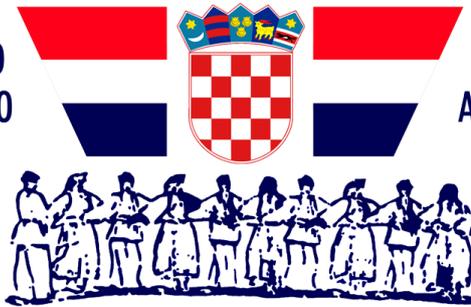


HRVATSKO KULTURNO
UMJETNIČKO DRUŠTVO



CROATIAN CULTURAL
ARTISTIC ASSOCIATION

"LADO"

GEELONG

ESTABLISHED 1972

23.6.2015

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENOWNED LOCAL CROATIAN PERFORMING GROUP LAUNCH 2015 TOUR OF CROATIA, AUSTRIA & MONTENEGRO

THIS SATURDAY 27th June, over 40 people led by the senior ensemble of amateur dancers, vocal choir and *tamburica* orchestra musicians from the popular Croatian Cultural Artistic Association – HKUD 'Lado' Geelong will gather in Croatia's capital, Zagreb, to commence a 20-day tour across Croatia, Austria and Montenegro. The 2015 tour will be *Lado's* fourth major international project of its kind, following previous successful tours in 1998, 2007 and 2011. This tour will enable a group of young Australian Croatians to experience the beauty of their ancestral homeland Croatia first-hand and be immersed in the rich culture & traditions of Croatians living in Croatia - in addition to gaining invaluable perspective from meeting and delivering inspired performances to their fellow migrant Croats living abroad in Austria's Burgenland and beautiful Montenegro. The 43-year old association is renowned for its unique ability to captivate and inspire audiences and groups of all backgrounds to celebrate their own cultural heritage – exemplified by the strong bonds they have created with all the communities they have visited throughout Croatia, Bosna-Hercegovina and Subotica (Vojvodina) on previous tours.

This vibrant group will again be hitting the recording studio during the tour to record their second album - planned to be an eclectic mix of Croatian and international Christmas songs and carols - a fitting tribute to the group's popular annual Christmas Concerts which have become a favourite yuletide fixture for thousands of patrons across Melbourne, Geelong and Canberra since 2008. The tour will also see the group visit and perform for Croatian immigrants whom have for centuries been living and keeping their cultural heritage, religion and traditions alive in the Austrian province of Burgenland as well as the breathtaking surroundings of Kotor, Tivat and Donja Lastva in Montenegro. Following an informal launch event at the Zagreb Eye observation deck in the nation's capital in Croatia this Sunday night 28th June, the group will perform in Poreč on the Istrian coast; hold a concert alongside well known Croatian entertainer Đani Stipaničev in his hometown of Tribunj on the central Dalmatian coast; perform in Bol on the island of Brač – home of the *Zlatni Rat* (tr. *Golden Horn*) - arguably the most beautiful attraction of the Adriatic and finally Konavle, the scenic southernmost tip of the Croatian archipelago.

Fuelled by passion and dedication of a small army of volunteers - predominantly residents of Geelong - 'Lado' boasts a proud 43-year history. This was recognised in late 2013, when Victorian Premier Dr. Denis Napthine presented HKUD 'Lado' with an Excellence Award in multicultural performing arts, in recognition of their long-standing commitment and dedication to upholding and celebrating Croatian heritage and tradition in Australia's wider multicultural community. *Lado's* debut CD album *Zvona našeg grada* (tr. *The bells of my town*), was recorded during their 2011 tour and was released during a gala event in 2012 to celebrate the association's 40th anniversary. Other significant achievements include hosting several major performances at GPAC including Costa Hall over the past decade; performing at the 2014 Victorian Premier's Gala dinner at Crown Palladium; performing at the Viva Victoria festival on the Federation Square main stage and the Piers Festival in Port Melbourne; featuring at the Regional Victoria Living Expo at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; conducting a tour of Melbourne, Bateman's Bay and Sydney with leading Croatian entertainer Đani Stipaničev; and headlining the successful 'croACTian' concert event in Llewellyn Hall at the Australian National University in Canberra, a major contribution to the year-long celebration of Canberra's 100 year anniversary in August 2013. During the same visit to Canberra, *Zvona našeg grada* was entered into the Australian ABC network's National Archives.

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Performance at the 'croACTian' concert held in Llewellyn Hall at the Australian National University in Canberra, August 2013 – showcasing a vast array of traditional Croatian costumes and instruments

PO Box 79, North Geelong 3215, VIC, Australia lado@hkudlodgeelong.org.au +61 3 5275 5255 +61 3 5275 6220 www.hkudlodgeelong.org.au
Croatian Community Centre of Geelong Inc., Cnr. Cox & Matthews Roads, Corio 3214 VIC
hkudlodgeelong

ABN: 79 309 683 052 INC. No.: A0058156F

Instilling a love of Croatia's diverse culture and traditions through the conservation, promotion and celebration of Croatia's cultural heritage since 1972



Memories from the 2011 tour (left to right) Performing dances from Posavina at the 45th Đakovački Vezovi festival; adhoc musical collaboration with our hosts at a mountaineer's lodge on a mountaintop in Žepče (Bosna); performing dances from Lika on the town square in Vinkovci; enjoying the gathering with members of the group „Izvor“ from Rakovica (Lika); performing dances from Međimurje in Vinkovci.

Lado's performers range from primary school to over 40 years of age spread across 3 dance ensembles, junior and senior vocal choirs as well as junior and senior *tamburica* orchestras. The group's treasury boasts almost 100 traditional instruments, thousands of pieces of traditional and many original hand made costumes as well as hundreds of musical arrangements spanning Croatian folk, Croatian and international classical, popular and contemporary music including a respectable portfolio of Christmas and spiritual music.

Lado will proudly carry the name of their hometown - Geelong, across the world. They are equally proud of their Australian-Croatian heritage and the wonderful spectrum of cultures that they have the privilege to live and coexist within Australia. Internally, the group have worked hard to review and refine their mission statement, vision, and long term strategic goals. In summary: to develop their knowledge and ability; to improve their image and profile; to grow their membership base and the number of people and communities they reach, and transform the way they educate and entertain into a genuine, desirable experience.

Historical Croatian traditional instruments from the H.K.U.D. "Lado" Geelong instrument treasury



Istrian sopile (or 'rožnice')

Violin, double flute, & 'šargija' (Bosanska Posavina)

'Mih' (Istria, Dalmatia, Hercegovina)

'Gajde' bagpipes (Slavonia, Baranja)

HKUD 'Lado' Geelong are extremely thankful and grateful to have the support of the following sponsor organisations ahead of the 2015 Tour:

- **MAJOR Sponsor:** Croatian Community Centre of Geelong Inc.
- **GOLD Sponsor:** Geelong Amateur Arts Fund
- **SILVER Sponsors:** Australian Croatian Pensioner's Association Geelong, Barwon Foods Pty. Ltd., Croatian Catholic Centre "Holy Spirit" Braeside, Croatian Catholic Centre "St Anthony" Geelong, Diversitat, GEODET Pty. Ltd., Kolstone Pty. Ltd., Maxi Blue Painting & Property Services, Universal Developments, and Volaré Concepts
- **BRONZE Sponsors:** Australian Croatian Community Club - Eugen Kvaternik Mount Gambier Inc, Dreša Refrigeration, Harcourts North Geelong, Ivelja Design, Croatian Democratic Union Geelong, Bishop Audio & Lighting, Western Sheetmetal Insulation & Asbestos Removal, "Croatian Projects", Volaré Concepts Point Cook

MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Florio Skratulja, *President*
 mob. +61 404 138 196 | lado@hkudlodgeelong.org.au

Robert Cox, *2015 Tour Media Liaison/Tour Documenter*
 mob. +61 417 149 596 | robert.p.cox@gmail.com

The Croatian Cultural Artistic Association – H.K.U.D. 'Lado' Geelong are an amateur performing group comprised of senior, intermediate and junior dance ensembles, senior and junior vocal choirs and a talented 12-piece *tamburica* orchestra. The entirely volunteer-based group are renowned for their visually stimulating and musically entertaining performances incorporating a plethora of traditional instruments, vibrant costumes, and diverse repertoire ranging from traditional Croatian folk, sacred, contemporary and pop music, to a growing body of international pieces, giving the group a distinct multicultural 'melos'.

Photos can be downloaded from this dropbox location: <https://goo.gl/Q0m6Os> or via the following QR code:



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