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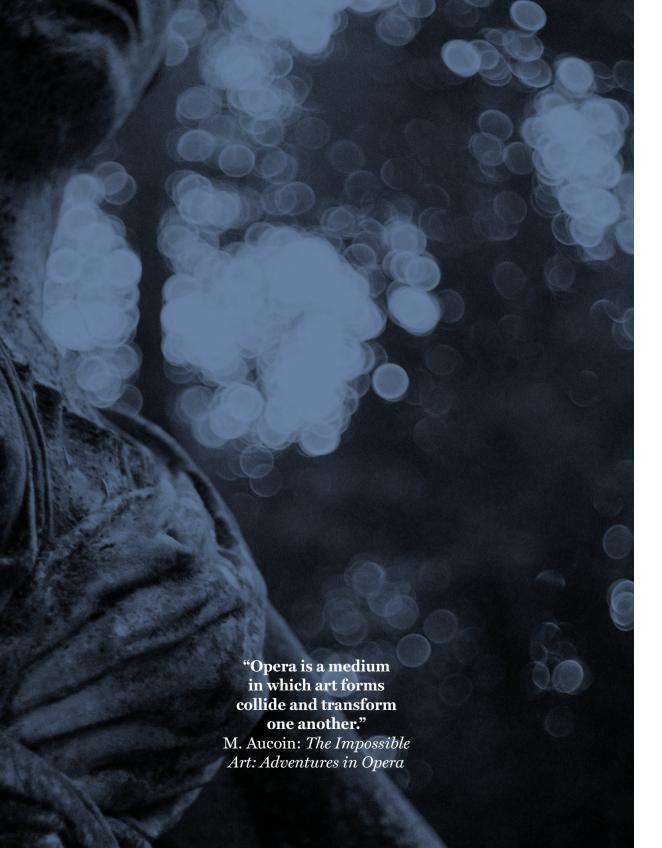


European

Opera

m^us^{ic}v^Ille

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FOREWORD

Musicville—the Green European Opera—is an artistic response to the present moment, a time when we are more aware than ever that we are creating and supporting causes that will affect the lives of future generations. The use of fossil fuels is not only the primary cause of current climate change; it is also a form of gradual violence that we engage in even when we are unconscious of it. We inflict violence on beings that have not yet been born. And that is difficult to imagine. Therefore, *Musicville* is a project that seeks to artistically contribute to environmental awareness and the development of sustainable artistic practices and activities. And yet...

We were faced with a conundrum from the first lecture, which was part of a series of professional lectures designed for *Musicville* participants and the general public. The speaker claimed that art could not be sustainable! As a result, the group of international and interdisciplinary creators were confronted with a significant challenge right away.

After 24 months of collaboration between the artists and their mentors, Musicville-the Green European Opera / "A Story of Being"-was born, with a production in three rural locations across the three partner countries involved in the project. Now that we have completed the process, we can say that we have accomplished green opera and sustainable artistic output. An opera work was created with a libretto as the carrier of a very important message: Nature as a subject, as a being that universally and selflessly relates with everyone, with living and non-living beings, is also agape, the spirit, and a scene where we might seek existential solutions. Throughout the production, we employed highly unconventional eco-methodological approaches that were organised in regard to the venues themselves, carefully guarding their natural features. This means that we did not bring in massive production machinery and transform a local and rural scene into an urban and polluting environment, but rather non-violently settled in, using materials and objects that were already present, while also leaving the scene

with something that can enrich it and grow symbiotically with it. The majority of the production process was carried out online and at special residences, reducing the need for transportation.

We also gained a lot of knowledge during the project's creative process. Thus, we learned about natural environments, non-aggressive production methods, sublime and intimate spectacle, coexistence, the relevance of preserving local communities, and creative collaboration. This is especially crucial, because we tend to think of creation as an autonomous, isolated, and mostly individual process.

As the project's coordinator, I am proud to declare that *Musicville* was a collective creative process in which art became sustainable through solidarity and mutual support in concepts that both transcended and embraced everyone. Agape is not only the ancient Greek word for love ($\dot{\alpha}\gamma\dot{\alpha}\pi\eta$), but also an idea and an instruction that should guide us all: Love for the future, coexistence, universal connection, in short, love for our own ability to learn to love through nature, through being ourselves, because this is also the story of being within ourselves.

Vasko Atanasovski chief artistic director



About Musicville An immersive music experience

Musicville is a partner project between Slovenia, Croatia, and Austria that began in 2023 and will run until the end of 2024. Its aim is to transform the classical European musical form of opera into a new, innovative, and creative collaboration inspired by environmental awareness, nature, local crafts, and traditions. The Green European Opera is the culmination of the collaboration between artists/participants and mentors, as well as the synthesis of all events held throughout the project. The opera is presented through a series of three audio/visual performances in smaller rural areas of the partner countries (Austria, Slovenia, and Croatia), which are combined into a three-act opera featuring artists from various disciplines and cultural backgrounds.

> The project centres on sustainable, participatory, and interdisciplinary artistic practices with the goal of exploring the following questions: How can the resources and knowledge of art and sustainability be combined? How can contemporary cultural production be presented in rural areas? How can artists be assisted in creating new business prospects while also safeguarding the environment?

It provides a framework for an international group of artists from various disciplines (music, theatre, architecture, visual arts, design, performance, etc.) to collaborate with the local expert communities (agriculture, arts & crafts), environmental professionals, and cultural and scientific experts. The idea behind the project is to improve the resilience and wellbeing of artists by teaching them new skills in a practical and peer-to-peer approach, allowing them to work with young and experienced professionals from a variety of artistic and non-artistic backgrounds to create new and unexpected venues for contemporary music production and presentation.

Musicville-THE GREEN EUROPEAN OPERA in 3 Acts

THE STORY OF BEING

- Nude Stories (Slovenia)
 August 31st
 - **19.00** Art Exhibitions | **21.00** Performance Museum of Madness, Cmurek Castle, Trate
- **2.** | **Reflections on Friendship** (Austria)

September 28th

17.15 Art walk | 19.30 Performance Pavelhaus | Pavlova hiša, Laafeld Potrna

3. | Monument of Tenderness (Croatia)
 October 4th | 18.00
 October 5^h | 10.00
 Petrova gora

At this point in history, we require new narratives. Human-caused environmental changes emerge as our greatest threat, but they also present a potential for substantial transformation. In a society obsessed with material things, spirituality demands implementation. Cláudia Martinho, an artist and researcher, states: "While all life is interconnected and interdependent, we are the only species that has become separated from itself, from other species and from the web of life that sustains us." Against the "extractive and colonising system that controls and depletes non--renewable resources",² we propose the regeneration and decolonisation of our creative spirituality. Spirituality is the ingredient that enriches and generates meaning, where the creation of art takes charge, holistically confronting contemporary challenges across all genres, examining and interpreting the significance of existence in its final performance.

The human spirit destroys, yet it is also capable of saving. Its paradoxical capacity is central to the operatic odyssey that is *Musicville*. We invite our audience to honour and evolve the spirit of local environments via movement and exploration, as well as imaginaries and performances that only music can evoke. Each operatic act surprises and inspires visitors with its interpretation of what the area requires and provides, as well as how human joy and appreciation may elevate and transform the narratives it contains.

Our journey begins in Trate, Slovenia, in the evocative venue of the Museum of Madness, a former gated psychiatric hospital and asylum, with the sharing of the occupants' poignant stories: the plight of imprisoned women, the hope of the outside world, the madness within the madness. These are NUDE STORIES, beginning with the bridge that must be crossed to enter the castle, demonstrating resilience and ingenuity in the face of adversity. It is a tour through the rooms that explains the history of the location and the clinic, before it culminates in a performance that interprets perceptions of what individuals felt and hoped within those walls, using sound and immersive video experiences projected onto the historic walls. Lastly, an interactive music score will guide the audience into the gardens, where flowers in green circles will help them accompany the souls to their well-deserved rest. The next station is Bad Radkersburg, Austria, at the Pavelhaus | Pavlova hiša, a cultural centre for Styria's Slovene minority. It has grown into a renowned arts and culture hub. What it requires are guests and a community coming together so that the audience may enjoy a walk from the town centre to the venue accompanied by local songs, hospitality, and culinary traditions. The audience is then invited to an immersive music experience set next to an over-sized birds' nest, which represents home, cosiness, and a place to find freedom. This story is created to invite people to return to the REFLECTIONS ON FRIENDSHIP it evokes, the values it embodies, and its connection to nature. A route marked with green circles surrounding QR codes will guide future friends to the house outside of town, inviting them to visit this site of genuine human encounter.

The third station is in Croatia, at the Monument of the Uprising, a forgotten site of glory nestled in the peaceful woodlands of Petrova Gora. The monument stands as a silent testament to the valour of partisans who fought for justice during World War II and whose legacy lingers on. It is a neglected and sometimes forgotten place, maintained alive by the efforts of locals who keep its stories alive, and lovingly embraced by nature, which is gradually taking over in protection and return to the elemental, quietly growing stronger. Visitors are invited to explore different ways of approaching the site's deep memories and transforming them into new experiences, memories, and spirits to leave in those old forests, with tenderness serving as a postulate of change. The MONUMENT OF TENDERNESS is awakened and honoured through an immersive tapestry of light and music before being returned to nature for a peaceful rest. Only a route of green circles will stay as a reminder to future visitors, a testament to peace and remembrance.

Writings - Cláudia Martinho (claudiamartinho.net)
 Ibid.



PHOTO PERSONAL ARCHIVE

SARA KOROŠEC

Muzikačaka is a solo looping artist delving into a musical journey spanning electronic pop and experimental sounds. Drawing inspiration from the tales of Haloze and the narratives of Slovene periphery, she intricately explores themes of societal, geographical, and economic positioning. Her sonic palette includes piano, vocals, synths, accordion, field recordings, loopers, effects, and poetry. Her music serves as a departure from nostalgic reverence for tradition and conservatism in local environments while simultaneously drawing heavily from these same traditions, reimagining and repurposing them in innovative ways.

Web: muzikacaka.bandcamp.com/album/ povezava-in-ivljenje-na-daljavo

ALJA PETRIC

From architect to versatile musician, educator, and ardent researcher. Petric has dedicated her life to the exploration of musical artistry. Her journey encompasses concert performances, conducting individual and group singing workshops, and therapeutic sound work. Having studied jazz singing and pedagogy at the Gustav Mahler Private University for Music in Klagenfurt, she has expanded her artistic horizons to include interpreting musical traditions from various cultures.

Web: www.aljapetric.com



PHOTO JUNESHELEN

ANA PEČAR

Pečar's artistic practice in video focuses on capturing nature's ethereal and emotive essence. She crafts serene and contemplative environments through installations, photographs, and ambient interventions, offering respite from the fast-paced outside world. Drawing inspiration from a variety of influences, such as the lasting visuals of Tarkovsky and Kurosawa films, as well as indigenous concepts of relational living, she explores the transformative power of profound tranquility.

Web: vimeo.com/1440973

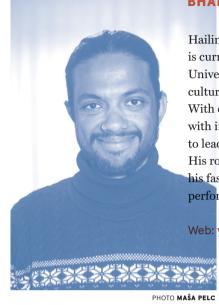




STAŠA PRAH

Following her primary education, Prah honed her skills in a theatre workshop before advancing to the Arts High School in Nova Gorica. For 15 years, she actively participated in Slovenian improvisational theatre, evolving from performer to judge, moderator, and organiser. Furthering her dedication, she pursued dramaturgy at the Ljubljana Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film, and Television. Her journey as a dramaturg epitomises a dedication to crafting theatre holistically, prioritising audience engagement, theatrical essence, and collaborative synergy.

Web: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJ_Y5iHeEE8 www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJ_Y5iHeEE8



BHARATH RANGANATHAN

Hailing from Bangalore, India, Barath Ranganathan is currently immersed in doctoral studies at the University of Ljubljana, exploring the fusion of society, culture, and Indian-origin music in Slovenian society. With extensive teaching experience, he has collaborated with institutions in India, China, and Slovenia to lead seminars, workshops, and master classes. His roles as both musician and researcher underscore his fascination with the phenomenology of music performance and cultural dynamics.

Web: youtu.be/sQqHhWilo1w

MAIR

BARBARA

CAMILO LATORRE

Camilo Latorre is a Colombian composer and writer based in Vienna. He studied piano pedagogy at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna and later composition at the Plovdiv Academy of Music and the Anton Bruckner University in Linz. Latorre's formal interest lies specifically in finding relationships between music and other art forms, such as literature and visual arts.

Web: www.camilolatorre.com





AARON KOPP

Aaron Kopp is a placemaker. In his work, he explores the relationship between physical and mental structures-the built environment and social values. Two topics in his research pique his interest and prove to be fruitful to him. First, "other spaces" which he defines as places that distinguish themselves from their surroundings by being or encouraging otherness. Second, considering how nature can be experienced through placemaking. Kopp creates spatial strategies and situations to reveal perspectives, enhance potential, or transform experiences.

Web: www.are.na/aaron-kopp

OUR ARTISTS AUSTRIA

GREGOR PISKERNIK (ALL PRONOUNS)

Gregor Piskernik is a dancer and performance maker based in Vienna. With a background in psychotherapy and a prolonged dance training, he regularly combines his diverse skills in order to create spaces of transformation. Piskernik's work explores the relationship between the body, the senses, and the environment.

Web: tinyurl.com/GregorPiskernik



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PHOTO AARON KOPP

ZSUZSANNA SZULA

Zsuzsanna Szula was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1985. She has been a founding and active member of the SzubReal art group since 2013 and the Nemazonos Amazonos mail art group since 2018. Her work focuses on the integration of structural, compositional, and mental formations. She is currently working on network theories. Relationships and associations determine the resulting form.





JOSIPA SLAVIČEK

Josipa Slaviček is a creative coming from Jelsa in Croatia, with a Masters degree in architecture and spatial planning. She specialises in nissology, researching islandness and island communities. Within her artistic work she experiments with various media, depending on the project and emotion she wants to share with others. However, photography and public performance have been defining her expression from a young age. Through public installations she elaborates on issues concerning social responsibility, ecology, and relationship between people and technology. Slaviček also owns a design studio that specialises in graphic design and architecture.

Web: www.behance.net/josipaslavicek

ERNST GRIESHOFER



PHOTO ERNST GRIESHOFER

Ernst Grieshofer is an Austrian jazz and fusion musician and drummer. He plays in various bands and carries out solo projects. Together with Karola Sakotnik, he is currently working as a duo called *Virus of the Positive*. They have developed a new genre, the think tank concert, to discuss social issues interactively with the audience.

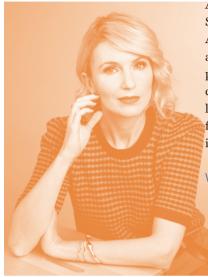
b: www.ernestosgrooveclub.com

RAJNARD HRAŠČANEC

PHOTO PLAKOR KOVAČEVIĆ

Rajnard Hraščanec, 24, is a baritone from Koprivnica, Croatia. Guided by esteemed mentors throughout his education, he graduated from the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music, where he demonstrated his talent in major opera productions. Hraščanec is also a passionate actor who imbues his roles with emotional depth. His presence on the music scene goes beyond classical performances. He actively engages as a commercial musician, frequently providing backing vocals to various talented Croatian artists. He is an active member of the Moonlight Sessions project, serving as a backing vocalist and assistant audio engineer.

Web: www.instagram.com/rajnardinsta/ www.facebook.com/moonlightlivesessions



ANJA MAKSIĆ JAPUNDŽIĆ

Anja Maksić Japundžić was born in Zagreb, Croatia. She graduated in stage directing at the Zagreb Academy of Dramatic Art, where she also worked as an artistic assistant. She directs adult and children's plays, is the author and director of various site-specific cultural tourism projects, and works as a translator, lyricist, and dubbing director for Disney and Pixar films in theatrical distribution. She currently resides in Vienna, Austria.

Web: hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anja_Maksi%C4%87_ Japund%C5%BEi%C4%87

MARTA DOLENČIĆ

Marta Dolenčić is a multimedia artist from Zagreb. She is continuously exploring and experimenting with new techniques, ranging from sculpting and drawing to baking her artwork. Although she studies printmaking (majoring in design and illustration), she is drawn to theatre. Her experience as a stage design assistant allows her to contribute to many aspects of visual theatre production, including poster design, scenography, and puppetry.

Web: www.instagram.com/martadolencic

PHOTO PERSONAL ARCHIVE

PHOTO ANA MIHALIĆ

MANUELA PAUK

Manuela Pauk was born in 1994 in Zagreb and grew up in Šibenik. In 2019, she graduated in sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in the class of Peruško Bogdanić. She had numerous solo exhibitions and participated in several group exhibitions. Pauk's work reflects on the Anthropocene era and the current ecological crisis, as well as the transformative impact that humans have on the world. She wants to explore the idea of using art to communicate modern ecological challenges. Pauk works primarily with sculpture and spatial installation.

Web: www.instagram.com/manuelajepauk



PHOTO EMICA ELVEDJI / PIXSELL

GUEST PERFORMER JULIE



Julie (she/they) is a multidisciplinary artist, performer and researcher based in Germany. Their background is in contemporary dance and neuroaesthetics. Julie's artistic pursuit revolves around facilitating an intimate interplay among these realms through technology, delving into the connection between the digital and physical places. Currently, their exploration primarily focuses on an open body, seeking parallels between data, code and choreography. Their relationship to creativity is driven by curious modes of hacking/ stitching, queer uses and acts of celebration.

PHOTO MASSIMILIANO ARNONE

VASKO ATANASOVSKI, SLOVENIA

Vasko Atanasovski is a composer, musician, producer, and manager from Maribor, Slovenia. Inspired by innovative ideas, he is involved in many spheres of culture, arts, and music, and is renowned for his versatility and mastery of all musical styles, as well as his high-energy and virtuoso performances.

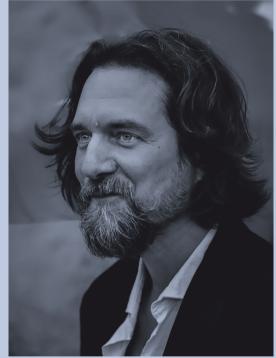


PHOTO JOSEF LEITNER

Musicville inspires and challenges me. In my work, I'm always passionate about researching, inventing, and creating something new, relevant, and extraordinary.

KAROLA SAKOTNIK, AUSTRIA

Karola Sakotnik's background is theatre creation and music. A successful career as a performer was interrupted by a serious illness at 35. Life led her on a path of artistic research on creativity, leadership and culture as creator, author, artistic director and cultural manager. She spreads her findings in designing inspirational experiences, facilitating projects like musical and theatre creation processes with large groups, and gives keynotes and workshops for C-level leaders of all sectors. She believes in making an impact with lightness, ease, purpose, with a global perspective.

Art touches people, inspires them, and encourages them to pursue new directions. Musicville allows young artists to explore and express their own, unique approach to it.

Web: www.future-skills-farming.com www.karolasakotnik.com



PHOTO ULRIKE ROTTER

Web: www.vaskoatanasovski.com

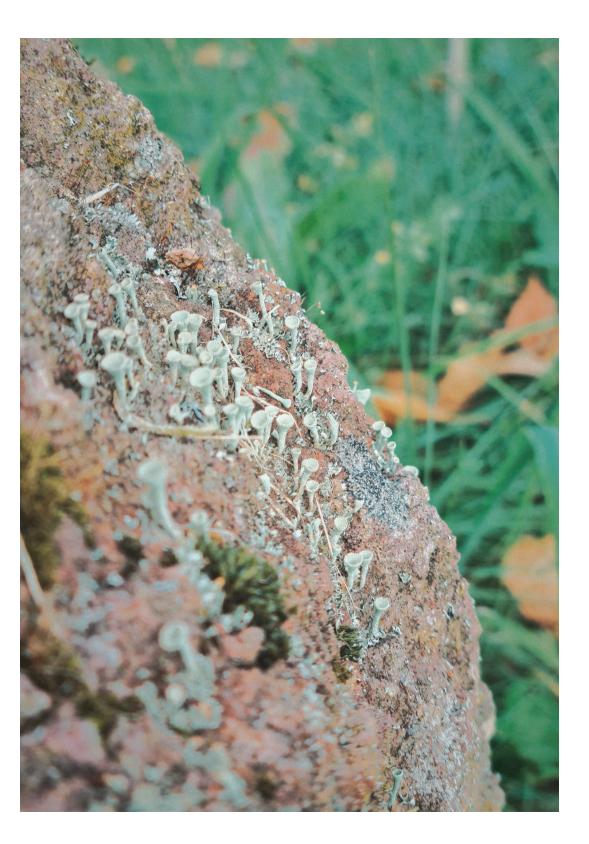
SARA RENAR, CROATIA



Sara Renar is a musician and architect from Zagreb, Croatia. She is regarded as one of the best and bravest female singer-songwriters of her generation. Performing in Croatian, she has received several regional awards for her music and live performances.

I believe Musicville provides an excellent platform for research and new artistic practices. My advice to participants is to be open-minded and free-spirited, to listen and create.

Web: www.sararenar.com

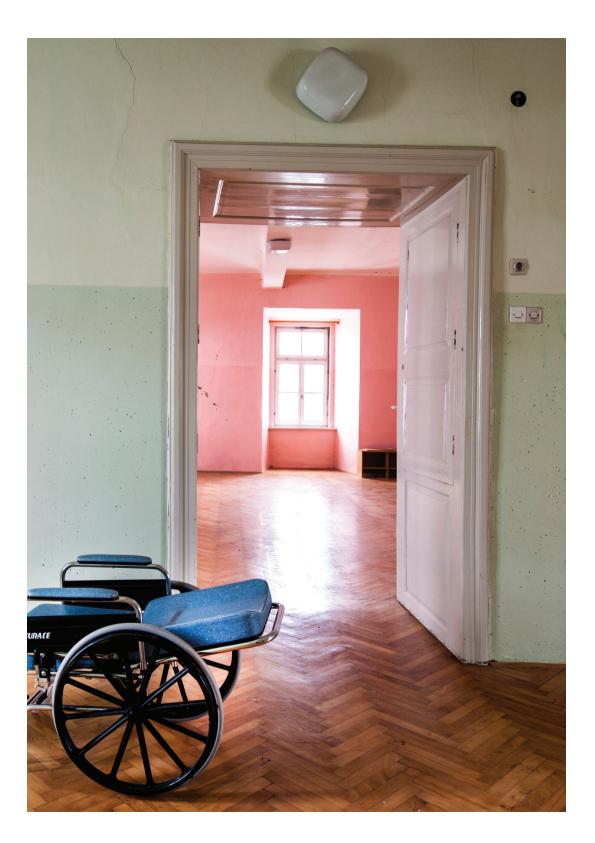


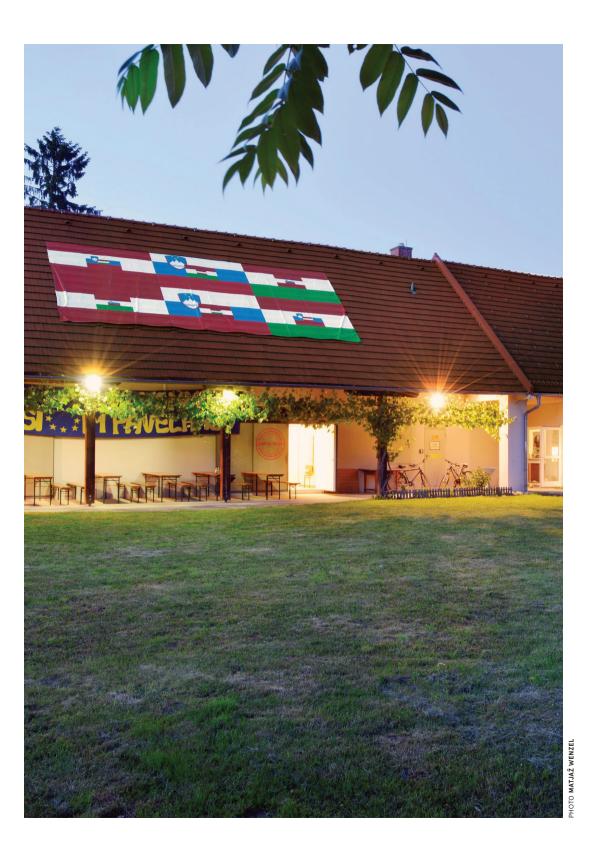
Cmurek Castle, nestled between Vienna and Trieste, is a stronghold with an equally rich and intricate history. Despite its seeming central location, the castle occupies a marginal position, its significance shaped by the border between Slovenia and Austria, which follows the flow of the Mura River right beneath its walls. Once a fortress guarding the frontier, the castle later became synonymous with confinement after being converted into an asylum for the mentally and neurologically ill in 1949.

For decades, Cmurek Castle operated as a final resort, ensnaring people with long-term mental health issues and confining their life within its ancient walls. However, in a momentous shift in 2004, the facility closed its doors, ushering in a new era of mental health care in Slovenia. It is a unique example of deinstitutionalisation in the country's history, a beacon of progress in an environment of institutional lethargy.

Since 2013, the castle has experienced a transformation in purpose, now holding the Museum of Madness—a repository of memory and advocacy dedicated to dismantling the legacy of institutionalisation.

Web: en.muzejnorosti.eu



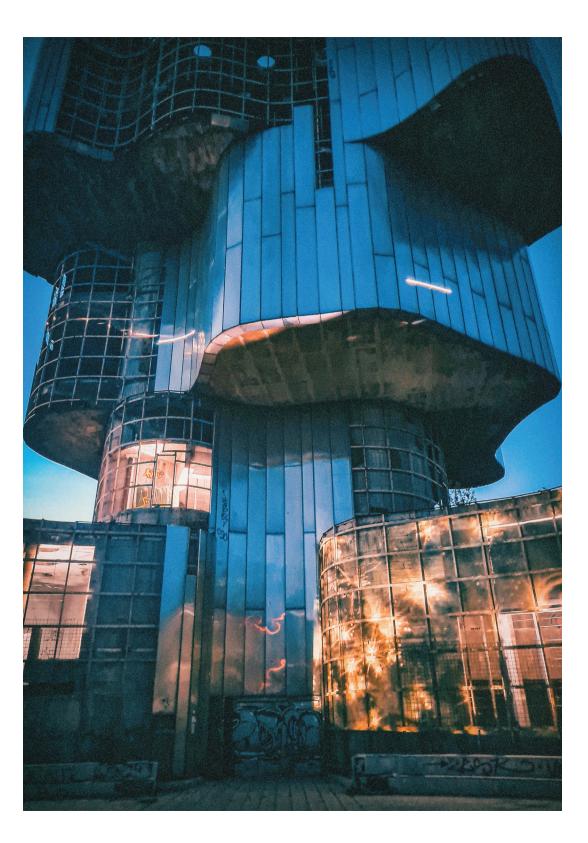


The cultural centre at the Mura River

The project partner for Styria and its cultural centre Pavelhaus | Pavlova hiša is both culturally unique and the smallest landmark in this region. It bridges cultures, and its activities are widespread. Its programme focuses on cross-border collaboration and thinking. Based on Article VII of the Austrian State Treaty, which guarantees autochthonous minorities the freedom to actively live their culture and language, the association conducts initiatives to enhance the Slovene minority in south-eastern Austria. The cultural centre, named after Avgust Pavel who came from a Slovene-Hungarian family in neighbouring Cankova (Slovenia), exemplifies the region's language and cultural diversity.

Web: www.pavelhaus.at

Petrova Gora, located in Karlovac County, is a mountain range that represents a unique forest environment distinguished by its high stability and endurance. It is regarded as one of Croatia's most beautiful and well-preserved mountain woodland environments. In Croatia, the third and final act titled "Monument of Tenderness" will take place on Petrova Gora. The performance will be two-fold, with a final presentation as a grand finale on Oct 4 2024 in front of the Monument to the Uprising of the People of Banija and Kordun at sunset, 6 PM, followed by MOJO family picnic with Yammat.fm radio. The following day, on Oct 5 2024 at 10 AM, join a performative audio-visual hike as an epilogue on the Rimski Put trail starting in front of Muljava hunting lodge. The iconic Monument to the Uprising of the People of Banija and Kordun, an evocative symbol frozen in time, a silent witness to the valour of people who fought for justice during World War II, stands atop the summit of Petrova Gora. This monumental memorial structure, situated upon the highest peak of the mountain range, serves as a touching testament to the enduring spirit of resilience and unity. A myriad of contemporary and classical elements merge in the final act of Musicville, combining environment protection, nature, local stories and traditions through a delicate alchemy of luminosity and melody. As visitors embark on a reflective walk through the surrounding trails, they are encouraged to engage with their profound narratives, forging new connections and memories amidst the ancient forests of Petrova Gora.

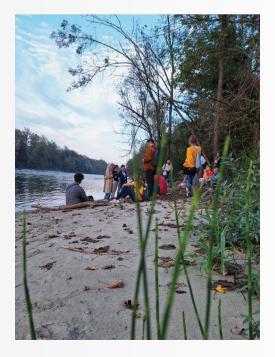
























GLASBARIUM INSTITUTE

PROJECT COORDINATOR SLOVENIA

Website

www.glasbarium.com **Vasko Atanasovski** managing director, project manager **dr. Magdalena Germek** project assistant consultant **Katjuša Štingl** PR officer

ARTIKEL-VII-KULTURVEREIN FÜR STEIERMARK, PAVELHAUS

KULTURNO DRUŠTVO ČLEN 7 ZA AVSTRIJSKO ŠTAJERSKO, PAVLOVA HIŠA BENEFICIARY AUSTRIA

Website

www.pavelhaus.at Susanne Weitlaner managing director Karola Sakotnik project manager Paula Marschalek communication manager The Glasbarium Institute was founded in 2012 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, by internationally acclaimed composer and musician Vasko Atanasovski. Glasbarium has produced many concert series in Slovenia, primarily in jazz, classical, and world music, as well as concert tours all over the world (China, Argentina, the EU, India, etc.), musical albums, and recordings that have been published worldwide by highly regarded record labels, such as MoonJune Records in New York. In its more than 10 years of existence, the Glasbarium Institute has built a significant global network of music professionals and media platforms, as well as expanded its international activities to include managing EU projects and engaging with other fields of arts and culture, particularly the humanities.

GLA BARIUM

Pavelhaus | Pavlova hiša is the cultural centre of the Slovenian minority in Bad Radkersburg, Styria. It serves as a meeting point between Slovenia and Austria, between Slovene and Austrian Styrians, as well as a centre for the local multilingual and monolingual community. It houses a permanent exhibition about the history of the Slovenes in Styria. A high number of activities dedicated to an intercultural principle demonstrate the region's vibrant cultural awareness. This has been also pointed out by the centre's namesake Avgust Pavel, who taught in three languages.

LAB852 BENEFICIARY CROATIA

Website www.lab852.com Karmen Krasić Kožul managing director Marija Kamber curator Gabrijela Mamić communication manager LAB852, a creative and cultural agency from Zagreb, Croatia, was founded in 2011. Since its inception, LAB852 has implemented projects in rural areas. They created a successful cultural development system based on mutual respect between artists and the local community by integrating local cultural heritage and contemporary art, as well as an interdisciplinary research approach.

LAB.852

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REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA Ë MINISTRSTVO ZA JAVNO UPRAVO **T** Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport



avstrijski kulturni forum^{iju}



PARTNERS











MEDIA PARTNERS



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Media partner (Croatia) Yammat.fm Light and sound crew (Croatia) Filip Pačak, Andrija Santro, Subsonic events Co-mentor (Croatia) Ivan Marušić Klif Video of the final event (Croatia) Branimir Boban - Nove Boje Media d.o.o.

Photos

Navid Fadaee Nazer (Slovenia) Gabrijela Mamić, Josipa Slaviček (Croatia) David Kranzelbinder (Austria) Videos Navid Fadaee Nazer Animation video Fani Gluić, Sven Žinić (illustration and animation) Sara Renar (narration) Costume designer Mira Strnad Proofreading in English Ksenija Vidic

Online Lectures Ana Ablamonova (LT) Jay Springett (UK) Roberta Fišere and Austris Mailitis (LV) Iva Peručić (HR) Magdalena Germek (SLO) Celia Stroom (F) John Irland (AUT)

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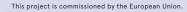
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported *Musicville*:

In Slovenia: Museum of Madness: dr. Sonja Bezjak, Darja Farasin, Barbara Kotnik and dr. Reinhard Padinger, Radio Agora, Gostišče Mihelič, David Orešič, Simon Sedmak, MKC Maribor, Navid Fadaee Nazer, Ministry of Public Administration Slovenia, Austrian Cultural Forum Ljubljana and Marjeta Malus, Motovilla, Danijel Trstenjak, Kibla and Peter Tomaž Dobrila and dr. Magdalena Germek

In Croatia: Vojnić Municipality lead by mayor Nebojša Andrić, local guide Čedomir Studen, Creative organization RUKE, KUD Vojnić, Vojnić Tourist Board, Ekodrom Estate lead by Marko Rukavina, Muljava hunting lodge, Yammat.fm and MOJO Sound System team, the team at Mochvara, Ministry of Culture and Media of The Republic of Croatia, the city of Zagreb, as well as anyone who took part in making Musicville in Croatia possible.

In Austria: Special thanks to BMKOES for supporting the project. We would also like to thank Die Klause, Zotter Schokoladenmanufaktur and the Winkler-Hermaden winery for their hospitality and to the municipality of Bad Radkersburg.

Special thanks to Creative Europe for their support!





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