

Autumn Music Festivities

Skopje's oldest and the most renowned cultural organization, the Directorate for Culture and the Arts founded in 1948, has recently excelled in organising the Autumn Music Festivities. The Directorate which organizes events in various areas of culture including theatre, literature and film, and nurtures the arts through

all available modes including concerts, plays, publications, exhibitions, seminars, workshops and multimedia presentations, this time decided to create an event solely devoted to music, as a universal language with unlimited possibilities for expression and with no boundaries or time and space constraints. Initiated in the year 2000, the new musical event



takes place in November enriching the concert life and improving the late autumn cultural programme. For a bigger impact November was also proclaimed the Month of Music in Macedonia.

The event has an open genre and theme concepts supporting both composers and performers and opening new cultural spaces. The Ministry of Culture and the City of Skopje have given full support to the international participants such as the Rotterdam Dance Ballet, or The Balkan Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as to the national institutions which created works especially for the festivities, such as the opera "The Visit of the Old Lady" and the ballet "Anna Karenina".

One of the aspirations of the Autumn Music Festivities was to include all the interested musical organisations. The program is an excellent example of cooperation among national institutions (The Macedonian Opera and Ballet, The Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra, The Faculty of Music Arts, The Music Youth of Macedonia) City of Skopje institutions (The Culture Information Centre, The Youth Cultural Centre, The Music Youth of Skopje) and the non-governmental sector (The Union of the Musical Artists of Macedonia, The Union of the Composers of Macedonia).

The program is open to larger ensembles as well as smaller groups. Choirs (Female Youth Choir, St. Zlata Meglenska, Menada) and orchestras (Music Youth of Macedonia, the Mandolin Orchestra) have taken part. There have been performances by duos, trios and quartets, including a quartet of trombones, and quintets such as the brass quintet

"Art". The elite Macedonian solo performers and opera singers (Slavica Petrovska Galik, Vesna Gjinovska, Ana and Igor Durlovski) frequent the festival stages. One of the special features of the program is the revisiting of the world's musical heritage through evenings dedicated to the masters such as Beethoven, Orff, Zelenka, or contemporary Russian composers. In order to refresh, explore and conquer new audiences Autumn Music Festivities includes a great variety of non-classical music: jazz, chanson, modern dance.

There have been a number of guests presenting current musical trends from the neighbouring countries including the Zagreb Teatar Komedija theater from Croatia with the musical *Piaf*, the Royal String Quartet of St. George, the Koca Kolarov choir from Zrenjanin, Serbia, the Academic Brass Quintet from Bulgaria, Irini Nikola from Albania, and Chamber Orchestra from Szeged, Hungary.

This season's Autumn Music Festivities will fill the souls of the audiences with joy instead of autumn melancholy.

