

# RECORDINGS IN NATURAL CAVES

## SLOVENIA

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### Postojnska Jama

Postojna

RIC33 Slovenia 1987

#### THE SLOVENIAN MASTERSINGERS OF YUGOSLAVIA \*

RIC – Classical – Popular – Choral – Cave Pic Cover

##### Selections:

*Side One* – 1. Bon jour mon coer (sic) (O. di Lasso) – 1:30/ 2. Ecce quomodo moritur iustus (J. Gallus) – 3:27/ 3. Ave verum corpus (W.A. Mozart) – 1:56/ 4. Die Lotosblume (R. Schumann) – 2:43/ 5. Solveigsang (E. Grieg) – 3:03/ 6. Otče naš (P. Tchaikovsky) – 2:20/ 7. Njest svjat (S. Mokranjac) – 2:47

*Side Two* – 1. Rezijanska (A. Srebotnjak) – 1:17/ 2. Zagorski Zvonovi (M. Tomc & V. Vodušek) – 2:38/ 3. Svi su venci veli (P. Mihelčič) – 2:28/ 4. Lindo (V. Berdović) – 1:30/ 5. Ej Hora, Hora (O. Halma) – 2:17/ 6. La Montanara (Ortelli-Galli) – 3:07/ 7. Večerni Zvon (S. Žarov) – 2:22/ 8. Go Down Moses (Negro Spiritual – V. Vodušek) – 2:43

**Comp:** (See above)

##### Perf: SLOVENSKI OKTET

Danilo Čadež (first tenor)  
Igor Ziernfeld (first tenor)  
Jože Banič (second tenor)  
Peter Ambrož (second tenor)  
Tomaž Tozon (baritone)  
Peter Bedjanič (baritone)  
Marjan Štefančič (bass)  
Peter Čare (bass)

**Dir:** Anton Nanut

**Prod:** A. Dežman

**Prod. Co:** RTV; Ljubljana & Postojna Jama  
Tourist & Hotel Organization; Postojna

**Rec. Eng:** Rado Cedilnik

**Time:** (See above)

**LP:** THE SLOVENIAN MASTERSINGERS OF YUGOSLAVIA

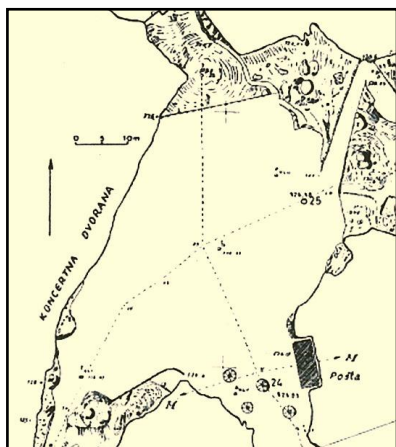
RTVL LD 1470 (Gatefold cover)  
12" 33rpm (stereo) (Sides 1 & 2)

**Notes:** Fifteen selections presumably performed a capella in the Koncertna Dvorana (Concert Hall) of the Postojna Cave by this male choral group, which consists of four tenors, two baritones, and two bass singers. The repertoire here includes mostly Slovene folk songs but also Yugoslav, Russian, Italian, Czech, and an American spiritual.

There is no solid evidence that these recordings were made in the cave. No specific mention is made in the liner notes and no applause is heard after each track. So it may be that everything was recorded in a studio. However, this album is on the RTV label and the RTV (Slovene Radio & Television) filmed concerts



in the Koncertna Dvorana of the Symphony Orchestra of Ljubljana on April 22, 1985 (Shaw 2007) and again on April 25, 1986, so it is also quite possible that all this was recorded in the cave. This LP was re-released in 1999. The names of the artists were not given on the LP. These were only provided on the later issued CD.



The Concert Hall chamber is 65m long, 40m wide, and up to 40m high and can accommodate an audience of up to 10,000 people. (Kranjc et al. 2007) At least two sources report that on heavy rainy days water will drip very strongly on the audience. (Habe, 1979 & Kmecl, 2006) Up until 1963 the audience would take the train to the Crossroads and from there go on foot through the Small Caves passage to the Concert Hall. (Kranjc et al. 2007) Today a 60m-long train carrying 120 passengers takes people to and from the Concert Hall. The map of the hall, from a survey dating to ca.1927-34, shows the old post office building in the lower right.

**Ref:** Craven, Steven, Sept. 1997, Donation of this LP  
 Habe, Francè 1979, *The Postojna Caves and Other Tourist Caves in Slovenia*, Postojnska Jama, Postojna, p. 48  
 Kmecl, Matjaž 2006, *La Grotte de Postojna*, Postojnska jama, Tourisme, Postojna, p. 17, 50, 120  
 Kranjc, Andrej; Kariž, Sergeja; Paternost, Sabina et al. 2007, *Postojna Cave:*

*Tourist Guidebook*, Postojnska jama, turizem d.d.; Postojna, p. 38, 61  
 Postojnska jama, Website, (in Slovene) [postojnska-jama](http://postojnska-jama.si) & (in English), [postojnska-jama](http://postojnska-jama.si)  
 Shaw, Trevor 2007, Letter dated 15 June 2007, Postojna, Slovenia  
 Shaw, Trevor 2010, Music in Postojnska jama from 1819, *Aspects of the History of Slovene Karst*, Saložba ZRC Publishing, Ljubljana, p. 57-80  
 The Slovenian Mastersingers of Yugoslavia LP, [scribd](http://scribd.com)  
 Slovenski Oktet, Personnel & Discography (in Slovene), [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia.org)  
 Slovenski Oktet, Website, [slovenski-oktet](http://slovenski-oktet.si)

**RIC34** Slovenia 1995

## THE MASTERSINGERS OF SLOVENIA \*

RIC – Classical – Popular – Choral – Cave Pic Cover

### Selections:

1. Rezijanska (A. Srebotnjak) – 1:17/ 2. Pojdam u rute (Z. Švikaršič) – 3:00/ 3. Zagorski Zvonovi (M. Tomc & V. Vodušek) – 2:38/ 4. Pastirček (F. Gerbič) – 2:10/ 5. Svi su venci veli (P. Mihelčič) – 2:28/ 6. Pa se suš' (K. Pahor) – 1:27/ 7. Nocoj, Pa oh Nocoj (F. Venturini) – 2:32/ 8. Rož, Podjuna, Zila (P. Kernjak, J. Močnik, & J. Mikula) – 3:19/ 9. Bon jour mon coeur (O. di Lasso) – 1:30/ 10. Ecce quomodo moritur iustus (J. Gallus) – 3:27/ 11. Ave verum corpus (W.A. Mozart) – 1:56/ 12. Die Lotosblume (R. Schumann) – 2:43/ 13. Solveigsang (E. Grieg) – 3:03/ 14. Otče naš (P. Tchaikovsky) – 2:20/ 15. Ej Hora, Hora (O. Halma) – 2:17/ 16. La Montanara (Ortelli-Galli) – 3:07/ 17. Večerni Zvon (S. Žarov) – 2:22/ 18. Go Down Moses (Negro Spiritual – O. Wilson & V. Vodušek) – 2:43

**Comp:** (See above)

**Perf:** SLOVENSKI OKTET

(for artists' names see preceding entry)

**Dir:** Anton Nanut

**Prod:** Tone Dežman & Marinka Strenar

**Prod. Co:** RTV Slovenija; Postojna Jama & HOT; Postojna

**Rec. Eng:** Rado Cedilnik & Branko Škrajnar

**Liner Notes:** (8-page foldout) Anon.

(English translation – Alan McConnell Duff)

**Time:** (See above)

**CD:** THE MASTERSINGERS OF SLOVENIA

RTVS DD 0247 & ZKP 102479 (Tks 1 to 18)

**Notes:** Partly a reissue of ten selections from the earlier LP included here in a different order, but also six unreleased selections, all presumably performed a capella in the Koncertna Dvorana (Concert Hall) of the Postojna Cave by this male choral group, which consists of four tenors, two baritones, and two bass singers.



All the recordings are from the archives of RTV Slovenija (Slovene Radio & Television). The newly released selections are nos. 2, 4, 6, 7, and 11, all produced by Marinka Strenar and recorded by Branko Škrajnar. Selection 8 is a new release from the archives of RTV Slovenija. Two selections that were on the LP have been omitted here –“Njest svjat” (S. Mokranjac) and “Lindo” (V. Berdovič).

There is no solid evidence that any of these recordings were made in the cave. No specific mention is made in the liner notes and no applause is heard after each track. So it may be that everything was recorded in a studio. However, as was mentioned for the previous entry, all the selections were from RTV archives and thus likely taken from radio broadcasts or televised concerts in the cave.

**Ref:** Slovenski Oktet, The Mastersingers of Slovenia CD, [scribd](#)  
Slovenski Oktet, Personnel & Discography (in Slovene), [Wikipedia](#)  
Slovenski Oktet, Website, [slovenski-oktet](#)

## Škocjanske Jame

Matavun

**RIC35** Yugoslavia ca.1990

**TIHA JAMA** (Silent Cave) \*

**MISTERIJ** (Mystery) \*

**ČUDEŽNO SREČANJE** (Miracle Meetings) \*

**REKA ŽIVLJENJA** (River of Life) \*

RIC – New Age – Synthesizer – Instrumental – Bat Sounds – Nature Sounds –  
Cave Pic Cover

**Perf:** Giancarlo **RAGNI** (synthesizer)

**Prod:** Giancarlo Ragni

**Prod Co:** Radio Koper Capodistria

**Rec. Eng:** (?)

**Time:** 5:20

**CASSETTE:** ŠKOCJANSKE JAME

[Label & Cat. No. Unknown]

(Sd 1 – Tks 1, 2, & 3 and Sd 2 – Tk 1)

**Notes:** This discography does not normally include cassette recordings, but since this is the only known music totally inspired by this world-class show cave in Slovenia (Škocjan Cave) and since it was only released on cassette, an exception has been made to include it here.

The cassette carries the UNESCO logo and the cave became a UNESCO World Heritage site in November 1986. The cassette is also labeled “Made in Yugoslavia” and Slovenia became an independent republic in 1991, so it is assumed that this recording was released around 1990.

These four selections are from the 8-part suite *Škocjanske Jame* composed and performed by Giancarlo Ragni, which was totally inspired by the Škocjan Caves. All four pieces use sounds that were recorded in the cave. (Kranjc 2007)

The first piece “Tiha Jama” (Silent Cave) refers to the well-decorated relict cave passages that one enters at the beginning of a cave tour. In this selection the sounds of water drops are heard scattered throughout.

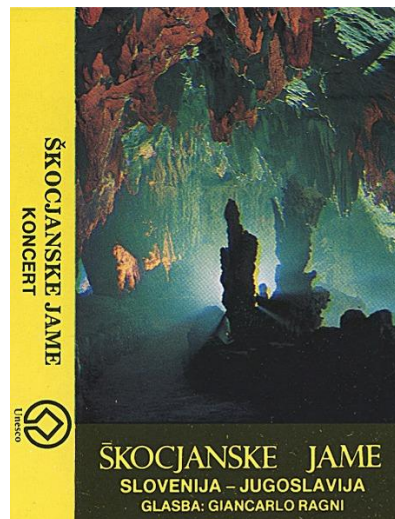
The second piece, “Misterij” (Mystery) – Sound of bats chattering in the cave.

The third piece, “Čudežno Srečanje” (Miracle Meetings), also uses the sound of water drops plus sounds that appear to be the tapping of calcite draperies.

The fourth selection here, “Reka Zivljenja” (River of Life), starts in silence, then there are faint crackling sounds, which could be the progression of someone in the cave. Distant sounds of rushing water are heard and increase in intensity, then a shuffling rhythm mixes with water rapids. The Reka (meaning *river*) runs for 59 km as a superficial stream and disappears underground at Škocjan, reappears at the bottom of two adjacent collapse dolines, then continues in a huge cave canyon passage where it has been explored for over 3.5 km. It emerges at the surface again 34 km away at the Timavo Springs on the Adriatic coast in Italy. (Peric 2004)

**Ref:** Fleck, Nora & Hazslinszky, Tomás, Donation of this cassette, 1996

Kranjc, Darja 2007, Personal communication, Park Škocjanske jame, Sept. 23, 2007



Mljač, Nevja, Translation of titles, Sept. 25, 2007, Lipica, Slovenia

Peric, Borut (Editor) 2004, *The Škocjan Caves: In the Bosom of the Classical Karst*, Škocjan, p. 30-36

Rubbioli, Ezio Luiz 1992, Os bastdores de "temps passado, temps presente," *O Carste*, v. 4, n. 8, Aug. 1992, Brazil, p. 58

[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)