

**STATE CELEBRATION
OF THE SLOVENIAN INDEPENDENCE
AND UNITY DAY**

Gallus Hall in Cankarjev dom
22 December 2017

Anthem of the Republic of Slovenia
Vocal Group Domen

A BREAKING WAVE
(selection by Jasna Hribernik)

Formal Address
Dr Miro Cerar
Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia

FINE-TUNING
Concerto for a Two-Million Piece Orchestra

MAIN THEME from the performance Barroco
(2007, directed by Tomaž Pandur)

KISIK, from the performance Kisik/Oxygen
(2011, directed by Primož Ekart)

PI, re-arrangement of the song Hall of Mirrors
from the performance Tesla Electric Company
(2006, directed by Tomaž Pandur)

UTOPIA BY DESIGN
(Students from the Academy of Fine Arts and
Design, University of Ljubljana: Simon Bregar,
Eva Garibaldi, Lin Gerkman, Jakob Koncut in Tjaša
Mužina, mentor Assist. Prof. Barbara Predan)

NIGHT WATCH, from the performance War and Peace
(2011, directed by Tomaž Pandur)

ORION (Jure Robežnik, Gregor Strniša,
arr. Primož Hladnik)

ELECTRICITY, from the performance Tesla Electric
Company (2006, directed by Tomaž Pandur)

David Tomažič
(directed by Urška Žnidaršič)

V SPOMIN TISTEMU, KAR SE ŠE NI ZGODILO
Project TRACTUS (David Tomažič)

*A realist understands that we can't afford anything
but unconditional idealism.*

**Formal Address
Dr Miro Cerar
Prime Minister of the
Republic of Slovenia**

Esteemed President of the Republic of Slovenia,
President of the National Assembly, President of
the National Council, high representatives of other
national institutions,
dear citizens,
and dear guests,

I have the honour to address you here on the occasion of Independence and Unity Day, the day on which Slovenia remembers with pride the unity we showed when the founding of our State was at stake. The unity demonstrated at the plebiscite and the subsequently gained independence remain our common and fundamental values. I believe that whenever we are put to a serious test – and at present such tests are anything but uncommon – we must spare no effort to achieve the unity that convinced us at that time. And we must never in our international integrations forget or neglect the independence we have gained.

In tonight's arts programme we will listen to the *Concerto for the Two-Million-Strong Orchestra*, an articulate parable about a day celebrating unity: we are not the same, but can be united if we are equal. We have different voices sounding in more than one tone, and in order to be joined in a harmonious melody, a successful concert, it is good to be in harmony and to know what is being played. A conductor can greatly contribute to such a harmony – but he is nothing without the musicians. Similarly the musicians are nothing without the composer's genius – and the whole process only achieves its real meaning when the artists' work reaches the listeners and audience as a whole.

Politics, especially if aspiring to be statesmanlike, must know how to surpass the particular to attain the universal – through the inspiration of the past and the challenge of the future, it must reach those who are most concerned by a particular sound. And when I say that every voice counts, this is not an invitation to the next elections, but an emphasis I give as the current Prime Minister to the fact that we must know how to listen to every single voice regardless of where it comes from and how loud or quiet it is. There can be no politics without this essential ear. It is not a sign of weakness to listen to others, rather it is a sign of greatness in some particular, different understanding of this word: just possibly it is one particular voice that brings the truth about the particular moment, that reaches to

a universal we failed to notice in the abundance of particularities or even overlooked deliberately.

You know what and whom I am talking about: about the solidarity of our citizens – and about compassion towards those who wish to become our citizens, whether out of desire, out of necessity, out of admiration or driven to escape.

Of course, politics is far from being the only actor aspiring to surpass the existing and do well by society. I am indeed delighted that success is seen elsewhere: the arts and the sciences, for example, are two areas that show us how far, high and deep it is possible to reach. And this is not only about the role they play in our external visibility, it is in fact primarily about our inner motivation: we, Slovenians, have the knowledge and the ability! We can reach the heart and transplant a heart in a new, previously unthinkable way; we can reach for the stars and send our satellites towards once unattainable remoteness. Through science to the heart, through the arts to the stars – this can be our Slovenian motto for the 21st century!

You may remember my words about reaching for the stars later this evening when you hear that Slovenia "*borders four neighbours and the universe*". But you might rightly expect your Prime Minister, rather than gazing into the sky to be viewing carefully all four sides of the world: and this vision starts with our four neighbours. Let me, therefore, say clearly and firmly: we are in favour of good neighbourly relations, but our feet stand firmly on our borders. And we will relentlessly persist there. We respect the arbitration decision and we will implement it. This is how every issue facing us, indeed every Slovenian and European matter, should be addressed: simultaneously at home and in the decision-making centre of our European family.

And again, we come to the fact that every voice counts. Perhaps we fail to fully grasp the importance a single voice can gain when the 28-member European orchestra must be tuned in. It may indeed be a crucial one, but only if decidedly good and decisive. Therefore we must know how to use our voice and also dare to raise it when necessary. Not to score cheap political points at home, but to really contribute to building our better common future. For example, the effort to acquire European funds and construct the second railway track is not an endeavour to gain privileges for

the chosen few – it is an endeavour for a better tomorrow for all. And an endeavour to respect international law is not a battle against someone – it is an effort for a better future for all.

Which again brings us back to the common interest, the common good – and each particular voice. Perhaps the consistent observance of the arbitration decision will only enlarge our two-million-strong orchestra by few dozen people – but we will be able to take care of each and every one of them. Likewise, we will let down no one placed on the other side of the border by the arbitration decision. Know where the border is but live like it does not exist – this also should be the motto for the 21st century.

Dear Citizens of Slovenia,

Today, we celebrate Independence and Unity Day. But as early as tomorrow, a discussion about unity and independence may no longer only be ours, as Slovenians, to make: it will in fact become a discussion about the future of Europe – and indeed about the role and place of Slovenia therein. I strive for active participation – not only in the discussion but also in the future itself. The more on our feet, daring, economically strong, safe and free we are, the louder our voice will be heard – and the more harmoniously our two-million-strong orchestra will sound.

From this point of view, Slovenia's stability is an important factor, as it puts us in the role of a stable, reliable partner in discussing the key issues of the future: how, for example, will we rearrange our relations with the United Kingdom? How will we live with global migrations? How will we steer a course between ensuring freedom and ensuring security for the benefit of all? How will we limit environment exploitation? How will we prepare for any new major crisis?

But let us not be afraid of the new!
And let us trust ourselves!

Despite our proverbial envy, we have repeatedly witnessed the unanimous and enthusiastic response garnered by the triumphs of Slovenian economy, science, arts and sports at the European and global level in the recent years.

And although this occasion is ceremonious, let us here ask a very common and workaday question: what are the fields where Slovenia is able to achieve an encouraging unity that will not hinder the development or even push us backwards, but encourage cooperation, co-existence and co-habitation.

Numerous answers to these questions have indeed been written down in strategies, rendered tangible in clusters and centres of excellence, placed in technological parks; deserted complexes have been renovated for them and even some fertile land has been sacrificed. But let us nevertheless repeat, because it is of literally fateful importance to be aware of the commitment made to one another for the future: Slovenia participates in the discussion about the future of Europe and the world especially with its emphasis on smart economic development, the circular economy, renewable resources, the green state, and a healthy and active society.

The paths leading to these objectives are clear, verified and verifiable: they are called investments in knowledge and science, solidary development of education and healthcare, appreciation of culture and audacity for the arts, the fight for human rights and respect for the environment, and a harmonious balance between security and freedom.

These are neither *Thessaloniki* nor *Maastricht* nor *Lisbon* nor *Copenhagen* nor *Rome* nor *Paris* criteria: these are the criteria of quality living in Slovenia! There can be no democratic state and no rule of law without proper education; there can be no healthy people without a healthy environment; there can be no fearless development without a sustainable economy!

The discussion about the future of Europe is therefore primarily a discussion about whether our partners are willing to reinvest the results of the considerable economic recovery of the last few years in a society of justice – or will they, misguidedly, manage the newly generated wealth by the principles of acquired power and inherited relations. This is both the most important external and the most important internal discussion by far. Slovenia should seek and build the new unity on the basis of these divisions: not by closing its eyes from true dilemmas and not by covering up real differences, but by clearly naming the right trends, just allies and real threats.

When we now share a table with the most important world leaders – and yes, it should be said that Slovenia now sits at the most important tables of this world because of its clear European attitude in the past – it is our youth that lets us ask questions that the parents and grandparents at the table might sometimes prefer not to hear. This sometimes even improves our position of making our independence and uniqueness a guarantee of unity of the strong and powerful.

Yes, every voice counts here, too. And when discussing the future of Europe, we will neither be quiet nor soft-spoken. We will recall that we ourselves created economic conditions for our independence, that we confirmed this independence by a uniform democratic decision – and that we made a commitment for a common future. We will also recall the joint responsibility of all leaders and other members of the European society to preserve and further develop the democratic values of peace, freedom, solidarity and the rule of law.

One rarely experiences moments like those traditionally revived on Independence and Unity Day from the television archives – when we hear the pride and enthusiasm in the voice of the first President of the Slovenian democratic assembly as he announces the plebiscite results and when the entire assembly, now called *national*, harmoniously bursts into *The Toast*.

Today such harmonious concerts are, so to speak, inspired by a world-class athlete or artist rather than by a success of the State or a statesperson. But there have been a few that have made our hearts sing and let us reach for the stars. We should therefore help each other and cooperate to see even more of them. And let us not belittle our precious State, for those who do not respect state institutions and symbols cannot expect respect from others either.

Let us all work together for the moments when our melody and harmony can resound with the same pride: they may be polyphonic, acoustic or electric, but they are certainly contemporary! Each note is written by someone, played by someone, conducted by someone, and heard by someone. And true success is when each and every link in this chain finds joy in it.

Slovenia needs many new *Toasts*, not anthemic, but ordinary, workaday, civil and human.

Europe needs many new *odes to joy*, not laudatory, but ordinary, workaday, civil and human.

Let us contribute as many voices as possible to this European polyphony, let us sometimes enliven a rather slowed down or stale tune, let us make it sharper by adding a strong riff or two – but, above all, let us insist on the fundamental equality of and non-discrimination against each individual and citizen, and each country too, of course!

This will be the best way to build unity and defend independence. So let this day be an encouragement for these efforts and let tonight's concert for the two-million-strong orchestra encourage us and remind us that everything really begins from silence, with a thought for better times.

Dear citizens,

Please let me now, at the end of this year, offer my sincere thanks to all of you who have made efforts for the welfare of your nearest and dearest, your children, neighbours and fellow citizens.

I promise to make every effort along with all of you to make the progress of our dear Slovenia peaceful and stable.

I wish you all a proud celebration of Independence and Unity Day, a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

FINE-TUNING

Concerto for a Two-Million Piece Orchestra

The art program is designed as a fairly transparent lobbying for a future based on integration, science, research, culture, sustainability, ecological responsibility and equity. We hope that you do not mind our idealism. After all it is irrationality – as only goals that seem to be virtually unreachable excite us – to which we owe our greatest achievements.

The program combines culture and science, without which it is impossible to imagine national identity and independence. The latter is primarily understood as an intellectual and spiritual category, which enables us to escape the most diverse forms of gravity. By combining what seems incompatible – subjective art and rational, objective science – we wished to highlight the importance of unity.

The main role is dedicated to the orchestra. After all, it would be difficult to find a more effective metaphor for a successful society, such as a multitude of talented individuals who are engaged in a common goal and where the result of their cooperation is literally a symphony. The orchestra is a magnificent display of impressive results brought about by continuous improvement – or tuning – at the individual and collective levels.

The musical part of the program is a *hommage* to Tomaž Pandur, the recently deceased theatre giant, with whom we have been cooperating for ten years. Most of the repertoire that you will hear tonight will consist of songs written for Pandur's performances. All were either re-tuned or arranged for the orchestra. New is the text for song Pi and the final song (V spomin tistemu, kar se še ni zgodilo) was written specifically for this event.

A special role is devoted to young scientists, researchers and creators. These are people who are moving borders and widening sights. In times when we face atavisms of the European past, and when words like idealist, altruist, humanist, artist, scientist, environmentalist, etc., are often used as pejorative terms, such people are invaluable. As Giorgio Agamben wrote: *Those who coincide too well with the epoch, those who are perfectly tied to it in every respect, are not contemporaries, precisely because they do not manage to see it; they are not able to firmly hold the gaze on it.*

Tonight's celebration focuses not only on celebrating past achievements – it is primarily the recollection of everything that has not yet happened, which we have not yet realized. It is an attempt to stage Nietzsche's thought *I walk among men as among fragments of the future*. It is a celebration of valuable potential and a reminder of the responsibility we have for young people. It takes place in the gap between the world in which we live and their vision of the future. As Srečko Kosovel wrote: *History is not repetition, but creation. This is the only position we may take in relation to history.*

Silence

Direction and concept:

Boris Benko and **Primož Hladnik**

Music:

Silence

Video Design:

Den Baruca

Light Design:

Zoran Najdenov

Performers:

SILENCE:

Boris Benko, vocal

Primož Hladnik, piano and keyboards

RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra

Conductor **Tomislav Fačini**

Soloists

Igor Mitrović, cello

Igor Vičentić, piano

Petra Vidmar, theremin and keyboards

Nik Škrlec, State champion in memory

Vocal Group Domen

SILENCE

The duet Silence (Primož Hladnik and Boris Benko) has released five studio albums and four albums with theatre soundtracks.

The duet has written more than 40 scores for plays and dance performances. Silence's notable collaborators include directors Primož Ekart, Tomaž Pandur, Matjaž Pograjc, and Aleksandar Popovski. The music from (and inspired by) Pandur's plays *Barroco* and *Caligula* has been released in 2011.

In 2006, the duet composed and produced *Volk*, Laibach's 12th album and in 2014, another Laibach's album - *1 VII 1944 Warszawa*. The latter was released by the Ministry of Culture of Poland on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary marking the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In 2015, Laibach and Silence became the first Western alternative acts to perform in North Korea. This year they repeated their performance also in South Korea.

The duet has also scored three feature films by Damjan Kozole (*A Call Girl*, *Project Cancer*, and *Nightlife*), as well as a number of short films and documentaries.

RTV SLOVENIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra was established in 1955 and in its sixty years of creativity has made an important mark on musical life in Slovenia. In terms of the scope and diversity of the musical works performed, the orchestra prides itself with an enormous opus.

Since its foundation, the orchestra's primary activity has been making studio and concert recordings for the national music archive, which is available to radio and television programmes. The orchestra performs an interesting and colourful programme of concerts, attracting a diverse audience. Its repertoire is made up of compositions from the treasure trove of the international music repertoire of all artistic periods, as well as anthologies and premiere performances of works by Slovenian composers. In the third millennium, it has also gained a broad circle of listeners with concerts of orchestrated popular music, primarily performed together with prominent songwriters and performers from the Slovenian music scene. The orchestra has recorded almost the entire Slovenian symphonic repertoire and has received numerous prestigious awards for the best interpretations of Slovenian compositions. Its Slovenian and international discographies are both extraordinarily extensive, with recordings by the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra being available on more than 400 albums.

The RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra appears regularly in European music capitals. In recent years, it has gained international acclaim with performances in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Vienna's Musikverein and Konzerthaus, and the Cologne Philharmonic Hall, as well as on tours and at individual concerts in other European Union states. The RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra is a member of the International Network of Orchestras ONE – Orchestra Network Europe, founded by EU program Creative Europe.

In tonight's performance two orchestra members will appear as soloists.

Petra Vidmar is a solo timpanist and Assistant Professor at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. She performs regularly as soloist and as chamber musician on all percussion instruments.

Igor Mitrović, the principal violoncello with the orchestra, is highly recognized as a soloist and chamber musician as well as for his work in the pedagogical field. His collaboration with Duo Silence includes recordings for theatre performances Faust, Hamlet, King Lear and Immaculate, all directed by Tomaž Pandur.

TOMISLAV FAČINI

Fačini is lecturing at the Music Academy in Zagreb, is the chief conductor of the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, the chief conductor of the Croatian RTV Choir, the artistic leader of the Antiphonus Ensemble, which records many successes and receives invitations for participation and guest appearances and the musical advisor at the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. From 1994 to 2008, he led The Oratory Choir of St. Mark's Church in Zagreb, from 2003 to 2009, he was the chief conductor of the Croatian Army Orchestra, and from 2006 to 2009 he was the artistic director of the Musical Evenings in St Donat in Zadar. As conductor, he works in the concert and opera fields. He performed at many important festivals all over the world. With the Symphony Orchestra of Croatian RTV and RTV Slovenia he among other regularly records also for films and archives. He also regularly conducts the International Youth Orchestra with its seat in Neumarkt. In addition to conducting, he composes and arranges symphonic, vocal and chamber music.

IGOR VIČENTIĆ

Vičentić, professor at the Conservatory of Music and Ballet in Ljubljana, works as a pianist with a variety of renowned musicians, often with the duet Silence. He is also a composer.

NIK ŠKRLEC

Škrlec has been a member of SNG Drama since 2016. He cooperates with various theatres and other cultural institutions, as a television host also with RTV Slovenia. At this year's Borštnik Festival, he received the Borštnik Prize for the best young actor. He is a multiple state champion in memory and a Slovenian record holder in quoting the Pi number.

UTOPIA BY DESIGN

Authors: Simon Bregar, Eva Garibaldi, Lin Gerkman, Jakob Koncut in Tjaša Mužina

The short film *Utopia by Design* offers an answer to the question of how design can improve the world and create a better living space. The starting point of the film is opening up the social issues, to which we currently do not have satisfactory answers. The film was created by the students of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Ljubljana under the mentorship of Assistant Professor Barbara Predan. It begins with a series of photographs that illustrate what the mankind is facing today and is followed by a bold vision of a sustainable, science-based future.

PROJECT TRACTUS

Author: David Tomažič

David Tomažič, a 13-year-old student of the Primary School Šmartno pri Litiji, let a home-made weather balloon into the sky on March 19, 2016. David, all by himself found sponsors for the project and obtained all the necessary permissions and furnished the balloon with a camera, GPS module and measuring devices. The balloon went up to the stratosphere to the height of 27 kilometres before it succumbed to the diluted atmosphere. David posted the spectacular recordings of the balloon's ascend online. The project was named *Tractus*.

Programme on the occasion of the
State celebration of the Slovenian Independence
and Unity day

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