

Levočské Babie Leto

Indian Summer in Levoca

An innovative music festival in the heart of Europe



The beautiful fairy-tale walled city of Levoča, awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2009 and nestling in beautiful countryside in a historic region below the majestic Tatra mountains, is host each autumn to one of the most remarkable music festivals in Europe.....

In its exquisite theatre (the longest-serving theatre in Slovakia) and its Congress Hall, and in the baroque Dardanelles Summer House of the nearby chateau of Markušovce, appear some of the finest musicians in Europe playing a repertoire of music both familiar and unjustly neglected, making the **India Summer in Levoča Festival** a Mecca for the connoisseur.

Amongst those who have appeared are the Stamic Quartet and the Zemlinsky Quartet from the Czech Republic; the Vienna Piano Trio; the Slovak Sinfonietta; the Holywell Ensemble (UK); the Warchalovci (the chamber orchestra of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra); the pianists Jonathan Powell (UK), Tomasz Kamieniak (Poland) and Petronel Malan (South Africa); the tenor Jose Guerrero (Spain) and the cellist Rohan de Saram (UK). Audiences have heard music, not only of masters such as Haydn, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Schumann, Dvořák, Brahms, and Rachmaninoff, but have also been introduced to works by Rubinstein, Zemlinsky, Bella, Suchoň, Heller and many others.

This unique combination of unforgettable location and imaginative repertoire gives the **Indian Summer in Levoča Festival** its inimitable cachet, and has enabled it already to build up a regular following.

The 2010 Festival, which commenced on 1st October, continued this tradition; featuring, in their bicentenary year, the music of Schumann and Chopin, events including a solo recital by the cellist **Julian Lloyd Webber**, and a concert by the **European Union Baroque Orchestra under Ton Koopman**, as part of their 25th Anniversary European Tour; as well as Levoča 'veterans' such as the

Stamic Quartet and Jonathan Powell. The Festival also introduced to Western Europe the very talented young Ukrainian string quartet, Post Scriptum.

The festival in **2011** will **commence on 30th September** and takes place till **5th October**. We will be honored by the performance of the Vienna Piano Trio, Zemlianski Quartet, the Czech Trio In Modo Camerato, the pianists Jonathan Powell and Tomasz Kamieniak and other musicians. Records of the concerts you will find on www.youtube.com/smerus.

The Festival is run by a local not-for-profit association, o.z. Levočske babie leto, which is chaired by **Nadia Büchlerová Conway MBE**. The Festival Committee will be delighted to cooperate with tour organisers who wish to include the Festival in their itineraries, and will be pleased to discuss any particular arrangements (such as meeting with artists, etc.) which may be of interest.

Getting to Levoča



There are regular flights by the airline **Danubewings** from **Basel, Bologna, Milano-Bergamo, Catania, Split, Zadar**, to **Bratislava** and from **Bratislava** to **Poprad** (20 minutes by road from Levoča) and from most of these destinations, to **Košice** (about 80 minutes by road). **Košice** is also served daily by both **Austrian Airlines** and by **Czech Airlines**. There are good rail connections to and from **Vienna, Bratislava, Prague** and **Budapest**.

The town is also within convenient reach by road from centers such as **Budapest, Krakow** and **Zakopane**. Levoča now has a good range of hotels and accommodation. **DANTOUR-Levoča** travel agency will arrange your programme during the festival and accommodation as well as all other necessary services.