

Detailed Summary Report on Norsk Musikk Meets Slovak / Slovak Music Meets Norsk Project (hereinafter Norsk Musikk)

Artistic-research activity **Norsk Musikk** represents in itself a further step in the expanding collaboration of the Faculty of Music and Dance of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava (hereinafter **FMD**) and The Grieg Academy, part of the University of Bergen (hereinafter **GA**). The pilot event which has established the mutual contacts between the GA and FMD was Grieg Day, which took place in November 2015 in Bratislava. The reciprocal project Norsk Musikk, focused on mutual recognition of both music cultures of the 20th and 21st centuries, aimed at deepening the mutual comprehension of their specifics. **The guest stays of 7 representatives of the GA in Bratislava (4–7 December 2017) and 6 Slovak representatives of the FMD in Bergen (17–20 January 2018)** included master classes, workshops for teachers and students of the partner institution, lectures designated for various levels of audience and concerts for general public. The project was supported by the EEA and Norway Grants and organized in collaboration with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava, The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Oslo and Centre for Grieg Research in Bergen.

Seven experts from Norway and six experts from Slovakia participated in the project.

The Norwegian delegation in Bratislava included artists from the GA:

Prof. Einar Røttingen, pianist, the principal organizational partner and guarantor of the GA international artistic-research project (Un)-settling Sites and Styles: Performers in Search of New Expressive Means, concentrating on the performance of 20th- and 21st-century music

Assoc. Prof. Signe Bakke, piano

Prof. Torleif Torgersen, piano

Assoc. Prof. Hilde Haraldsen Sveen, vocal

Prof. Ricardo Odriozola, violin

They took part in the project as leaders of master classes, participants of the stage discussion dealing with the possibilities of fellowships in Norway and the presentation of the GA international artistic-research project, then as lecturers elaborating the issue of the performance of Norwegian music. In his workshop the composer **Knut Vaage** focused on the presentation of compositional devices of selected Norwegian composers and of his own compositional poetics. **Assoc. Prof. Arnulf Mattes**, musicologist and head of the Centre for Grieg Research in Bergen, gave the lecture entitled “Grieg, History and Politics: Grieg Centenaries 1943 – 1993 – 2007”.

The members of the **Slovak delegation in Bergen** were the artists from the FMD:

Prof. Daniel Buranovský, piano,

MA Dagmar Podkamenská, ArtD., vocal,

MA Róbert Pechanec, ArtD., piano accompaniment,

MA Jozef Horváth, ArtD., violin,

Prof. Evgeny Irshai, composition/piano.

They participated in the project as the leaders of master classes – Daniel Buranovský also as a lecturer reflecting on the issues related to the piano music performance. During the workshop Evgeny Irshai presented the work of contemporary Slovak composers and composition students from the FMD. **Prof. Markéta Štefková**, musicologist, author and guarantor of the Norsk Musikk project, presented the lecture “The Search for a Nation’s Sound: Reflections on Slovakia’s Music in the 20th Century”, accomplished in collaboration with the Centre for Grieg Research in Bergen.

The part of the project Norsk Musikk Meets Slovak taking place in Bratislava directly involved **25 students of the FMD** in the areas of piano playing, singing, violin playing, violin duet and piano trio, pupils from the classes of **13 FMD teachers**, who prepared the programme for the master classes led by the Norwegian teachers. The part of the project Slovak Music Meets Norsk taking place in Bergen included **28 students of the GA** in the specializations of piano, singing, violin and piano trio from the classes of **6 GA teachers**, who prepared programme for the master classes and improved it under the guidance of the Slovak teachers.

On 6 December 2017 at 3 p.m. the event **Norsk Competition** took place in the premises of the Concert Hall Dvorana, a competition exhibition of Slovak students who had studied the pieces of the 20th- and 21st-century Norwegian music. The jury consisting of the 7 teachers from the GA in Bergen awarded two 1st places: to the pianist Júlia Novosedlíková from the class of Prof. Marian Lapšanský, and to the piano trio Eva Drugdová, violin / Ľubomíra Verbovská, cello / Samuel Beznák, piano, from the class of Prof. Daniel Buranovský. The winners were awarded a two-week fellowship at the GA in Bergen which will be realized in the spring 2018 during the time of holding a significant Scandinavian event Bergen International Festival. Here they will get an opportunity to present themselves at individual concerts and they will participate in the musical instrument instruction in the classes of the GA teachers. The costs will be covered by the GA from the sources of its international artistic-research project (Un)-settling Sites and Styles: Performers in Search of New Expressive Means.

The most important activities for the general public were the concert appearances: **Norsk Konsert**, the concert of the Norwegian artists presenting the music by Norwegian composers of the 20th and 21st centuries which took place on 6 December 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Dvorana Concert Hall of the FMD, and the concert of the Slovak artists **Musica Slovaca** at which the music of Slovak authors of the 20th and 21st centuries was performed, which took place on 19 January 2018 in the GA Gunnar Sævig's Hall. At the same time the concerts represented a kind of a social culmination of both projects and were visited by significant exponents of academic and diplomatic circles headed by the Ambassador of the Norwegian Kingdom in Bratislava, Ms. Inga Magistad, and the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Oslo, Ms. Denisa Frelichová. The representative aspect of the concerts was crowned by a reception in Bratislava and a joint dinner in Bergen. Moreover, the Norwegian artists performed also on 5 December in the Small Hall of the Slovak Philharmonic at the monothematic concert organized on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the death of Edvard Grieg and realized in collaboration with the Slovak Philharmonic and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava as an important external part of the project.