

H S P D

"PODGORAC"

1907 - 2007.



ZAGREB - GRAČANI - CROATIA

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H.S.P.D. PODGORAC is a member of "DRUŽINA"
a member of International folklore group "IGF".



HSPD „Podgorac“

Peasant amateur association “Podgorac” was established in 1907 as a singing choir. It was founded by young men from Gračani, part of the city of Zagreb, led by a local teacher. Idea of the founders of the association was preserving and bringing the domestic songs and customs to the world.

Right after it was founded, the singing choir started working very intensively and became popular in Zagreb and its surrounding area. It has been working for decades with addition of female choir joining the association on the 50th anniversary of the choir, followed by establishing a mixed choir which has been active to this day.

Beside singing choir, in early 60s of the last century, tamburitsa band and dance ensemble was formed, which complete the mission of the association, preserving the cultural heritage and introducing the domestic and foreign audience with the cultural heritage of other parts of the Republic of Croatia.

During its activities, starting with 1964, “Podgorac” had many successful contacts and cooperation with related societies in Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Germany and Canada and performed in Slovenia, Italy, the Czech Republic, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Israel.

Along with regular shows, “Podgorac” appeared in numerous television and radio programmes. In 1965, it made the first Christmas songs record in the former Yugoslavia, for which they received the “Golden“ and “Diamond“ record from their record company. They also made the “Prigorski svati“ LP consisting of regional wedding customs, and the last recorded CD is “Nek zvoní naš kaj“ with the most popular melodies of the City of Zagreb and its surrounding area.

During its activities, “Podgorac” had been in contact with a large number of domestic and foreign dignitaries, among which meeting with Holy Father Pope John Paul II in Zagreb 1998 and Rome 2004 was the most remarkable.

Gračani, the centre of “Podgorac’s” activities is situated below Medvednica Mountain, which is the starting point of residents of Zagreb and their guests when they take the cable-car to reach its summit to hike or ski, where recently FIS competitions are held. Gračani are proud of the fact that many eminent people live there including Janica and Ivica Kostelić who are known all over the world.

“Podgorac” celebrates its centennial in 2007 in hope that it will see many such anniversaries. This is a pledge of former and current active members, which will certainly be passed on to the future generations.

H.S.P.D. „Podgorac“ is an amateur association that gathers 120 active members who train to perform various concerts through their art.

There are three sections in the society:

- singing choir
- tamburitsa band
- dancing ensemble



The singing choir, the tamburica band and dancing ensemble can perform concerts solo or together with a lasting 10 to 90 minutes.

Singing Choir consists of about 40 members

It has various activities, such as:

- solo concerts
- concerts with a tamburitsa band
- concerts and scenic performance of - folk customs with tamburitsa band and dancing ensemble

Program consists of:

- secular
- sacral
- folk songs and compositions



Songs of secular character:



Vatikan

- ceremonial
- patriotic
- native songs
- choir compositions and arias from musicals, operettas and operas
- madrigals and other kind of secular compositions



Songs of secular character are performed in concert halls and at festivals.

Songs of sacral character:

- mass songs
- Christmas carols
- Easter songs

Folk Songs:

- folk songs from entire Croatia
- folk songs and customs of Zagreb vicinity (Prigorje)

The Tamburitza Band Having around 15 members it performs solo concerts or together with a singing choir and the dancing ensemble.

Music programme of the tamburica band consists of a large number of compositions fit for various types of performance:

- popular music
- sacral
- folk, specific to the folk dancing and customs



Dancing ensemble performs dances, songs and customs in original national costumes of:



Posavina
Valpovo
Slavonia
DubrovnikZagreb
vicinity (Prigorje)

Programs last from 10 to 15 minutes of scenic performance which can be expanded by programs of the tamburitsa band and singing choir to 90 minutes.

About fifty members are divided into two sections:

adult dancer
section

children section



All three ensembles are dedicated to perform wedding and folk customs of Prigorje. In that way, original customs have been preserved and practiced. Such customs are:

wedding customs
Martinje parties
Carnival (Fašnik) customs



ZAGREB

Love at first sight

CROATIA

Zagreb, like so many other cities,

has an OLD face and a NEW one.

memorials of the past.

And JOY of the present...

...and cities, just like people, are

different too in appearance, and in

the special CHARM of atmosphere

that makes them what they are.

Zagreb is a SPECIAL city, its whole

story as yet UNTOLD, a story to

which you may add a little of your-

self. It has a SPIRIT of its own which

we hope you may DISCOVER.



ZAGREB - the capital of the Republic of Croatia, is one of the oldest cities and one of the youngest capitals of Europe.

ZAGREB is simultaneously, both old and young. Old, because of its rich history which is still very much alive today, and young because of the hundreds of thousands of students who make its streets lively with their happiness and enthusiasm.

Lying between East and West Europe, Zagreb has always belonged to western civilization and was the cultural, economic and political centre of all the Croats.

The impressions of the growing number of foreigners who visit Zagreb may be summarized in one sentence: a city of a million inhabitants that has managed to stay romantic, clean, and which offers visitors pleasant walks and enjoyment in a city full of parks and pedestrian zones. In short, it is a city that has managed to preserve its soul and identity, its cultural and historical heritage.

Its historical nuclei, Gradec and Kapitol, are among the best-preserved in Europe. Old houses, a wealth of monuments from the past, museums and galleries, testify that this region has a long tradition and that the roots of civilization go deep.

Its architecture, streets, the squares of the Upper and Lower town, open air green markets, churches and monuments are the witnesses of a history that successfully resisted the fast tempo of life at the end of the last century.

