rosemary Poklar

Opening address

Ernest Orel, President Slovenian Club Adelaide

Slovenian Choir Adelaide

- * En glažek vinca rumeni
- * V starodavnih časih
- * Domača hiša
- * Snočkaj sem 'no pošto dobil

Australian Youth Choir

- * Al shlosa
- * This little Light O' Mine
- * The Great Pretender
- * Song and Dance (written by Adrian Vatovec)

Conductor: Timothy Marks

Piano accompanist: Elizabeth McDonald

Johanna Allen

- * Three Hidden Bridges
(written by Adrian Vatovec)
- * Musetta's Waltz from La Boheme
(written by Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924))

Piano accompanist

Veronica Vargas - flamenco

- * Dance performed: TARANTOS - a deep and moving number which embodies all the passion, drama and emotion of flamenco.
- * Song performed: BULERIAS - a bright gypsy fiesta number.

Dancer: Veronica Vargas

Singer: "el Titi de Algeciras"

Guitarist: Aloysius Leeson

Slovenian Choir Adelaide

- * V tujini, domači spomini
(written by Alojz Vatovec and Adrian Vatovec)
- * Vaški zvon
- * Ulice so temne
- * Rom Pom Pom

**Slovenian Choir Adelaide and
Australian Youth Choir**

- * Marko skače

Vibrant Art

Exhibition by Justina Schneider and Anica Strgar

Stage manager: Patricia Leš

Photography: Irene Vatovec

Sound recordist: Don Balaz

Program co-ordination:

Slovenian Club Adelaide cultural committee in co-operation with Slovenian Club Adelaide management committee and the

Adelaide Slovenian radio committee.

SLOVENIAN CHOIR ADELAIDE

Slovenian Choir Adelaide was established in 1992 by the late Alojz Vatovec (1928-2000) as a vehicle to sustain and promote the richness of Slovenian music. Slovenian Choir Adelaide has participated at numerous Slovenian community events in Adelaide and Melbourne, notably celebrations (social and cultural), milestones (anniversaries) and displays (Migration Museum) and have performed with vocal groups touring from Slovenia. In a broader context the Choir has participated in events such as the SA Brewing Christmas Riverbank Display, Australia Day Parades (King William Street), Port Adelaide Enfield and Glenelg Christmas Parades, Festival of the Coast at Henley Beach, Global Village (Rundle Mall Canopy), Carnival of Adelaide, Victor Harbor Folk Festival, City of Charles Sturt Multicultural Day, Adelaide University International Student Week, Lights of Lobethal and the Millennium Choir in Victoria Square.

The Choir performs folk music from the deep Slovenian repertoire, which dates back from the 16th century, and draws reference from music that has been composed by the Slovenian community in Adelaide to reflect the attitudes of today. Folk songs are a significant source of information about culture, customs, and reactions to historical events.

Choir leader Adrian Vatovec has written music; performed by Slovenian Choir Adelaide; exhibition opening for artist-in-residence of Adelaide Festival of Arts; recorded by Victor Harbor Folk Festival's international headline act; and recorded by the Australian Youth Choir (this recording is utilised at Australian Embassies abroad, Foreign Embassies in Australia, government (eg Governor of New York, President of Slovenia, Prime Minister of Sweden), hospitals (eg Adelaide, London, Los Angeles, Kenya), resorts (eg Fiji, Hayman Island) and institutions (Bureau des Bibliothèques de la Ville de Paris and is the only Australian Christmas recording held at the New York Performing Arts Library). Muhammad Ali has a copy and Australian Commander General Peter Cosgrove, then in charge of international peacekeeping forces in East Timor, said the recording always had first billing in his CD player.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHOIR

The Australian Youth Choir was formed in 1975 and since its inception has established an enviable record of performances: with the Royal Ballet Covent Garden, John Farnham, New York Youth Orchestra, The Australian Tourist Commission, The Vienna Boys' Choir, The American Band 'Foreigner', The Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale, Rugby Union State of Origin opening ceremonies, Australian Test Cricket opening ceremonies, A.F.L. Grand Final opening ceremonies, including the Centenary Grand Final with Australia's leading performers, Carols by Candlelight, The Sydney Olympic Parades, numerous television and radio performances, conventions and ceremonies including performances before His Holiness Pope John Paul II, Australian Federal and State governments, and The Centenary of Federation Celebration. Overseas concert tours have seen the Australian Youth Choir perform throughout the United States and Europe in locations such as Carnegie Hall, New York, The Vatican and Westminster Abbey. The Australian Youth Choir's Chamber Choir is conducted by the State Director of Music, Mr Timothy Marks.

VERONICA VARGAS – FLAMENCO

Led by Veronica Vargas, acclaimed as the 'face of flamenco' this premier flamenco dance group presents all the colour, fire and passion of authentic flamenco music and dance from the south of Spain featuring gypsy singer "el Titi de Algeciras". Principal Dancer Veronica Vargas lived and trained for many years in Madrid and Seville, Spain – emerging as one of the best and most innovative flamenco artists in Australia today, critically acclaimed for her exciting and passionate dance performances. Veronica Vargas has thrilled Australian audiences with her highly successful and original flamenco productions of 'LOLA!' in the 2000 Adelaide Festival Fringe and *El Frigo* in the 1998 Festival Fringe. Veronica is Director of the Triana Flamenco Dance Studio located at 20 Third Street, Brompton, phone 8340 0360. Triana is the famous gypsy district of Seville in the South of Spain – and home of the legendary 'Carmen'.

JOHANNA ALLEN

Johanna Allen is a young soprano who performs with The State Opera Company of South Australia, and has appeared with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. She is also an accomplished musical theatre artist appearing in productions at the Festival Centre and she is also part of the Adelaide based cabaret trio "Gentlemen Prefer Curves".

She has created works for youth theatre that have premiered in the Adelaide Festival Centre and as an actor she has worked with various companies including the Junction Theatre, Playbox Theatre Co. and the South Australian Film Corporation. Johanna is a graduate in Music, and Drama Studies from the Elder Conservatorium, and University of Adelaide. Whilst at the Conservatorium, Johanna was awarded the Josephine Bagot Prize, and was also a recipient of a State Theatre of South Australia Drama Award.

Savo Tori 22. 6. 1919-19. 4. 2002

Ode to Trbovlje

TRBOVLJE, MY UGLY, CURSED AND BEAUTIFUL GORGE, dug out by men's want for the anthracite hidden in your bosom! At the sound of your name the burghers of Ljubljana shuddered. TRBOVLJE - let me chat my ode of loathing for you in the first twenty years of my life, and then the ode becomes my rhapsody of apologies, fantasies, love ... of reminiscence and sweet nostalgia turning black and shiny as the coal you spat.

Forgive me TRBOVLJE!

TRBOVLJE, no progeny of mine will understand this nostalgic cry.

Only YOU know the sweet memory

- of the first snowflakes outside my window ... so brusquely covered by your black coaldust

- of my first steps on our wooden porch

- of your inches-thick dust or mud on your roads

- of the green, pine-smelling slopes of your hills

- of the bravado-cursing of your drunks

- of the early spring flowers ... 'trobentice', 'teloh', 'zvoncki',

covering your snow-soaked black soil

- of the clicking of church bells from St. Martin, St. Nicholas, St.

Anna (how I miss it!)

- of all your roughness and toughness shadowed by Sveta Planina, Mrzlica, Kum ...

Do take me back - me, traitor!



Sydney, February 2002 -
Savo Tori with his sons Chris and Andrew



Washington, November 1999 - Philippa and Milan Beribak
visiting Marita and Savo
/Photos: Milan Beribak/

Letter

Dear Stanka,

Recently I was reading some interesting articles on your web site. I wish to alert you to incorrect information. I looked at "Slovensko solstvo v Avstraliji" the section

Slovenščina na sydneyski državni gimnaziji:

"Leto 1978 bo zapisano v avstralski zgodovini kot začetek poučevanja jezikov drugih narodnosti na državnih sobotnih šolah v Avstraliji."

from url (<http://www.glasslovenije.com.au/glas-slovenije-solstvo-gimnazija.htm>). This opening statement is inaccurate.

In Victoria the Saturday School of Modern Languages was established in 1935, and provided the model for the other states, including NSW.

Furthermore, as has been widely publicised in Australia and Slovenia, Slovenian was inducted in 1976 in Victoria, and then offered as a secondary subject the next year, in 1977, in Victoria. Slovenian language as a secondary school subject was offered later in NSW. So therefore I am again dismayed to see inaccurate reporting. I am sending in attachments for your information:

1. A Short History of Slovenian Language in Victoria

2. A Brochure on Learning Slovenian in Australia

Z lepimi pozdravi, Sandi Ceferin

Slovenian as a secondary school subject in Victoria

A major breakthrough for Slovenian language occurred in 1976, when Slovenian became an accredited school subject in the *Victorian School of Languages (VSL)*.

By the end of 1976 the *Slovenian Teachers Association of Victoria (STAV)* was founded. The purpose of the organization was to gather qualified teachers of Slovenian background and form a pool of teachers to draw upon.

In 1977 six classes were opened at three VSL Centres. They were well supplied with a suitable text-book, *Slovenian Language Manual (Gobet)* published in USA and a selection of supplementary texts published mainly in Slovenia and Italy.

The accreditation of Slovenian as a *Higher School Certificate* subject took place in 1980. It was the first subject to be accredited under the more rigorous educational reform, introduced by the *Victorian Institute of Secondary Education*. In 1981 the first group of students completed Slovenian HSC. Since then fifty-four students have completed HSC or VCE, as it was later named, when the second and more complete reform took place.

Slovenian as a secondary school subject in NSW

Slovenian was accredited by the state school system of NSW in 1979, when it was introduced as a subject in the newly established *Saturday School of Community Languages, NSW*.

Slovenia Hosted the Largest Meeting of Central European Presidents to Date

LJUBLJANA, BRDO PRI KRANJU, BLED, 31 MAY (STA) - Slovenia's lakeside resort of Bled and the mansion at Brdo pri Kranju hosted the ninth traditional meeting of presidents of Central Europe, which was attended by sixteen presidents, the largest number to date. The launch of the summit, the largest multilateral event ever culminated a whole year of preparations which have tested the country's previous experience in hosting large international events. The summit was attended by the presidents of Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Ukraine and Yugoslavia, as well as the president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina presidium. This was the first time that the heads of state from Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina attended this traditional meeting.

The Central European summit has presented itself as an opportunity to unveil the well that will stand in front of the Zora Villa, a mid-19th century estate which is today the home of the Bled Town Hall and a wedding hall. The villa sprung up at a time when Bled was all the more becoming an important resort, as well as health, tourist, diplomatic and cultural centre. The stone well is in the shape of a ring: a symbol of perfection, eternity and faith, as well as of Slovenia as the "ring of Europe", as was written in a poem by 19th century Slovene poet Valentin Vodnik. A bronze sculpture, a symbol of Slovenia's highest mountain, Triglav, which is also the mythical figure of divinity, will feature in the centre of the well. Moreover, the shape of the sculpture at the spring of the well symbolises the source of life. The sculpture is the work of sculptor Slavko Oblak, a native of Bled, who currently creates in Landshut, Germany.

NEWS STA

Maribor/Luče - The spa Terme Maribor presented at news conference its new congress centre, which is to host the first guests as early as this week. Stretching on 3,150 square metres, the centre comprises six assembly rooms, with the investment worth some five million euros, according to the managing director of the spa Alenka Iskra. In addition to the new congress centre, the spa, located in NE Slovenia, has also built a new complex of swimming pools, saunas, squash courts and a beauty centre. Moreover, it plans to increase the number of hotel rooms and apartments to a total of 240 beds.

Luxembourg - The public support for Slovenia's accession to the EU is still rather low among the citizens of EU member states, as Slovenia places only 11th among 13 candidate countries the EU citizens would like to see in an enlarged Europe, the results of the latest Eurobarometer survey show.

Slovenia's membership in the EU was supported by merely 37 percent of EU citizens, while 40 percent of them opposed it, the regular six-month survey of the EU citizens' opinion on enlargement, results of which were presented recently. Only Romania and Turkey placed worse, while Malta, Hungary and Poland topped the list of EU citizens' favourite candidate countries for an enlarged Europe. The enlargement process itself was supported by 51 percent of EU citizens, while 30 percent indicated their opposition to it. Although support for the enlargement process and the candidates in general grew in the latest Eurobarometer, the final picture still resembles that of the previous surveys. Slovenia has thus remained on the bottom of the list, sharing the penultimate spot with Romania, with Turkey at the very bottom. The top three spots, on the other hand, have always been occupied by Malta, Hungary and Poland. As has been the case throughout the previous polls, the Union's citizens would prefer to see Switzerland, Norway and Iceland join the EU rather than the current EU aspirants. Slovenia's bid to become a member of the EU proved to be most popular among the people of Sweden (61 percent for, 24 percent against) and Greece (59 percent for and 26 percent against).

Support for Slovene membership of the EU reached record levels in Austria, where 51 percent supported it while 40 percent were against. Moreover, support for Slovenia's bid to join the EU exceeded opposition in six other member states: Denmark, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Ireland.

Soccer FIFA World Cup Slovenia lost to Spain and South Africa and have thus lost all hope of qualifying for the 1/8 finals.

When asked about the criteria that the candidate countries should fulfil before joining, the citizens of the fifteen member-bloc pointed to the respect of human rights and democracy (95 percent), the fight against crime (92 percent), protection of the environment (92 percent), the capability to contribute to the joint European budget (85 percent), the adoption of the already implemented EU principles and policies (82 percent), a small price of the enlargement process for the current members (81 percent), an EU-comparable level of economic development (77 percent) and the willingness to put European interest before national (72 percent), according to the Eurobarometer.

Maribor - One is wondering whether the latest figures of the **Austrian census are actually alarming and worrying for the Slovene ethnic minority in the Austrian province of Carinthia**, the daily Vecer wonders a couple of days after it was revealed that only 12,600 persons in Carinthia quoted Slovene as their first language last year, which is a drop of 9.9 percent compared to the census of 1991. The Slovene minority is dropping by one percent on a yearly basis, Vecer observes under the headline "The Last Carinthian Mochican", and adds that this figure should in fact alarm and worry not only the minority, but primarily Austria and Carinthia.

The question arises of why Slovenes are not more self-confident in the Austrian province of Carinthia, says Vecer, listing several reasons for this, including the fact that the minority is not welcome there and its status has been reduced to that of a second-rate group. Austria should, according to the Maribor-based paper, explain to the minority and Slovenia what is going on. When the knowledge of the Slovene language is decreasing, Slovene should be helped by the necessary state and provincial support, which would raise the language at a level equal to that of German, says Vecer.

Ljubljana - The Slovene Foreign Ministry said it was surprised at media reporting that **Croatia is preparing a response to an amendment to the European Parliament's draft report on Slovenia's progress towards accession**. According to the amendment, the section of the draft report which says that international arbitration should be considered as a way of solving open issues between

Slovenia and Croatia, should be crossed out, which Croatia finds unacceptable.

Vilnius - Slovenia was among the 36 European countries that signed the 13th protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, which **eliminates completely the death penalty**.

Trieste - The Slovene Community (SSk), the Slovene party in Italy filed an appeal at the Friuli-Venezia Giulia administrative court **against the new statute of the Trieste province adopted**, which eliminated all stipulations protecting the Slovene ethnic community in the province, the party said at a news conference. These include a stipulation on guaranteed jobs for school staff with knowledge of Slovene, a stipulation on the operation of a translation office enabling minority members to use the Slovene language at the provincial administration, and a stipulation on the translation of the provincial statute into Slovene. The new statute thus violated the 1975 Osimo Treaty, which says that minority representatives can communicate with the authorities in their mother tongue.

Ljubljana - Slovenia counts on up to **350 of its citizens to become employees of the EU** by 2010. Interpreters and translators would take up about 150 jobs, while between 100 and 200 positions would be filled by experts.

Ljubljana - Prejudice against the Islamic community in Slovenia is the real reason why the first mosque in the country has not yet been built, believes Slovene Ombudsman Matjaž Hanžek. Overcoming the prejudice can only be possible by constant warnings that prejudice leads to intolerance and hostility towards those that are different, said Hanžek, in whose opinion the issue of the mosque could be solved faster if the City of Ljubljana and the Government Office for Religious Communities got more involved. However, a poll of the parliamentary parties showed that the construction of an Islamic centre lacks support.

Sarajevo/Ljubljana - The council of ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina placed a ban on the imports of pork and the transportation of pigs and wild boars through Bosnia from four countries, including Slovenia. The ban was also put on Romania and some regions of Germany and Bulgaria. In an effort to prevent the introduction of contagious animal diseases into the country, Slovenia too has a list of countries with bans on some pork products and bans on the transport of pigs and wild boars through the country. The FRY and Bulgaria have recently been added to the list, which also includes Romania, Slovakia, as well as some regions of Italy, Germany and Spain.

Presidential Candidate Ivan Kramberger Was Shot Ten Years Ago

LJUBLJANA, 06 JUNE - On 7 June 1992, **Ivan Kramberger**, a candidate at the 1992 presidential elections, was murdered in his home village Jurovski Dol, NE Slovenia. The "good man of Negova", as he was called, was shot with a hunting rifle at an election rally as he attempted to shore up support for the 1992 elections, after he had managed to get 18.5 percent of the vote in 1990. The perpetrator was sentenced to 12 years in prison, but was released last May. Born on 4 May 1936 into a family of 11 children, Kramberger moved to Germany in 1963 and started working in a hospital, where he attended nurse training and became an expert on dialysis machines. In the following years, he came up with many improvements for the machines, which had earned him fame and fortune. He used part of his fortune for the 42 dialysis machines that he donated to hospitals and patients. He came back to Slovenia in 1990 and immediately became a media sensation, rallying support around the country with a vintage convertible and a monkey by his side. An independent candidate, he nevertheless managed to persuade almost a fifth of the voters to vote for him, and was considered a serious opponent to incumbent President Milan Kucan in the 1992 elections, which Kucan went on to win in a landslide. After the assassination, there was a lot of speculations about a possible political background for the murder, however, the claims were never proved. The decennial of Kramberger's death will be marked by the Negova municipality, where he lived after coming back to Slovenia, with a celebration on Saturday. The municipality is to unveil a monument to the memory of the "good man of Negova".