

## Anya Matanovič

Opera Cleveland and the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland announce the upcoming opera performance of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale Hansel and Gretel, in which young singer of Slovenian descent, Anya Matanovič, will perform.

Ms. Matanovič's father was born in Ljubljana and raised near Prešeren Square. He spent much of his childhood with his parents in the area of Cezsoca na Bovskem. In 1973, he emigrated to the United States and settled with his family in the Seattle area. Ms. Matanovic, who is beginning a promising career, lives and works in New York City.

The performances will take place at the State Theatre in Playhouse Square at 1519 Euclid Avenue on Friday October 31, at 8:00 pm, Sunday, November 2 at 2:00 pm and Saturday, November 8 at 8:00 pm.

Tickets can be purchased at a reduced costs for families or large parties by calling (216) 241-6000, or on the Web at [www.operacleveland.org](http://www.operacleveland.org), or at the theatre box office.



*Anya Matanovič at a Meet the Cast event hosted by Joseph-Beth Booksellers.  
Photo by Phil Hrvatin*

Opera Cleveland in Generalni konzulat RS v Clevelandu sporočata, da bo v znani pravljici bratov Grim oziroma glasbeni predstavi »Hansel and Gretel«, kar je ameriška različica zgodbe o Janku in Metki, nastopila tudi mlada pevka slovenskega rodu Anya Matanovič.

Predstave bodo v State Theatreu na 1519 Euclid Ave. v petek, 31. oktobra ob 8. uri zvečer, v nedeljo, 2. novembra ob 2. uri popoldan, ter v soboto, 8. novembra ob 8. uri zvečer.

Vstopnice lahko kupite po znižani ceni za družine ali večje skupine, in sicer preko telefonske številke 216-241 6000, preko interneta na [www.operacleveland.org](http://www.operacleveland.org) ali v samem teatru.

Anjin oče je bil rojen v Ljubljani, zivel je prav nasproti Presernovega spomenika in Tromostovja, skupaj s svojimi stari pa je veliko časa preživljal v Cezsoci na Bovskem. Iz Slovenije se je leta 1973 preselil v Ameriko in se z družino ustalil v okolici Seattla. 27-letna Anya, ki je na začetku zelo obetavne kariere, zdaj živi in dela v New Yorku.

## Slovenian Cultural Center - Lemont

The SCC presents the Show Band, KLOBUK, a popular 5 member band from Maribor. This special concert will be held on Saturday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. followed by entertainment for your dancing pleasure. Adult admission is \$12.00, 17 and under are free! Sandwiches will be available for purchase and a cash bar. A great time will be had by all!!

## Slovenian Singing Society

Zarja presents Its 93rd Annual Fall Concert

“Zarja – Ž to A”

Sunday November 2, 2008 at the Slovenian Society Home  
20713 Recher Avenue in Euclid, Ohio Doors Open: 2:30  
Program: 3:30 Dancing to the Ray Polantz Orchestra: 5:30  
Donation: \$10.00 per person For tickets or more information call:  
Vicky at 216-531-5542, Barbara at 440-257-2540 or the Polka  
Hall of Fame at 216-261-3263 [zarja\\_singers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zarja_singers@sbcglobal.net)

## Letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Hrvatin,

I'm not really sure how I started receiving your newsletter, but it has been wonderful. I grew up just outside Cleveland in Richmond Heights, but my parents married, lived, had a business and raised my brothers on and around St. Clair back in the 30's and 40's.

I have been away from the Cleveland area since the early 70s. I married young and pulled away from the polka scene but have had a desire rekindled to become reconnected with Cleveland Slovenian community and enjoy polkas again.

I don't know if you have space in your newsletter, but I have two requests: As I mentioned, my parents had a business on St. Clair and I would LOVE to hear from the some of the folks that might have been familiar with them. It was called Pianeckis Buttercrust Home Bakery. I think it was in the 6400 or 6800 block of St. Clair. They were John and Victoria Pianeckis. My mom is at the Gateway Center in Euclid.

My other request is to mention that my older brother, John, has been ill for over a year now and has been in a nursing home in Painesville until recently. He has been moved to a new facility and I would love to hear from any of his friends so that I could give them his new address -- I don't have it right now, but if you print my email address, I'd be happy to pass it on to whoever may inquire.



SLOVENIAN CULTURAL /CATHOLIC  
CENTER PRESENTS  
**SHOW BAND  
KLOBUK**  
7 PM  
OCTOBER 18, 2008  
CONCERT FOLLOWED BY  
MUSIC FOR DANCING  
SANDWICHES AVAILABLE

Thanks so much for the great work you're doing on the newsletter and I would love to come to some of the events -- perhaps next summer. I also listen to [www.247polkaheaven.com](http://www.247polkaheaven.com) to hear about what's going on in and around Cleveland.

Nice to be back in touch with my "roots" . . .

Best wishes and happy holidays !!!

Viki Pianecky Tucker  
[pinkcaddy7@yahoo.com](mailto:pinkcaddy7@yahoo.com)

## A note from Dr. David Turk

[david.turk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:david.turk@sbcglobal.net)



I have attached an article from our October 2008 issue of Diversion, a magazine for doctors. There have been numerous other articles that I never did save.

Here are two web articles about Slovenia from our physician magazine, Diversion:

<http://www.diversion.com/traveldetail.aspx?key=DIV200810019>

<http://www.diversion.com/traveldetail.aspx?key=DIV200802070>

## Roman Possedi in Las Vegas writes

[http://www.clevelandstyle.com/awards\\_lifetime\\_Possedi\\_Roman.html](http://www.clevelandstyle.com/awards_lifetime_Possedi_Roman.html)

Howdy Phil ;



Enjoyed checking out your news letter and viewing all the photos . Thank you for sending me all the happenings your way. Talked to Fr. Perkovich a couple hours ago and he was telling me about doing the Mass at SNPJ. And here I got to view the photos you sent from that day. I am hanging in there , been Blessed with good Health and was 79 July 4th . Still get a lot of visitors and things happening here .

This weekend I will be in California 5 days , the Slovene Hall in Fontana has their Octoberfest . Then go to the huge German American Club Octoberfest in Anaheim, CA.Thank you again and say Hi to the Tomsicks next time you see them .

Las Vegas Roman [LV180RIDER@aol.com](mailto:LV180RIDER@aol.com)

## Michael Polutnik

Philip, Once again, I must commend you for a very nice looking and informative "newsletter". all the best and hvala lepa for another job well done! – Mike [cen34288@centurytel.net](mailto:cen34288@centurytel.net)

## Elizabeth Delene

Thanks Phil, I didn't know the info about Cardinal Rode..so helpful and glad to see the bit about Baraga Days! Thank you, Elizabeth [edelene@dioceseofmarquette.org](mailto:edelene@dioceseofmarquette.org)  
[www.bishopbaraga.org/index.htm](http://www.bishopbaraga.org/index.htm)

## Photo links from Marko in Lemont

<http://picasaweb.google.com/pucmeister/SCCsummerPicasa>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/pucmeister/BeautifulStMarySLemont>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/pucmeister/BaragaDaysLemontLL>

## BELOKRANJSKO MARTINOVANJE

NOVEMBER 8, 2008 at 6:00pm at SLOVENIAN NATIONAL HOME 6419 St. Clair Avenue,  
Cleveland, OH 44103

Entertainment: STAN MEJAC ORCHESTRA  
MLADI GLAS SLOVENIAN DANCE GROUP, Toronto, Canada

Dinner \$25.00 Children \$12.50 Contact: Malka 440-423-0527 or Rezka 440-729-0412

Dance admission welcome after 9:00 at no charge

## Rajko is looking for photos from the 2008 Veseli Begunjcani North American Tour

<http://www.veseli-begunjcani.com/galerija.html>

Spustovani gospod Philip,

sem Rajko Rudez iz Kranja in montiram reportazo o turneji Veselih Begunjcanov po Ameriki in Kanadi.

Slike mi lahko posljevne po mailu ali pa mi prelozize na kaksen server in mi posljevte samo link.

Ze v naprej se vam najlepse zahvaljujem in vas prav lepo pozdravljam,

Rajko Rudez  
MMS - Multi Media Studio [mms@t-2.net](mailto:mms@t-2.net)



# The Green Bike Tour News

Contact: Mike Owen, Iowa Policy Project, [ipp@lcom.net](mailto:ipp@lcom.net), 319-338-0773

***For Immediate Release — Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008***

## **Solar Bike Tour — Next Stop: Slovenia**

IOWA CITY, Iowa (Oct. 15, 2008) — The Green Bike Tour rides again Thursday, this time in the European nation of Slovenia.

This is the sixth year since 1999 in which David Osterberg, executive director of the nonpartisan Iowa Policy Project, has led renewable energy enthusiasts on two-wheelers to illustrate the benefits and potential of sustainable energy technology.

As in past tours — which included a widely publicized foray through northern Europe in 2002 and other efforts in the Midwestern United States — bicyclists will visit renewable energy facilities, this time in a region of Slovenia just beyond the Italian border.

“This is the second Green Bike Tour that visited Europe,” Osterberg said. “Slovenia is not among the leaders in renewable energy in the European Union and bringing attention to the renewable resources available here may help push the government to be more aggressive. My students are excited about making a statement for clean energy that helps contain global warming.”

Joining Osterberg on the tour will be students and professors from the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Nova Gorica in Nova Gorica, Slovenia.

“We are happy to have our students participate in promoting renewable energy in Slovenia,” said Mladen Franko, head of the School of Environmental Sciences. “Students everywhere must realize that global warming is a threat to their future. They must take some action and also involve the general public to contain this world problem.”

Osterberg, a clinical associate professor of occupational and environmental health at the University of Iowa, is on a temporary teaching assignment this month at the school. Professor Franko has organized the Thursday tour to cover about 15 miles of that region of Slovenia, including a hydroelectric dam north of Slokan on the Soca River. Riders also will meet with representatives of GOLEA-Goriska, a Local Energy Agency, which promotes renewable energy sources and systems as well as wind energy.

A professor at the university, Romina Rodela, was excited about the potential for the tour.

“I have studied policy making here and in England,” Rodela said. “When citizens get interested in an issue, politicians and policy makers do as well. The Green Bike Tour might spark interest in sustainable power here in Slovenia because students are involved.”

For more information about past Green Bike Tour events, visit <http://www.greenbike.org/>, or the Iowa Policy Project website <http://www.iowapolicyproject.org/>.

The Green Bike Tour 2008 is sponsored by the Iowa Policy Project, the University of Iowa’s Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, and the Fred & Charlotte Hubbell Foundation.

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## Trip of a lifetime

Article Date: Sunday, October 19, 2008

GILFORD — Erika Johnson of Gilford went home again last month. As part of her 40th anniversary with her husband, Bill, she was able to visit her place of birth, Maribor, Slovenia, for the first time in 52 years. She reunited with her sister, her aunt and uncle, and a number of cousins — some whom she had never met before. In one case, she found a cousin that she never knew she had.

At 13 years of age, Erika left Maribor which was a small city in then Communist Yugoslavia. Her family — her mother and sister — had to flee in the middle of the night to avoid the local authorities, leaving behind all of their possessions except some clothes. They reunited with her step-father in Germany, who had left the country illegally at an earlier date to avoid Communist prosecution. They eventually made it to South Bend, Indiana sponsored by their family living in the United States. While the rest of her family had been able to go back home over the years, Erika had never had that opportunity until this year.

She found the house of her childhood and the church in which she was baptized and confirmed. She walked the streets on which she once played. Of course, the area has greatly changed since her departure. The open fields and farmlands of her neighborhood have been greatly developed, now covered with homes and shops. Maribor, a small town in the 1950's, is now the second largest city in Slovenia with a population of approximately 100,000.

Erika didn't go home alone, however. In addition to her husband, she also took her father home for the final time. Erika's dad, Stan Kaluder, died in March of this year at the age of 83. Stan had always requested that, when he passed away, his ashes be spread on top of Pohorje, the mountain near Maribor on which he grew up. Erika, along with his remaining family, fulfilled his wish. They ended the informal ceremony by toasting to Stan, downing a few pints of beer at a nearby café. Stan would have liked that final touch.

In addition to her time in Maribor, Erika and Bill were also able to spend 2 and ½ weeks in Vienna, Austria — the home of her sister — and the Greek mainland and two Greek islands. It was a long, emotional, and wonderful trip. Who says you can't go home again? Erika would greatly disagree.

<http://www.citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081019/GJCOMMUNITY02/710199977/-1/CITNEWS08>



COURTESY PHOTO ERIKA JOHNSON of Gilford, far right, is pictured with family members in Maribor, Slovenia, her birth place.



Laconia, New Hampshire

# Waterford Crystal to fire most Irish workers as financials slump

4 days ago

DUBLIN, Ireland — Waterford Crystal, a glittering icon of Ireland, announced Thursday it will lay off most of its Irish work force and move its factory production overseas after losing a six-year battle to boost sales, cut costs and control debts.

"We regret the necessity of ending large-scale manufacturing in Waterford, but we reaffirm our commitment to the city," said chief executive John Foley, referring to the company's 61-year-old base in the southeast Irish city of the same name.

It didn't say where the work was going but the company has contracted much of its production to a manufacturer in **Slovenia**.

The company said about 125 employees in Waterford would remain once 280 specialist workers, chiefly involved in the blowing and hand-cutting of lead crystal, were laid off in coming months. The Associated Press reported the planned job cuts Tuesday.

Officials said the Waterford plant - already one of Ireland's top tourist attractions with an estimated 300,000 visitors annually - would become an almost exclusively tourism-focused operation.

They said dozens of craftsmen would continue to produce specialist pieces, including unique trophies and ornaments. Past examples include a crystal cowboy hat in the plant's visitor centre and the illuminated crystal ball used to herald in the new year in New York's Times Square.

At its height Waterford Crystal employed 3,200 people in Ireland at two plants but in 2002 began a rapid fall into debt. Its smaller plant shut down three years ago as executives began subcontracting production to plants as far away as Brazil.

Waterford's ability to produce profitably in Ireland has been shattered by rising competition from Eastern Europe, changing consumer tastes that increasingly viewed crystal as an impractical anachronism, and perhaps above all by chronic weakness of the U.S. dollar.

Americans traditionally have accounted for half of Waterford Crystal purchases - and until now, Waterford chiefs have sought to defend the company's Irish roots in fear that shifting to Slovenia, Poland or elsewhere might alienate the Irish-American base.

But Anthony Jones, chief financial officer of the plant's Waterford Wedgwood PLC parent, said it had "become clear that maintaining manufacturing operations in Ireland at their current level is not feasible. Along with many other companies, we are, therefore, forced to find alternative means of production abroad."

He said the future Waterford facility would remain "critical to the DNA of our brand" and would focus on tourist visits and "some prestigious manufacturing."

The labour union that represents Waterford workers, Unite, called an emergency meeting for Thursday night and vowed to fight the plans. Unite representative Walter Cullen said all of Waterford was in shock - and dismissed the management's explanations as dishonest.

"Fine words about the importance of the area to the brand are of little comfort to staff who have, through generations of craftsmanship, built that brand into the icon it is today," Cullen said. "That they will now seemingly be cast aside and production moved to just another factory overseas is devastating."

Cullen said the union would "strive with every fibre of its being to find some alternative. Waterford Crystal is too important to the workers, to the city and to the nation as a whole to let it slide away."

But international investors liked the plans, bidding Waterford Wedgwood shares up 50 per cent to 0.3 euro cents (0.4 U.S. cents).

The shares, which are largely held by publishing magnate Tony O'Reilly and his brother-in-law Peter Goulandris, have been penny-stock status for years - and then fell into the fractions this year. The company's market value remains less than a tenth of its debt exceeding 475 million euros (\$635 million).

The company declined to discuss where Waterford Crystal production would shift. It already has contracted much of its previous production to Steklarna Rogaska d.d., a glass manufacturer based in Rogaska Slatina, Slovenia.

The Wedgwood side of the company in recent years has slashed jobs and production in its traditional England base and moved most production of china and ceramics to a new factory in Indonesia.

Less than a year ago, the Waterford Crystal factory still employed nearly 1,000 workers, but half were told in November 2007 they would lose their jobs. Negotiations on five-figure compensation payouts for each employee are continuing, an expense adding to the company's already desperate financial position.

The expectation of more job cuts rose Monday when O'Reilly, Goulandris and other shareholders approved the latest in a string of stock flotations designed to attract new investors to the fold at knock-down prices. They had hoped to win about 40 million euros (\$55 billion) in new business but managed less than half of that.

That followed an embarrassing rebuff in May from the Irish government, which refused a Waterford Crystal appeal for taxpayers to serve as a guarantor on the company's next loan application.

Waterford Crystal traces its lineage to a factory opened in the town in 1783, although that business failed in the 1850s. The brand was revived by a Czech immigrant to Waterford, Miroslav Havel, in 1947. Havel, 86, died last month from heart failure at his Dublin home.

Source: The Canadian Press

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALEqM5j4fAxseBNShmOyYm4VDxfZ4nZ-pg>