



LOJZE
SLAK
AND TONE
PAVČEK
MUSEUM



Permanent exhibition at the Lojze
Slak Museum in Mirna Peč

Lojze Slak – Diatonic Accordion Virtuoso

My Records Are My Books

The exhibition presents the life and work of Mirna Peč native Lojze Slak through the written word, images, objects, music and film. As visitors trace the course of his life from cradle to grave, they will get a sense of the influence of the landscape, people and folk music of the Dolenjska region on Lojze Slak's creative oeuvre. Slak's life was filled with music. He was a virtuoso performer on the diatonic button accordion, a composer and lyricist, and the founder and leader of the Lojze Slak Ensemble. The accordions from which his fingers conjured such unforgettable sounds benefited from the addition of a special "Slak button" – as may be seen on the instruments on display at the exhibition.



Another special feature of the exhibition is the reconstruction of a stage. The Lojze Slak Ensemble customarily performed on a stage – and at this exhibition visitors will also have the opportunity to do so.



An accordion is provided on which they can perform their favourite Slak tune, and they will even be able to record their performance with musical and video accompaniment by the Lojze Slak Ensemble. The "Accordion Show" offers musicians a diatonic accordion experience never before available at an exhibition in Slovenia.



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Published by
Municipality of
Mirna Peč

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Text
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Dolenjska Museum
Novo Mesto

Exhibition design
and printed materials
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Exhibition created by
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Novo Mesto

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material
Slak family
archives

Text revision
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Translation
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Printed by
Luminus d. o. o.
Novo mesto

Print run
1000 copies



Občina Mirna Peč
Trg 2, 8216 Mirna Peč



"Liability for content: Municipality of Mirna Peč.
The Managing Authority for implementation of the
Rural Development Programme of the Republic of
Slovenia 2014–2020 is the Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Food."

November 2018

The Museum
is adapted to
facilitate
access to
physically
disabled,
hearing
impaired
(hearing loop),
blind and
visually
impaired
visitors.



exhibition

Lojze Slak was born in Jordankal, in the municipality of Mirna Peč, on 23 July 1932. Because his mother suffered from poor health, he was sent to live with his grandparents in Mali Kal near Mirna Peč, in a house filled with the sounds of his uncle's diatonic accordion and folk singing. Before starting school, the young Lojze secretly taught himself to play the accordion. He loved Dolenjska, his native region, and even after moving to Ljubljana he returned there regularly to find inspiration and themes for his "Slak sound".

He created the Lojze Slak Ensemble by merging the Lojze Slak Trio with the vocal quintet Fantje s Praprotna ("The Praprotno Lads") in 1964.

Over the course of their 47-year career, the Lojze Slak Ensemble performed all over Slovenia and gave frequent concerts for Slovene communities in other European countries. They also visited Australia and had five successful North American tours. They made a total of 58 albums, which are on display at the exhibition along with the numerous awards they won for album sales and in listeners' polls both at home and abroad – even in the USA, where the influence of the Slak sound led to the creation of Button Box Clubs and Polka Masses.



the reconstruction of the practice room from the Slak family home in Gunclje

The reconstruction of the practice room from the Slak family home in Gunclje – complete with the original furniture and fittings – offers visitors a glimpse of the environment in which Slak created his music. His wife Ivanka and their sons Slavko and Robert were always very closely involved in Lojze's musical life, since as well as a musician he was a husband and a father, a son and a brother, a friend and a colleague, a winegrower, and so on.

Fans of Slak's music will find much to enjoy in Mirna Peč – as will performers. Visitors can choose their favourite Slak hits to listen to or watch performances by the ensemble at audio/video points. A wide selection of material is available for those interested in researching Slak's legacy, including Slak's songbook, newspaper articles, and so on.

