

“Hommage à Jan Buck” – MAMADA – Lower and Upper Sorbian songs

On Women's Day, we are pleased to present the 11-member female ensemble MAMADA under the direction of Viktoria Korol, whose recital honoured the double opening of the exhibitions “Everything is a landscape. The Sorbian painter Jan Buck” and “Hommage à Jan Buck (IV): EVERYWHERE – NOWHERE – AT HOME”, as well as the “International research symposium Hommage à Jan Buck - Lubuskie and Lower Silesian contexts: geography, history and art” at the Museum of Lubuskie Land in Zielona Góra (Febr 2nd, 2024) as an introduction to them. Exhibitions in honour of the most famous Sorbian artist Jan Buck/Buck can be seen until May 5th, 2024.

PhD Lidia Głuchowska of the Institute of Visual Arts at the University of Zielona Góra is the initiator and scientific director of the monumental project “Hommage à Jan Buck” (2022–2025), which we have already written about and which will end in January 2025 in Żły Komorow/Senftenberg in Lusatia. She has made every effort to ensure that, as an expression of Sorbian identity, the Lower and Upper Sorbian languages are visible and audible at all stations of the project to date – in publications and films, as well as on display boards from symposia and exhibitions. In Zielona Góra, she additionally supported the vocal ensemble MAMADA with Christina Boguszowa/Bogusz, Anna Kosacojc-Koselowa/Kossatz-Kosel, Christina Kliemowa/Kliem and Gregor Kliem in establishing the provenance and obtaining the lyrics of the songs they were to perform.

The selection of the repertoire for the concert as part of the “Hommage à Jan Buck” project – seven songs, including three Lower Sorbian (“Schylila jo se jarobinka”, “Stoji ta Lipa”, “Ty sy tajka wikotata”) and four Upper Sorbian (“Kermuša”, “Hdžež so módrja, zelenja”, “Hanka, ty brune wóčko”, “W jednej ruce Hanku”) were the responsibility of Justyna Lubas-Wałęcka – a member of the MAMADA ensemble and at the same time an employee of the Museum of Lubuskie Land. Thanks to this, both familiar-sounding for Poles Sorbian languages also resounded in the vocal version.

Today we present 3 songs performed by MAMADA, 2 of them as original soundtracks from the double exhibition opening and one studio song, but with photos from the ceremony



1/ “Schylila jo se Jarobinka” (“Jarobinka”/“Njedušny”) is a dramatic folk song from Lower Lusatia/Dolna Łužyca, the eastern part of which since 1945 has been located in the southern part of the Lubuskie Voivodeship (with its capital in Żary/Žarow, including the area around Lubsko/Žemr, Jasień/Gašyn, Gubin/Gubin and Nowogród Bobrzański).

The song tells the story of how, as a result of the ‘perfect crime’, a woman has lost her lover. However, she hopes to find solace in the arms of another. Out of her dilemma, she spends time in an inn and searches for a new partner....

Songs “from the people” are an important component of Sorbian culture. They are known from songbooks still preserved from the 19th century. They are performed at festive gatherings and, in the past, at farm activities such as flax spinning, carnivals, the Easter season and autumn fairs where the community enjoys local baked goods. Songs evoke the beauty of the native landscape and sentimental memories (e.g. in the song “Hdžež so módrja, zelenja”).

Recording (original soundtrack/excerpt): Mariola Nehrebecka

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmfAp2tqtBI>

Jarobinka (Njedušny) – „Časopis Maćicy Serbskeje”, 1883

Schylila jo se jarobinka,
zabila mi l'ubego, judahej,
zabila mi l'ubego.

Zbóžko aby njezbóžko,
džo ja skrydnu drugego?

Dругого ja dawno mam,
ale wón mi zwěrnny njej.

Do korčmy mej ćindžomej,
z drugimi wón rejujo
a se z nimi šenkujo.

Ja pak dyrbyu ćiglědować,
jare ćěžko zdychować.

Zdychuj aby njezdychuj,
toŕa swójej njeb'džomej.

Todŕa som ja lětko prjedy wědzela,
žo mej swójej njeb'džomej.

Dyž ty sy to lětko prjedy wědzela,
cogdŕa sy mi wěřila?

Wěřila som ći ja, wěřila,
šycko z falšom měnila.

The entire studio recording can be found here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4S8sRdEfKE>

2/ “W jednej ruce Hanku” is an amusing folk song from Upper Lusatia/Hornja Łužica, the eastern part of which has been part of the Lower Silesian (including Zgorzelec/Zhorjelc, Lubań/Luban and Bogatynia/Rychnow) and Lubuskie Voivodships (Iłowa/Iłwa and Łęknica/Wjeska/Mużaków) circles since 1945.

In the song, the man talks about how he is having a great time with a wonderful company “with a Hanka in one hand and a glass in the other”, according to the famous formula: “Wine, women and singing”.

Recording (original soundtrack) – Mariola Nehrebecka



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7a05zD6tRE>

W jednej ruce Hanku

W jednej ruce Hanku,
w druhej ruce kanku
a ci hercy pódla:
to je žiwjenje!

Hančička zejhrawa,
kaž ta rjana róžička;
pórčate, židžane
banty zlětuja.

Piwko, winko, poľna kanka
a ta reja wjesoła,
trubka, lubka, rjana Hanka: to je radość hólčika!

Z trubčičku, z lubčičku
hólčik rady rejku ma,
luboznej, najrjeńšej
swojej připiwa.

3/ And here is another beautiful Upper Sorbian song

Studio recording with photos from the concert – MAMADA band/Justyna Lubas-Wałęcka

This time we provide both the original Upper Sorbian text, and the Polish + English translation

Hanka, ty brune woczko

Hanka, ty brune, brune wóčko, ja će derje widžu
we tej hustej šmrjokowince, na tym zelenym kopičku!
Hahej!

Hanka, ty módra, módra hubka, ja će derje widžu
Wosrjedź hubki běle zubki, lubje na mnje so posměwas!
Hahej!

Hanka, ty běła, běła nóżka, ja će derje widžu.
Pohoń łóżku bělu nóżku, pomhaj mi ćežki karan njesé!
Hahej!

Hanko, ty brązowe oczko

Hanko, ty brązowe, brązowe oczko, spójrz, widzę cię!
w gęstych zroszonych jagodzinach, na zielonym wzgórzu,
Hej!

Hanko, ty niebieski, niebieski pocałunku, spójrz, widzę cię!
W pocałunku błyskają Twoje białe zęby, posyłasz mi zalotne uśmiechy
Hej!

Hanka, ty biała, biała stopo, spójrz, widzę cię!
Stań na swoje białe nóżki, pomóż mi nieść ciężki dzban z jagodami!
Hej!

Hanka, you, the brown eye

Hanka, you, the brown, brown eye, look, I see you!
In the thick dewy berries, on the green hill,
Hey!

Hanka, you, the blue, blue kiss, look, I see you!
In a kiss your white teeth flash, you send me a flirtatious smile
Hey!

Hanka, you white, white foot, look, I see you!
Stand on your white feet, help me carry the heavy jug of berries!
Hey!

Reports on the symposium and the double exhibition from the series “Hommage à Jan Buck”:–
<https://uz.zgora.pl/aktualnosci/miedzynarodowe-symposium-hommage-a-jan-buck-wielojezyczne-echo-zielonogorskiej-awangardy-na-dzikim-zachodzie-3953.html>
– <https://mzl.zgora.pl/aktualnosci/relacja-z-miedzynarodowego-symposium-badawczego/>
– <https://isw.uz.zgora.pl/aktualnosci/ostatnia-szansa--by-w-calosci-zobaczyc-wszystko-jest-pejzazem-serboluzycki-malarz-jan-buck-hommage-a-jan-buck-iv--wszedzie-nigdzie-dom-198.html>

LCI/UMWL film report:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErgVx2iVHcU>