



LADO, NATIONAL FOLKDANCE ENSEMBLE OF CROATIA performed to thunderous applause when they visited the Sixth World Symposium on Choral Music, featured in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota in August.

Lado Show 'Greatest Cultural Event' To Come To Minnesota In A Decade, Listeners Avow

S. ST. PAUL, MN - Lado, a treasure of Croatia came to the Twin Cities in August. Lado's presence was the greatest Croatian cultural event in a decade in Minnesota.

Founded in 1949, National Folkdance ensemble of Croatia, "Lado" is a professional ensemble performing Croatian folk song and dance and has delighted audiences and critics throughout the world.

The name Lado is an archaic Slavic word, frequently used as a refrain in old ritual-songs of Northwest Croatia and a synonym for the expressions, good, lovable and dear. The choice of this name indicates the vast attention Lado pays to its vocal expression and symbolizes the ensemble's dedication to the authenticity of the folk art through song, dance and native costume.

The recipient of numerous domestic and international awards, Lado combines the creative forces of Croatia's most prominent choreographers, ethnomusicologists and composers to reflect a clear and refreshing picture of the nation and its culture.

Lado's appearance was the result of the Sixth World Symposium on Choral Music. A highlight of the Symposium on Choral Music were the daily choral concerts featuring

22 of the world's finest choirs, performing music indigenous to their regions of the world. Choirs performed in over 60 public performances as part of the International Choral Festival. Community concerts held at venues throughout the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul were free.

The choirs were chosen to participate based on the diversity of their talent, sound, repertoire and stylistic performance. Together, the variety of classical, ethnic and folk traditions built a world perspective of the choral experience.

From media publicity, Lado was considered a premier choir. At each of the five Lado presentations, the audiences were enthralled and overwhelmed.

At the Harriet Island Program in St. Paul, an open-aired stage, a person commented that the choir did not need any microphones. Their voices filled the entire park. At the South St. Paul High School, Lado presented a special program for the Croatian community. Instead of the choral program, Lado gave a folk dance performance. The audience was in awe again and gave the group many standing ovations. During the encores, Lado performers filled the whole width of the stage. It was a spectacular panorama of red and white colored cos-

tumes. We all had an experience of a lifetime. There were many accolades.

During an interlude, Consulate General Boris Miksic said that "Lado is a pure example of Croatian culture" and proclaimed the audience "Croatsians for a day." It was truly a day that Croatsians were proud to be Croatian.

Comments made by various people called the performance unbelievable. Comments such as "fantastic," "magical evening" and "I would go 500 miles to see Lado again." The Croatsians' applause was deafening and a tribute to the Lado dancers.

At the second evening's performance by the Lado choir at the Woodbury Lutheran Church, the audience response was fantastic. Once again, an audience of over 1,000 people gave the performers standing ovations.

The Croatian community made sure that the Lado group not only performed but also had the opportunity to do some sightseeing, cruise on the St. Croix and shop at the Mall of America. It was a wonderful exchange of culture.

For additional information on Lado, contact Ivana Lusic, General Manager at Lado.jusic@zg.hinet.hr or visit the website: www.lado.hr.

•Lou Novak/Lodge 316