

*The
Green
European
Opera*

musicville

THE STORY OF BEING

1. | 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

17.00 Meeting point Pavelhaus,
shuttle to the city center Bad Radkersburg,
walk through city center Bad Radkersburg

19.30 Performance

Pavelhaus | Pavlova hiša,
Laafeld Potrna

3. | Monument of Tenderness (Croatia)

October 4th | 18.00

October 5th | 10.00

Petrova gora

FUNDED BY



PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



MUSICVILLE TEAM



OUR LOCATIONS

AUSTRIA

Pavelhaus | Pavlova hiša, Radkersburg

The part of South-Eastern Styria between "Pavlova hiša" and "Die Klause" bridges a landscape from the river Mura to the river Raab. With active volcanoes in ancient times, hot springs today, it's always been a cultural meeting point. In the past 30 years it has been developing a new identity based on agriculture, excellent craft, tourism, and arts.



SLOVENIA

The Museum of Madness in Trate

Life in Cmurek Castle, which lies on the banks of river Mura bordering Austria and Slovenia, has been ongoing since the 12th century. Between 1949 and 2004 it has been an asylum for mentally ill and since 2013, the castle was turned into the Museum of Madness, a civil society organization preserving historical layers and testimonies from the institution's time.

CROATIA

Vojnić Monument, Petrova Gora

Petrova Gora is a mountain range in Karlovac County. It represents a unique forest ecosystem whose main feature is its great stability and durability. This mountain massif is an exceptional habitat for a large number of plant and animal species. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful and best-preserved mountain wooded landscapes in Croatia.

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, co-existence, 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 (ἀγάπη), 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



OUR ARTISTS

Sara Korošec | electronic, experimental musician | **SI**
Muzikačaka is a solo looping artist delving into a musical journey spanning electronic pop and experimental sounds.

Ana Pečar | video artist | **SI**
Pečar's artistic practice in video focuses on capturing nature's ethereal and emotive essence.

Alja Petric | musician, architect | **SI**
From architect to versatile musician, educator, and ardent researcher, Petric has dedicated her life to the exploration of musical artistry.

Bharath Ranganathan | researcher, musician | **SI**
His roles as both musician and researcher underscore his fascination with the phenomenology of music performance and cultural dynamics.

Staša Prah | dramaturg | **SI**
Her journey as a dramaturg epitomises a dedication to crafting theatre holistically, prioritising audience engagement, theatrical essence, and collaborative synergy.

Gregor Piskernik | dancer, performer | **AT**
Piskernik's work explores the relationship between the body, the senses, and the environment.

Camilo Latorre | composer, writer | **AT**
Latorre's formal interest lies specifically in finding relationships between music and other art forms, such as literature and visual arts.

Aaron Kopp | placemaker | **AT**
Kopp creates spatial strategies and situations to reveal perspectives, enhance potential, or transform experiences.

Zsuzsanna Zsula | painter, conceptual artist | **AT**
Her work focuses on the integration of structural, compositional, and mental formations.



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.

OUR MENTORS

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 virtuosic performances.

Web: www.vaskoatanasovski.com



PHOTO JOSEF LETNER

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, and a global perspective.

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

Web: www.sararenar.com



The

Green



European

Opera

OUR TEAM

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ARTIKEL-VII-KULTURVEREIN FÜR STEIERMARK, PAVELHAUS

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Video of the final event (Slovenia, Austria)
Mina Šubić & Film Factory d.o.o.

Media partner (Croatia)
Yammat.fm
Light and sound crew (Croatia)
Filip Pačak, Anđrija Samtro, Subsonic events
Co-mentor (Croatia)
Ivan Marušić Klif
Video of the final event (Croatia)
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Iva Peručić (HR)
Magdalena Germek (SLO)
Celia Stroom (F)
John Irland (AUT)

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