BANDLEADER SLAVKO NINIC IS ON A SPECIAL MISSION AS AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE INTER-CULTURAL DIALOGUE 2008. "PARTICULARLY IN THIS IMPORTANT YEAR WE SHOULD TRY TO TALK AND DANCE WITH EACH OTHER, SO THAT WE AT LAST WILL UNDERSTAND: YOU ARE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM ME (WE ARE ALL THE SAME UNDERNEATH)". HTTP://WWW.BMUKK.GV.AT/EUROPA/EJID/BOTSCHAFTERINNEN.XML

The band: SLAYKO NINIC, comes from Croatia, presentation, guitar, vocals [MITKE SARLANDZIEV, from Macedonia, accordeon HIDAN MAMUDOV, from Macedonia, clarinet, saxophone, vocals | MARIA PETROVA, from Bulgaria, percussion JOVAN TORBICA, from Serbia, double bass

Patrons: Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer, Minister for European and International Affairs Ursula Plassnik, Minister for Education, Arts and Culture Claudia Schmied, Balkan-Coordinator of the EU Erhard Busek

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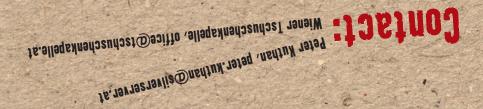
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ON BALKAN TOUR | MUSIC CONNECTING PEOPLE & CULTURES

SEVDAH TRANSVERSALE 2008

he roots of the musicians of **WieNeR Schuschen Kapelle***) are so different as their approach to music. The group, which lives and works in Vienna, has been concentrating on the tremendous variety of Balkan musical traditions for years.

Vienna has always been a melting pot for people from South-East Europe. These people came as 'guest- workers', refugees or migrants making Vienna their second home which consequently has resulted in an enormous economic and cultural enrichment of the city. Part of it is the very creative but also ambivalent inter-relationship between the diaspora in Vienna and the various countries the people are originating from.

The recently launched CD "Bosanske sevdalinke" of the "Wiener Tschuschenkapelle" is an exquisite collection of Sevdah love songs. These songs are on the one hand very popular in Bosnia and Herzegovina but also form a common cultural heritage across the Balkans as a kind of 'Balkan Blues'. The new CD was produced in collaboration with the Sevdah icon Jovica Petković, an accordeon virtuoso, who used to work in Sarajevo for many years and is now living in Vienna.

The Sevdah Transversale tour will focus on the encounter of the various artists and their contemporary interpretations of the Sevdah songs between "Weltschmerz" and desire for love. The tour is – far away from Yugo-nostalgia and Ethno-Kitsch – again highlighting the lively relationships between Austria and the Balkans. The Austrian Development Cooperation is actively supporting the European integration of South-Eastern Europe. The Austrian Regional Office for Co-operation in the field of Science, Education and Culture OEK, which is based in Sarajevo, is supporting and promoting the tour in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania.

*) "The word 'tschusch' is a kind of derogatory term coined by Austrian puritans to label ethnic minority immigrants. The name Wiener Tschuschenkapelle, ie. 'tschusch's singing in Yienna, is a politically charged irony. The music itself is a celebration of borderlessness and cultural integration." (Guy Dowsett © 2004 The Provokator Magazine)



at the website / travelogue: www.tschuschenkapell

TOUR PROGRAMME

(more details on the website and local adverts)

25th June, Vienna

Kick-off @ Restaurant "Sarajevo", Wiedner Gürtel 54

26th June, Belgrade

Visit Roma quarter Mladenovac / Club Black Panter

27th June, Belgrade

Ethno Fusion Fest @ "Leonardo" with Shira u'tfila

29th June, Skopie

OpenAir concert at the closing of EURO 08

3rd July, Sarajevo

Concert @ "Bascarsijske noci 2008" Festival

4th July, Mostar

Visit OKC Abrašević : Intercultural Festival

6th July, Petrovac

Concert (venue to be announced)

8th July, Bijelo Polje

Concert @ the City Culture Centre

10th July, Tirana

Concert @ Tirana Jazz Festival

14th July, Zagreb

OpenAir concert @ Summerstage City Centre