

WORLD MUSIC

SLOVENIA

WD-SI1 Yugoslavia 1979

POSTOJNSKA JAMA *

WD – Folk – Polka – Vocal & Instrumental – Cave Pic Cover

Comp: Lojze SLAK, Ivan SIVEC, & Niko ZLOBKO ([LY-WD31](#))

Perf: **ANSAMBEL LOJZETA SLAKA**

Lojze Slak (harmonika – accordion)
Andrej Bergant (first tenor vocal)
Franci Rebernik (second tenor)
Tone Štritof (baritone vocal)
Janez Dolenc (bass vocal)
Niko Zlobko (guitar)
Franci Sever (euphonium)
Tone Bukovnik (ksilofon – xylophone)
(One unidentified singer)

Prod: Vilko Ovsenik

Prod. Co: Helidon; Maribor, Slovenia

Rec. Co: Studiu Helidon

Rec. Date: 1979

Time: 2:45

1. **LP:** POSTOJNSKA JAMA

Helidon FLP 04-053/1 (Gatefold cover) ([PC-RE-SI2](#))
12" 33rpm (2XLPs) (Sd 1 – Bd 1)

2. Reissue on Anthology **CD:** DIAMANTNIK 30 (1994)

Helidon 6.840706 (2XCDs) (Disc 2 – Tk 5)

Notes: A happy, medium-paced polka song wholly inspired by the world-famous Postojna Cave. It must have been an important number in this group's repertoire because it is the title song of this album, placed as the lead track on the first LP of this double album, and then some 15 years later included on the "Diamond" anthology CD.

Opening with the harmonika (a diatonic accordion), the choral group sings two stanzas backed by the harmonika with the ksilofon (like a xylophone) underscoring the verses with tinkling notes very similar to the sound produced by the striking of stalactite draperies. The ksilofon plays a few bars solo then the group sings the chorus where the words "Postojnska Jama" and "krasa" (karst) can be clearly heard. The harmonika takes the instrumental break backed by the guitar and at one point underscored by the euphorium (a tenor tuba). As best could be made out the group repeats the first two stanzas and then the ksilofon plays a few bars and the group ends with the chorus. It would be nice to have a complete transcription of the Slovene lyrics together with an English translation (hopefully in future see [LY-WD31](#)).

Two different audio-video clips of this song can be viewed and auditioned on two Websites (see below). The YouTube sample show the group singing and performing the song in Postojna Cave. However, the song on this album was recorded in the Helidon studio and not in the cave. This YouTube sample omits the opening bars on accordion and shows the five-man choral standing on flowstone while the other musicians (ksilofon, bass, accordion, & guitar) play nearby on the cave trail. For the short notes on the ksilofon the



video shows the musician tapping out the notes on a calcite drapery, but this was not done for the actual recording.

The Mojvideo sample uses a series of ordinary shots of the cave formations cutting from one to another.

Ref: Ansambel Lojzeta Slaka, Diamantnik 30, [zoso](#)

Ansambel Lojzeta Slaka, The Ensemble (in English), [Lojzeslak.com](#)

Ansambel Lojzeta Slaka, Postojnska Jama (2:39), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO & VIDEO SAMPLE)

Diskografija Ansambel Lojzeta Slaka, [si.wikipedia](#)

Lojze Slak, Postojnska jama (2:56), [Mojvideo](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO & VIDEO SAMPLE)

Marinko, Bojan, Personal communication, Sept. 30, 2007, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Postojna Cave, (with links), [Wikipedia](#)

Postojnska jama, History & Description, [ShowCaves](#)

WD-SI2 Yugoslavia 1976

V POSTOJNSKI JAMI *

WD – Folk – Slow Waltz – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Slavko & Vilko AVSENIK

Perf: **ANSAMBEL BRATOV AVSENIK**

Slavko Avsenik (harmonika – accordion)

Vilko Avsenik (clarinet)

(Six unidentified musicians)

(with trumpet, bass, and four singers)

Prod. Co: Helidon; Ljubljana, Slovenia

Time: 3:02

LP: KJER PESEM IN VESELJE STA DOMA

Helidon FLP 04-061/2 (Gatefold cover)

12" 33rpm (2XLPs) (Disc 2 – Sd 2 – Bd 5)

Notes: A concept album devoted to polka and waltz music inspired by numerous natural sites and tourist sites in Slovenia including Bled Lake, Lipica, the Koroška Valley, and the world class Postojna Cave. The title of this piece means "In Postojna Cave," and the title of the album is "Where Songs and Happiness Dwell." Inside the gatefold jacket are several photos showing the different sites that inspired these pieces including one of the Giant column and the Brilliant stalagmite in Postojna Cave.

This is a slow waltz where the group sings a gentle melody in a cappella harmony with no words. The clarinet and muted trumpet introduce the choral harmony where the women and men alternate –

(Women) Whoooo, oo, oo; whoo, oo, oo; oo, oo

(Men) Ah ha, ah ha, ha; ah ha ha, ah ha, ha

(Women) Whoooo, oo, oo; whoo, oo, oo; oo, oo

(Men) Ah ha, ah ha, ha, ah ha ha, ah, ha, ha

The clarinet, muted trumpet, harmonika, and bass come in between choruses. For the bridge the ensemble hum the theme with clarinet and bass, then the trumpet has a brief solo followed by a return to the a cappella choruses. The overall feeling of the piece is one of haunting awe and wonder.

"The brothers Slavko and Vilko Avsenik were born in Begunje in the Gorenjska Region of Northern Slovenia, where they developed the Alpine folk music and became a trademark of the branch. They solidified the style of the so-called *Oberkrainer* music as early as in the 1950s, but today they are still one of the most influential and popular polka and waltz music groups in the world. The Avsenik brothers have received numerous folk awards in Slovenia and Austria and have been awarded the title of *Polka Kings of the World in the USA.*" (Anon. n.d.;

Ref: Anon. n.d., Slovenia, Avsenik Ensemble, [Cultural Profiles](#)

Avsenik, Official Website, [Avsenik](#) (In Slovene, English, & German)



Photo by Dragiša Modrinjak

WD-SI2 West Germany 1978

IN DER POSTOJNA GROTTE *

WD – Folk – Slow Waltz – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Vilko & Slavko AVSENIK

Rts: GEMA

Perf: **SLAVKO AVSENIK & SEINE ORIGINAL OBERKRÄINER QUINTETT**

Slavko Avsenik (harmonika – accordion)

Vilko Avsenik (clarinet)

(with orchestra & singers)

Prod. Co: Teldec-Telefunken-Decca Schallplatten Hamburg

Rec. Date: 1977

Liner Notes: Vilko & Slavko Avsenik

Time: 3:02

LP: DAS GROSSE JUBILAUMSKONZERT (1978)

Telefunken 2628465DP (Gatefold cover)

12" 33rpm (2XLPs) (Disc 2 – Sd 2 – Bd 1)

Notes: A live concert album that includes a second version of this song, which sounds like a studio recording.

The liner notes give the group's musical chronology and for 1977 it says – "*Der 18. Wettstreitsieg im DLF (Deutschlandfunk). Wiederholungen des Sonntagskonzertes im ZDF (Zeite Deutsche Funk) und ORF (Osterriche Radio Funk), Großsse Show und Tournee-Erfolge.*" [The 18th place contest winner in the DLF (Deutschlandfunk – German Radio). Repetitions of the Sunday concert on the ZDF (Second Channel of German Television) and ORF (Austrian Radio & Television), the large show and tour successes.]

This LP has been seen for sale on GEMM.com but has not been heard.

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