

Celebrations in Sicily (Italy)

We will talk about the most typical celebrations in Sicily.

Carnival : it is celebrated before the beginning of Lent time (February or March). For Carnival people wear strange costumes and masks and walk and dance in the streets till late night.

A week before Carnival, in Racalmuto, we celebrate the “ Giovedì delle Comari”.

According to tradition, once upon a time, women, tired of being left alone at home, while their husbands went to taverns, cooked a big meal for themselves : ‘cavatelli al sugo’ (hand made pasta like gnocchi) and ‘ polpette di creta’ (fried balls made with bread crumbs, cheese and eggs). That’s what we eat on this day. The typical sweets for Carnival are ‘sfingi’.

Easter: it celebrates the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. There are representations of this in every town and many religious services in the churches during the Holy Week.

On Monday after Easter (Lunedì di Pasqua), people go to the countryside and have a big picnic.



April 25th : we celebrate the end of World War II and the Liberation of Italy.

(foto Festa della liberazione)

May 1st is Labour day.

June 2nd; we celebrate the birth of the Italian Republic and the end of the Monarchy.

The second week of July: in Racalmuto we celebrate the feast of our Patron Saint, **la Madonna del Monte**. The Festival reminds the arrival of the statue of the Madonna in 1503. It lasts for about a week, there are processions with the Madonna, parades with horses and ancient costumes, musical bands and wonderful firework displays.

August 15th: it is the top of summer. People spend the night on the beach and have big picnics in the countryside.



(foto Festa del Monte)

November 1st and 2nd: in the night between All Saints' Day (Nov 1st) and The Festival of the Dead (Nov. 2nd) souls of loved dead relatives are supposed to come into the houses and hide gifts and sweets for the children who have been good during the year. Gifts can be toys or clothes and then 'Pupi di Zuccherò' (sugar puppets) 'Frutta Marturana' (fruits made of almond paste) Taralli (traditional biscuits from Racalmuto).

The following morning, children open their presents and then visit the Cemetery to bring flowers to the tombs of grandparents or relatives. It is a way to link young generations and those who are in the world of spirits.



(foto pupi di zucchero e frutta marturana)

Christmas and New Year's are the most important festivals.

People decorate Christmas trees in the houses and prepare the Crib which represents the birth of Jesus with the Holy Family and many shepherds.

There are religious services in the churches.

In Racalmuto we have the 'Novene', children prepare Cribs in the streets and for nine days before Christmas night people visit the Novene playing musical instruments and singing very old Christmas Carols in Sicilian dialect.



Foto Novena

A CALENDAR OF POLISH HOLIDAYS

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				New Year	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	Grandmother's Day 21	Grandfather's Day 22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Grandmother's Day and Grandfather's Day - these holidays are celebrated on **21st and 22nd January**. On this day grandchildren wish their grandmothers and grandfathers all the best and they give them flowers and presents. Students in kindergartens and primary schools prepare special celebrations for their grandparents.

Wieczornica – in January there is a special party in our school called “Wieczornica” (an evening show). Students perform in front of their parents - they prepare funny shows, sing and dance. All performance is connected with one topic, e.g. school, traditions, fairy tales etc.

February

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	St. Valentine's Day 14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

St. Valentine's Day – celebrated on **14th February**. It is lovers' holiday. In Poland this holiday started in 1990s, and it came from English culture. On this day people send love letters or cards to somebody they love.

March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Women's Day 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Women's Day – it is a holiday celebrated on **8th March**. On this day men give women gifts and flowers.

English Song Competition - it is a competition, which is held every year in February or March in our school. Participants from different schools of our town sing two English songs. They compete in several categories: soloist, duet, trio and band. The winners receive special awards.



April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			April Fools Day 1	2	3	Easter 4
Easter Monday 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Prima Aprils (April Fool's Day) - **1st April** - it's a day when people play jokes on one another. On this day everyone makes up jokes for their family and friends. All people have fun.

Easter – it is the oldest and the most important Christian holiday commemorating Jesus Chris’s resurrection. In Poland the celebrating depends on region, but in all regions there is a Holly Week before Easter. Usually on Saturday people go to church to bless Easter dishes (they take baskets of food to church). Next, on Sunday they have special Easter breakfast.

Smigus Dyngus (Easter Monday) - the second day of Easter in Poland is called Smigus Dyngus - more known as Wet Monday. On that day people sprinkle water one each other. Wet Monday lasts the whole day and it doesn't let anyone stay dry. A long time ago boys sprinkled girls with water in buckets and girls, in revenge, hit them with twigs.

May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					Labour Day 1	2
Constitution Day 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	Mother's Day 26	27	28	29	30
31						

Labour Day – **1st May** is the International Day of Solidarity of Working People. In Poland it is a day off.

Constitution Day – **on 3rd May** we celebrate the day when our Constitution was created. This was the first constitution in Europe, and the second in the world. This is also a off.

At that time, Polish people often travel for so-called long weekend. They go to picnics, to the mountains or organize barbecues in their gardens.



Mother's Day - on that day (**26th May**) all the children, both a couple of years old and older, give their mothers flowers and presents. The Mother's Day was celebrated for the first time in Poland in 1923 in Cracow. The Mother's Day was established for the people to understand how important the role of mother in human being's life is.



Me and my mother

June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Children Day 1	2	Corpus Christi 3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	Father's Day 23	24	The end of school year 25	26	27
28	29	30				

Children's Day - **1st June** - On this day all children get different gifts from their parents or grandparents. It is one of children's favorite days. Sometimes teachers of our schools prepare performance for the students☺:



Corpus Christi - it is celebrated on the 60th day after Easter. Its a day when nobody goes to work or school. People who are catholic go to church and take part in processions. On that day some people take home some plants which are sacred because later they protect their homes from disasters.

Father's Day - Father's Day in Poland is celebrated on **23rd June**. It is not as popular as Mother's Day. Children give their fathers some small presents, sometimes they invite fathers to the cinema or restaurant.

August

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	Assumption of Mary 15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Assumption of Mary it is celebrated on 15th August. Its a day off. Catholic people go to church. On that day there is the tradition to bless herbs and flowers. Sometimes on that day processions are organized.

September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		The beginning of school year 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	Boy's Day 30			

Boy's Day! - On **30th September** in Poland we celebrate Boy's Day. It's a male equivalent of the Women's Day, but young men celebrate this day. At that time girls give them some little presents.

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	Teacher's Day 14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Halloween 31

Teacher's Day – the **14th October** is a day off at school. It is the Day of Polish Education. Students perform on stage for their teachers and give them flowers.

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
All Saints Day 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	Independence Day 11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	St. Andrew's Day 30					

Polish Independence Day – it's a Polish national holiday held every year

on **11th November** to commemorate the anniversary of regaining the national independence by Poland in 1918. It's a day off. The main celebrations, with the participation of the highest authorities of the state, are held in Warsaw in Józef Piłsudski square, in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Teddy Bear's Day!- on **25th November** it's Teddy Bear's Day! On this day every teddy bear has got his holiday. In our school if the pupil brings a little bear, he or she doesn't write any tests. The world Teddy Bear's Day is a wonderful idea.

Andrzejki- 30th November is St. Andrew's night. On this day girls try to predict their future. They pour candle wax through a key to a bowl with water. When the wax gets hard, girls take it and look on its shadow. What they see depends on their imagination:)

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	Miner's Day 4	5
Santa Clause 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day 25	Boxing Day 26
27	28	29	30	New Year's Eve 31		

Santa Claus - on **6th December** Santa Claus brings presents to Polish children. They are usually small gifts, sweets or small toys. Adults also sometimes give presents to their family and friends. Santa Claus is a figure of an older man with a beard, dressed in the red dress. He travels by sleigh dragged by a team of reindeer.

Nativity play - is a Christmas performance prepared by children at school just before Christmas. During the concert students show a scene of birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and they sing Christmas carols.



Christmas - for Polish people the most important part of Christmas is the **24 December** - Chrstmas Eve. The whole family sit at the Christmas table.

There are 12 dishes on it – e.g. carp, cabbage with mushrooms ,soup and many others. After the supper it is time for presents. Everybody finds something under the Christmas Tree . Some people go to a midnight mass.

On Christmas Days (**25th and 26th December**) people have a rest or visit their family and friends.



New Year's Eve – on **31st December** people usually meet in big groups to celebrate the beginning of New Year together. They organize parties at home, go away to the mountains or meet in the main squares of the cities where there are interesting concerts.

IMPORTANT CELEBRATIONS IN GERMANY

31st December / 1st January: New Year's Eve – In Germany
rote di San Silvestro / Sylvestre / Noche Vieja / Yilbasi / Silvester

The word Sylvester (Latin: Silva) means man of the forest. The Sylvester celebration has old roots which date back to the Romans. In 153 BC the beginning of the year was changed from 1st March to 1st January. Only nations with Gregorian calendars celebrate the New Year on 1st January. It's very interesting to know that 500 years ago Sylvester used to be the 24th December. In 1582 for the first time the 31st December became the last day of the calendar. It was the anniversary of death of Pope Sylvester I who died in 335.

In Germany Sylvester is celebrated with fireworks or with a service at church.

Other people are rather superstitious. They give away clover, little horseshoes or pigs of almond paste which is supposed to bring luck to the people.

Years ago people also believed, that the fireworks banish bad ghosts of the old year. But today it's also a salutatory firework for the coming year.

At midnight adults often toast the New Year with sparkling wine.

14th February: Valentine's Day

This is the day of lovers. As a symbol for their love men give flowers or confectionery (sweets, chocolate) to their wife or beloved woman. Actually this should also happen on other days, too but never forget to make a gift on Valentine's Day.

Meanwhile Valentine's Day is a big business – this is a pity. People spend much money and buy expensive things – but this is not the real idea behind Valentine's Day. It's more important to express one's love in an honest and not commercial way.

February: Fasching (Carnival)

One of the most funny celebrations of the year is carnival (the Germans call it Fasching). On these days people wear funny clothes, masks of witches or costumes of pirates, frogs, bears, monkeys, cowboys, princesses or ghosts. People meet in special locations where they have parties and forget about "normal" life.

In some cities there are parades with loud music, crazy costumes and huge statues showing politicians and famous people in a funny way. Carnival is widely spread in Germany, but the most important cities for carnival celebrations are probably Cologne, Mainz, Aschaffenburg, Mönchengladbach, Bonn, Aachen, Duisburg, Düsseldorf and Dortmund.

In our region there are also well known parades in Rottweil, Neuhausen, Wernau and Bad Cannstatt,



April: Easter

In Germany people celebrate Easter in a traditional manner.

At Good Friday the Easter time begins, it's the day Jesus was crucified. It's a day of mourning because the son of god, the saviour of the world was killed. On this day people eat no meat, only fish or vegetables and bread. The fish is a symbol of the Christians in Greece they call it "Itchy".

On Easter Sunday - so it's told in the bible - Jesus revived and left his tomb. After his death he was seen by some of his disciples. His resurrection is a symbol for the life after death which is also part of the Christian belief.

In the morning of Easter Sunday everywhere in Germany kids search for eggs and little gifts. The Eggs are painted and parents hide them in the gardens or in the house. Eggs and chicken are symbols of fertility, birth and resurrection. That's the reason why they are given away on Easter. On



Easter Sunday and on Easter Monday there are traditional meals, for example roast hare or lamb. The families come together and they celebrate the resurrection of god's son. This is one of the most important celebrations of the Christians.

Second Sunday in May: Mother's Day

This is a day to honour the mothers. On this day children usually prepare something special for their mothers. They write little poems to express their love or they make paintings, sing songs and give flowers to their mothers. The origin of this celebration dates back to the year 1865 when Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis introduced the Mothers Friendships Day in the USA. People also call it the beginning of the women's movement in the USA. Later on the day was called Mother's Day. The idea behind it was an exchange of ideas and experiences among mothers and a peace movement. Many mothers didn't want to send their sons to war any longer.

Today Mother's Day is a family celebration. Children thank their mothers for their daily work and the love they give.

3rd October: German Unity Day

At the end of the World war two in 1945, Germany was the centre of politics. The country lost World War II and the allied forces, the Soviets, the British and the US Americans took discussions about Germany's and Europe's future on the isle of Yalta. After the heart of Europe had been freed from Hitler's regime, Europe had to be reorganized. In February 1945 there was a meeting of the heads of the governments. Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt were the "Big Three" who decided upon

the future of Europe. One result of this meeting was the division of Germany. Germany was first divided in three parts – later a French sector was added. Berlin, the capital of Germany, was the place of the Allied Control Council. Therefore it was a territory which belonged to all allied forces. The capital itself was divided in four sectors and it was free from military. In 1948, after several political disputes, the Soviet Union stopped Berlin's supply with western goods and electricity. This was the beginning of a long lasting dispute between the western allied forces (USA, Great Britain and France) and the Soviet Union called "cold war".

In order to avoid war or the loss of Western Berlin, US General Clay had the idea of supplying the city by using planes. This idea saved the lives of more than 2 million people and brought many sympathies to the US Americans and the British. .

On 23rd May 1949 the Federal Republic of Germany was founded and only a few months later the German Democratic Republic was founded. The different political systems divided the country. Between 1945 and 1961 more than 3 million people emigrated from the Soviet sector to the west. In 1961

the government of the GDR started building an enormous wall which divided the western part of Germany and the eastern part of Germany. Families were torn apart. People who wanted to escape from the eastern part were shot by eastern police officers who controlled the frontier. Dramatic scenes happened at the Berlin wall. People often risked their

lives to get to the western part of the city. But not only Berlin was divided by a wall. From the early 50s a frontier of walls and barbed wire was built between Eastern and Western Germany by the army and workers of the GDR, including mines and electric fences. Between 1961 and 1989 more than 1000 people were killed while trying to escape from East Germany.

In 1989 many citizens of the GDR tried to leave the country by escaping into Polish, Czech and Hungarian embassies. More and more East Germans demonstrated peacefully for freedom and human rights. Every Monday they met in the streets and churches. First they were attacked by the police and many of them were arrested.

But they were too many and the government had to realize that they could not oppress them anymore. Fortunately the Russian army also did not interfere.

On 3rd October 1989 the wall was torn down and the frontiers were open. Germany became one nation again. The Germans owe the reunification to courageous people in East Germany, the German chancellor Helmut Kohl and the policy of glasnost and perestroika of Michail Gorbatschow.

The unity day is the most important political celebration in Germany as it marked the end of the cold war and it reunited families that were separated for almost 40 years.



24th.-26th. December: Christmas in Germany

Every year Christians in Germany celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was born in a stable. In the night he was born there was a big star shining over the stable. Many people were attracted by the bright star and brought presents for the child. Although he was absolutely poor, Jesus is the son of god. In his life he taught mankind the idea of charity, forgiveness and love and he cared for the poor, disabled and ill people. As Jesus was a gift to mankind, people still celebrate the date of his birth by giving presents to the ones they love. On Christmas evening (24th December) people go to church and sing and praise the son of god. Children perform the Christmas story in church and the vicar reminds us of people who are very poor and need our help. Very often there is a donation to poor people, disabled and ill people or homeless people of the third world.

After church people have dinner at home. Christmas is the time of the year when the whole family comes together. They have a good meal and they are happy to meet. The room is decorated with a colourful Christmas tree. There are candles, stars and little colourful balls fixed at the tree. After the meal people sing Christmas songs together and then they exchange presents. The children's presents are usually put under the Christmas tree. Of course the children are very excited and can't wait for the moment to unwrap their presents. Christmas is a great celebration and adults and children always look forward to it.



Students of Realschule Tamm selling Christmas cards and warm drinks at the Christmas market in Tamm. Most of the income was donated to poor people in Africa. Some money was also kept for special school activities with the students.

SPANISH AND GALICIAN CELEBRATIONS

Carnival “O Entroido”

The Carnival (entroido in Galician language) is a typical celebration in our country. This celebration consists of disguising yourself and going out with your friends.

In our town (A Coruña) we haven't got class three days. We like the carnival because we can go out with my friends. The typical food in this celebration are ears (has this name because the form is similar than the ears) and filloas (are similar than the crepes but the filloas are salty) and a lot of biscuits. The food is the best thing!!



In this photo you can see two fancy dresses in our secondary school party



There are the filloas



There are “ears”

The carnival ends by burning Mr. Carnestoltes and with enterrament de la sardina (sardine's funeral). In Cadiz the most famous groups are the chirigotas, choirs and comparsas.

Saint John's bonfires in Galicia

We celebrate this local event in June, specially in the Galician coasts.

At that magic night, people frighten to the spirits: “En San Xoán meiga e bruxas fuxirán”.

We light the bonfires from 00:00 24th June. People jump seven times the bonfires to be lucky.

The number changes in different towns.

The most famous bonfires are in Arousa Island. A lot of people go to its beaches at that night.

At night, Galician people take flowers and put them in water to wash their face in the morning.

The typical food are the “cachelos” (roasted potatoes without the peel) and roasted sardines.

In general, people celebrate this local event in all the places of Galicia.



Samhain

The ancient Celtic festival of Samhain was described as a communion with the spirits of the dead, especially the dates of October 31 on 1 November, would be allowed to walk among the living. They opened the gates between this world and beyond, giving people the opportunity to meet with their dead ancestors. The festival of Samhain, the most important period pre-Christian, marked for the Celts the beginning of a new year. On that date burnt sacred fires. Fleet branches Sorbus and yew. With this initial bonfire lit the fireplaces in all homes. At Samhain was the custom to empty turnips large-scale, then marrow to put in candles. Several centuries later, that tradition which is still in Portugal, highlighting Cedeira - has continued the festivities of Halloween (Samhain adapted to American culture, more like a carnival), which could have been exported to the United States of America by the Irish in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.



The “magosto”

The magosto is a Galician festival and, more or less similarities, other areas of the north and west of the Iberian Peninsula. It's very popular in Portugal too, where it's called Magusto.

The common elements of this celebration are as main elements chestnut and fire.

With this event the chestnut recovers the importance that corn and potato stole in the last centuries.

Every day between November 1st (All Saints) and November 11th (San Martín) (may be held, also in close dates), this event is usually held where no shortage of hot chestnuts in the fire, new wine and the sausages.



Christmas in Spain

We celebrate Christmas Eve like in other countries of Europe. In Spain, is called “Nochebuena”

December 28th is 'Día de los santos inocentes' or 'Day of the Innocent Saints'. People try to trick each other into believing silly stories and jokes. If you trick someone, you can call them 'Inocente, inocente' which means 'innocent, innocent'.

New Year's Eve is called 'Nochevieja' or 'The Old Night' in Spain and one special tradition is that you eat 12 grapes with the 12 strokes of the clock at Midnight! Each grape represents a month of the coming year, so if you eat the twelve grapes, you are said to be lucky in the New Year.

In Spain, the 6th of January is a very important date. This day is the Epiphany. Families eat together on Christmas eve. Children have some presents on Christmas Day, but most are opened at Epiphany. Some children believe that the Kings bring presents to them at Epiphany. They write letters to the Kings asking for things they want. And on Epiphany Eve (January 5th) they leave shoes on windows or under the Christmas Tree, and the Kings leave some presents for them. If the children have been bad, the Kings leave pieces of coal in the presents! Most families have a "Belén" (nativity scene) on display in their house.

Bulgarian music and dances



Bulgarian folk instruments

Bulgarian music is part of the Balkan tradition.

Bulgarian music uses a wide range of instruments. Some folk instruments are variants of traditional Asian instruments such as the "Saz" (Bulgarian tambura), or the kemençe (Bulgarian gadulka).

The most popular Bulgarian folk instruments include:

The gaida, a traditional goat-skin bagpipe. There are two common types of gaida. The Thracian gaida is tuned either in D or in A. The Rhodopi gaida, called the kaba gaida, is larger, has a much deeper sound and is tuned in F.



The kaval, an end-blown flute that is very close to the Turkish kaval, as well as the Arabic "Ney."

The gadulka, a string instrument perhaps descended from the rebec, held vertically.



The tupan, a large frame drum worn over the shoulder by the player and hit with a beater on one side and a thin stick on the other.

The tambura, a long-necked metal-strung lute used for rhythmic accompaniment as well as melodic solos.



The tarabuka or dumbek, an hourglass-shaped finger-drum. It is very similar to the Turkish and North African "darbooka" and the Greek "dumbeleki"

Bulgarian folk dances

Bulgaria has many folk dances because of the different areas.

Elenino Horo: A Bulgarian folk dance from Severniashko area. The rate of stroke is 12/16.

Danube Bulgarian folk dance: Dance of the average northern Bulgaria. The music is performed by brass instruments. Typical is that movements of the hands are quite fast. The rate of stroke is 2/4. Author of the popular dance is the Danube Diko Iliev.



Potter dance: A kind of Bulgarian folk dances. The rate of stroke is nine eighth, as well as a dajchovo. With legs made of four circles with each leg stroke. And there comes the name-potter.

Dajchovo horo: A kind of Bulgarian folk dance from Severniashko area. Its name comes from Doychin leader. According to legend, the Turks captured it and wanted to hang him his last wish before his hanging was just to dance. He started to dance. When the Aga saw how he dances, he bemused and let him to go.

Rachenitsa: Rachenitsa a dance that is danced in pairs or alone. No grip for the hands, unless the choreography is not required. Dance has spread throughout Bulgaria, but in different ethnographic regions dance with a distinctive style of the area.

Gankino horo: It is a kind of dance from Northern Bulgaria. It is played with a bent elbow, which from time to time let down. The steps are slow, flowing, while the right goes forward, backward right, forward left, back on the left.

Nestinarski dance



Valya Balkanska

Valya Balkanska is a Bulgarian folk music singer from the Rhodopes Mountains known for singing a song part of the Voyager Golden Record selection of music included in the two Voyager spacecraft launched in 1977.

Valya Balkanska is born on 8 January 1942 in a hamlet near the village of Arda, Smolyan Province.

Balkanska has been singing Rhodopean folk songs since her early childhood. She has been performing her repertoire of over 300 songs in Bulgaria and abroad.

Balkanska is most famous for *Izlel je Delyo hajdutin*, which she recorded in 1968 accompanied by the bagpipe (gaida) players Lazar Kanevski and Stephan Zahmanov.

Balkanska has been working with the Rodopa State Ensemble for Folk Songs and Dances in Smolyan - Bulgaria, of which she is a soloist, since 1960. Her album "Voice from the Eternity" was released in 2004.

The Golden Record in Space

This song *Izlel e Delyo Haydutin* was recorded on golden CDs and sent on the spacecrafts Voyager 1 and 2 as a message of the human nation to other civilizations.

The song is from the Rhodope region.



The Voyager Golden Record is a phonograph record included in the two Voyager spacecraft launched in 1977. It contains sounds and images selected to portray the diversity of life and culture on Earth.

The Voyager spacecraft will take about 40,000 years to come near another star, 'near' meaning in this case within around 1.7 light-years' distance; hence, if other beings do not come in the direction of the spacecraft to meet them, it will take at least that long for the Golden Record to be found.

Bulgarian Eurovision Song 2007

On 25 February 2007, Elisa and Stundgy's song 'Water' won the Bulgarian National Television's public contest and was selected to represent Bulgaria in the Eurovision Song Contest 2007. The unique duo presented an amazing percussion show – a fascinating combination of Bulgarian ethnic lyrics, drum and bass rhythm, and powerful stage presence.



Music in Italy

Sanremo Music Festival

Sanremo is a town situated on the western coast of the Liguria Region in north-western Italy. It is a tourist centre, famous for its Casino and for the Music Festival.



Sanremo Music Festival is the most famous musical event in Italy and it is very popular amongst Italians. It is also called the Italian Song Festival. It is held annually usually at the end of February.

The Festival started in 1951 and it was held in the Casino while customers were having dinner. There was an orchestra and three participants. Nilla Pizzi won with her song. “Grazie dei fior” (Thanks for the flowers), which is very popular still today. The event was not considered important at the time.

Only few newspapers wrote a couple of lines about it.

In the following years its importance grew enormously especially at the end of the 1950s when in 1958 Domenico Modugno won with his “ Nel blu dipinto di blu “, otherwise called “Volare” which was translated into different languages . The Casino was too small and the Festival moved to the Ariston theatre.

The Festival is broadcast live on the Italian National TV and it can last up to five days. For many days people speak about it, all radios, televisions, newspapers and Italian blogs talk about it, about lives of singers, gossip and so on.

In the world, the Sanremo Musical Festival is the only song contest where singers must sing new songs. They must be in Italian. During the competition there are two winners.

A winner for the new artist contest, where participants are usually unknown or almost unknown singers ; and a winner for the champions contest, where participants are famous singers .



The Festival has made the history of the Italian pop music. So many Italian singers started their career at the Sanremo Song Festival, amongst the other: Laura Pausini, Eros Ramazzotti, Andrea Bocelli, Giorgia, Vasco Rossi and so on.

Almost all the Italian singers and song authors have been to Sanremo contest (Vasco Rossi, Zucchero, Massimo Ranieri, Lucio Battisti, Claudio Villa and many many others). Moreover some of the most beautiful Italian songs have been performed there for the first time.

AN OVERVIEW OF

Middle Ages

Renaissance (1400 – 1600)

Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)

Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)

Carl Orff (1895 – 1982)



Music has a long tradition in Germany. In the medieval period (middle age) most songs were similar to Gregorian chants. Often the lyrics were more important than the simple melodies. They were either poems or sacred words. Singers accompanied their songs on the lute – an old instrument with strings. They sang on market places or at the courts of noblemen.

Renaissance and Baroque were the periods of sacred music. German music developed very fast from chants for one voice to compositions for instruments and many voices. In these times music was strongly influenced by the church and new instruments were played on. Organ, harpsichord (an early piano), cembalo, bassoon and cello were typical instruments of the baroque period. German composers were strongly influenced by Italian and French church music.



lute – the traditional instrument of the middle ages and renaissance



harpsichord – the “piano” of the baroque epoch

One of the well known composers of the early baroque epoch was **Johann Sebastian Bach**. He was born in 1685 in a small town called Eisenach. He was the son of Johann Ambrosius Bach, the local music director and Maria Elisabeth Lämmerhirt. His father taught him to play the violin and the harpsichord. There were many members of his family who were court chamber musicians, composers or church organists. When his parents died Johann Sebastian Bach was only 10 years old. He was an orphan and therefore his childhood was very difficult. Fortunately he could move in with his older brother Johann Christoph Bach who was a well known organist. There the young Johann Sebastian studied and performed music. He was taught to play the clavichord. At the age of 14 he moved to Lüneburg and studied at St Michael's school. There he sang in the choir and played on the school's three manual organ and harpsichords and invented a new style of music: the contrapuntal music. In 1703 Johann Sebastian Bach became a court musician in the chapel of Duke Johann Ernst in Weimar, a large town in Thuringia. He started composing organ preludes. After some years in Arnstadt and Mühlhausen he returned to Weimar and became the concertmaster at the Duke's court. Composing fugues and preludes he was influenced by the music of Vivaldi, Corelli and Torelli – famous Italian musicians. After 6 years in a town called Köthen where he composed the famous Brandenburg concertos he moved on to Leipzig where he lived until 1750. There he worked at the Thomas school and instructed students in singing. There he composed cantatas (songs for voice) and violin and harpsichord concertos.

He died on 28 July 1750 at the age of 65 in Leipzig. His style of music is still influencing modern pop and rock music.

Johann Sebastian Bach's most famous works were:

- Brandenburg concertos
 - Goldberg Variations
 - Partitas
 - Well-Tempered Clavier
 - Mass in B Minor
 - St Matthew Passion
 - St John Passion
 - the Art of Fugue
 - Toccata and Fugue in D minor
 - Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor
- and many more cantatas and organ works

right: Bach's handwriting – Violin Sonata No 1
G minor



The period from Johann Sebastian Bach to **Ludwig van Beethoven** is called the golden age. Ludwig van Beethoven was a famous German composer and pianist. He was born on 17th December 1770 in Bonn and died on 26th March 1827 in Vienna. His father and grandfather were composers, too. Ludwig was named after his Dutch grandfather Lodewijk van Beethoven. He had 5 younger brothers, but just two of them survived after their birth. The young Beethoven started playing the piano when he was 6 years old. He had his first public performance at the age of 8. His overambitious father often forced him to play the piano until he cried. Sometimes his father even woke him up in the middle of the night to let him play songs for friends of the family.

At the age of 9 Ludwig learned composition and four years later he already published a set of keyboard variations. He also published his first three piano sonatas when he was thirteen years old. Everybody could notice Beethoven's talent very early. In March 1787 Beethoven travelled to Vienna for the first time. He wanted to stay there but his mother died and his father became addicted to alcohol – so he had to



come back to Bonn and care for his two younger brothers. In 1792 Ludwig van Beethoven left Bonn and moved on to Vienna. His father died shortly after Ludwig's departure. In Vienna Ludwig van Beethoven became Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's

successor. He was a piano virtuoso and improviser and he often played works of Mozart and Johann Sebastian Bach. In the following years he was instructed by Joseph Haydn and Antonio Salieri. He also learned to play the violin. In 1796 Ludwig van Beethoven gave concerts in Prague, Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin, Bratislava and Budapest. He composed more and more symphonies and concertos.

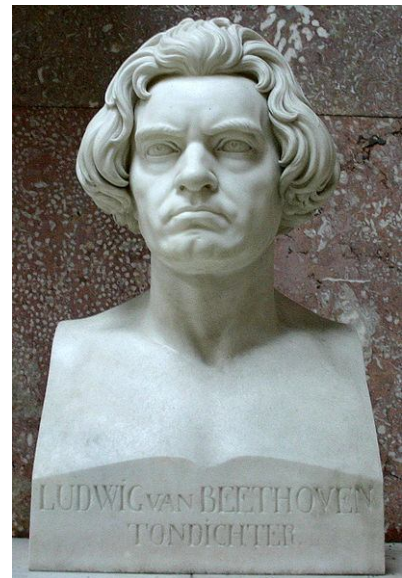
Around the year 1796 he began to lose his hearing and he suffered from a serious tinnitus. But nevertheless he continued his compositions and still performed concerts. By 1814 Beethoven was almost totally deaf. His body was poisoned by lead. He became weaker and often suffered from pain and flu. Nevertheless he continued composing. He finally died in 1827.

His most famous works are:

- Piano sonata No. 14 in C minor, Op. 27 No. 2 "Moonlight"
- Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13 "Pathétique"
- Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67
- Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92
- Bagatelle in A minor "Für Elise"
- Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125



Signature of Ludwig van Beethoven



Richard Wagner is a representative of the romantic epoch. He was born in 1813 in Leipzig. Richard was the 9th child of Carl Friedrich and Johanna Rosine Wagner. Only six months after Richard's birth his father died of typhus. In 1814 his mother got married to the poet Ludwig Geyer. The family moved to Dresden. But soon the new stepfather died, too, and so the young Richard grew up in different families. He also had to change places very often. Richard was an earnest child and he was very interested in dramas of Shakespeare and E.T.A. Hoffmann's lyric works. At the age of 16 he decided to become a musician. He was impressed by Carl Maria Weber's "Freischütz" and Ludwig van Beethoven's opera "Fidelio". From 1831 Richard studied music and composition. Soon his first works were played in international places all over Europe. Richard Wagner became a conductor and the choir master of Würzburg. At the age of 20 he composed his first complete opera. Although Wagner's compositions became more and more popular, he was



always poor. Richard worked as a composer and conductor in Latvia, Russia and France. After his return to Dresden, Richard Wagner joined a left wing political movement. He was enthusiastic about a united Germany and he supported a national movement. The May uprising of 1849 was soon crushed by Saxon and Prussian forces. Wagner had to flee. He first went to Paris and later to Zurich. He spent 12 years in exile. There he finished one of his best known operas called "Lohengrin". His friend Franz Liszt conducted the premiere in Weimar in 1850. His inspiration was mainly based on the ideas of Schopenhauer's philosophy. In 1861 Wagner was allowed to return to Germany again. Three years later Wagner found a new supporter in Ludwig II of Bavaria. After some successful years at the court of Ludwig II he moved to Bayreuth where he built the famous opera "Festspielhaus Bayreuth".

-

The famous works of Richard Wagner are:

- The Wedding
- The Flying Dutchman
- Tannhäuser
- Lohengrin
- The Rhine Gold
- Tristan and Isolde
- Parsifal

Wagners writings on races and his fable for heroic sagas became quite popular in the 1930s in Nazi Germany. Hitler adored Wagner and his operas and used parts of them for Nazi propaganda. This is one reason why many Germans are very critical about his works.

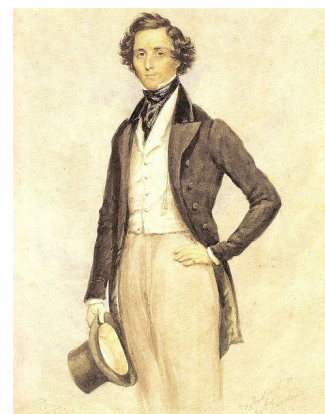
Felix Mendelssohn was a German composer and pianist, He was born on February 3, 1809 in Hamburg as a son of a banker. He loved the music of earlier composers like Bach, Händel and Mozart. When he was 9 years old he had his first public concert. He was already composing great music when he was a teenager. He composed music for orchestra, chamber music and music for the piano and organ as well as vocal music. His violin concert is one of the most popular concerts ever written and is played by the most famous violinists.

In the year 1835 he became director of the famous "Gewandhaus" orchestra in Leipzig.

He died on November 4 in the year 1847 in Leipzig.

His grandfather Moses Mendelssohn was famous in German national literature. His father was a banker and his mother was the daughter of a rich family who owned a lot of factories in Berlin.

Mendelssohn's most famous works are his 5 symphonies (especially the Scottish and Italian symphonies), his concerts (especially his violin concert), his overtures (especially the Hebrides) and his incidental music to a midsummer night's dream which includes the famous wedding march.



MODERN MUSIC

Herbert Arthur Wiglev Clamor **Grönemeyer** is born on April 12, 1956 in Goettingen. He is a German musician, singer, songwriter and actor. Grönemeyer is one of the most popular musicians in Germany. He also sang at the opening ceremony of the football world championship in Germany in 2006. Since 1984 all his studio albums were on top of the German album charts. The lyrics of his songs are about social problems, love, relationship, children,... Although his voice sounds a little “different” his words go straight to the heart and always contain an important message. That’s why many Germans watch his performances and enjoy his music.



Gabriele Susanne Kerner was born in Hagen on March 24 in the year 1960. When she was 3 years old she was in Spain with her parents - there everybody called her “**Nena**” which means “little girl”. Since then everybody called her Nena. She used to be a goldsmith until she started her career as a musician. In November 1977 she met a guitarist, he asked her if she wanted to be a singer in his band “The stripes”. She joined the band and soon several concerts followed. She published her first single in the 70s. Then in 1981 the band “the Stripes” split.



After that she founded a new band with the name “Nena and released a single called “Nur geträumt” (only a dream). The hit single “99 luftballons” (99 red balloons) followed. Everybody in Germany knows this track. She also sang an English version of the song which was number 1 in the charts of many countries. Since then really everybody knew her. Sometimes she performed her songs together with Kim Wilde. Today Nena is 50 years old and she has got 4 children.

MUSIC IN POLAND



Teenagers in Poland listen to a lot of types of music. Everybody has got own favourite band or singer. For young people, who sometimes are exhausted or unhappy, because they have got problems, music is their life. When they listen to music, they feel that everything will be all right.

First, the majority of polish teenagers listen to pop music. For example, they listen songs of Madonna, Britney Spears, Kylie Minogue or Michael Jackson. This is popular music, which is light. The sounds aren't hard and noisy.

Then, also popular is rock music. Rock bands play the electrical guitars and drums. Famous rock bands and singers: The Animals, Ray Wilson, Bonnie Tyler. There are special Rock Festivals in Poland – mostly in Szczecin, in Ustka, in Warszawa.

Heavy metal music- this is music for uncouth people. The sounds are very hard and sharp. Heavy metal was born in 1960 in USA and the United Kingdom. People, who love this music usually wear leather clothes, ride a Harleys etc. The most popular heavy metal bands are: Metallica and System of a Down.

Boys sometimes listen to hip-hop music. Hip-hop was born in USA in New York. This is rhythmical music and lyrics is shouting. People, who like this music, also enjoy spraying graffiti and breakdance.

Folk music – this music is different in each country, region and city. The forerunners of folk music are: Woodie Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Leadbelly, Joe Hill. Folk music is typical for every culture, but the most famous folks are: celtic and polish.

Blues is music, which was born in south USA and the forerunners are black people who lived in America in that time. Topic of blues songs is about love, loneliness, travels, intolerance in the world and freedom. The instruments of blues are: guitar, harmonica, sometimes piano. This is sad music. The most popular are: Chicago blues, Classic blues, country blues, Delta blues, Urban blues and jump blues.

Reggae music was born in Jamayka. Famous reggae singer was Bob Marley. The typical in reggae is one rhythm, which played and sung once again and once again. People, who like reggae often are pacifists and hippies.

Classical music is music without electrical instruments. The composers write this music in scores. Young people often don't understand this music and say, that when they prepare to listening classical music, they sleep. Music forms are: symphony, canon, bourree, scherzo, concert, suite, allegro etc.

Myslovitz



Myslovitz is a Polish rock band which comes from our home town Myslowice. Its music incorporates elements of college rock, shoegazing and Britpop. Since 2003 EMI group has been attempting to establish them internationally, with considerable support from MTV Europe.

The guitarist and vocalist Artur Rojek started the band in 1992 as „The Freshmen”, taking the initial name from the 1990 film „The Freshmen” starring Marlon Brando - it indicates

a fascination with cinema that would become a characteristic feature throughout the band's career. In 1994 they changed their name to Myslovitz after their hometown of Myslowice. The band's early phase was characterized by a somewhat debonair punk attitude.

In 1996, Myslovitz were joined by a third guitarist and keyboarder, Przemek Myszor, and released the second album „Sun Machaine” with Sony Music Polska. The following year, the third album „Z rozmyślań przy śniadaniu ” was released, displaying a tendency towards a more "polished" sound and more introspective lyrics. Also, Myslovitz's now typical fascination with cinema began

to take centre stage with numerous allusions and hints in the lyrics and track titles, and a certain "cinematic" atmosphere in the music itself.

The band's interest in cinema also showed in their contributions to soundtracks. In 1998, they recorded the unconventional track „To nie był film” for the Polish movie „Młode wilki 1/2”. The lyrics referred to a wave of violent crimes committed by juvenile delinquents, which was controversially discussed in Polish mass media in the mid-1990s. Also in 1998, Myslovitz had their first appearances abroad with gigs in Sweden, Germany and the United States. In 2000 Myslovitz again contributed

to soundtracks, writing and recording the song „Polowanie na wielbłąda” for the movie „The Big Animal” by the legendary Polish actor and director Jerzy Stuhr. In 2003 Myslovitz continued their cooperation with Stuhr, creating not only the title song for his movie "Tomorrow's Weather", but also appearing in walk-on roles – as neophyte monks.

The reason for the new material's popularity, as some critics said, was that its atmosphere closely conformed to a presumed resignative-recessive mood within Polish society at large - which guitarist Przemek Myszor seemed to confirm in an interview for the „Montreal Mirror”.

With „Korova Milky Bar” Myslovitz appeared at several festivals throughout Europe, including the big, traditional German festival for Alternative acts and the prestigious „Montreux Jazz Festival”. Also, they supported Iggy Pop and the Simple Minds on their European tours.

In December 2004, EMI released Myslovitz's most recent album entitled „Skalary, mieczyki, neonki”. At the time, the band had finished recording of their new album „Happiness Is Easy”. It was released in May 2006.

Members of the group:

Wojciech (Wojtek) Powaga - guitar

Przemysław (Przemek) Myszor - guitar, keyboards

Jacek Kuderski – bass guitar

Wojciech (Wojtek, "Lala") Kuderski – drums, percussion

Artur Rojek – lead vocalist, guitar

CZESŁAW NIEMEN

THE MOST FAMOUS SINGER OF OUR PARENTS GENERATION



He was born 16 February 1939 and died 17 January 2004 in Warsaw. This Polish singer, composer, songwriter, was one of the best rock singers in Poland. He was writing his own music. This was a man, who played a lot of instruments, for example keyboard or mellotron.

Czesław Niemen started musician school in 1958 in Gdańsk. He was going on the boards in student's club "Żak", where he was singing in Spanish and Polish and playing the guitar. In 1963 he appeared in Opole – in Polish festival, but he didn't win a prize. He was giving concerts in Poland and France.

In those years, he was singing with band "Niebiesko-Czarni". The one of his songs – "Dziwny jest ten świat" (This world is curious) is very popular until this day.

In 1975 he recorded electronical album "Katharsis".

From 1980 to 1990 he was writing film music and theatre music.

FRYDERYK CHOPIN
THE MOST FAMOUS POLISH COMPOSER

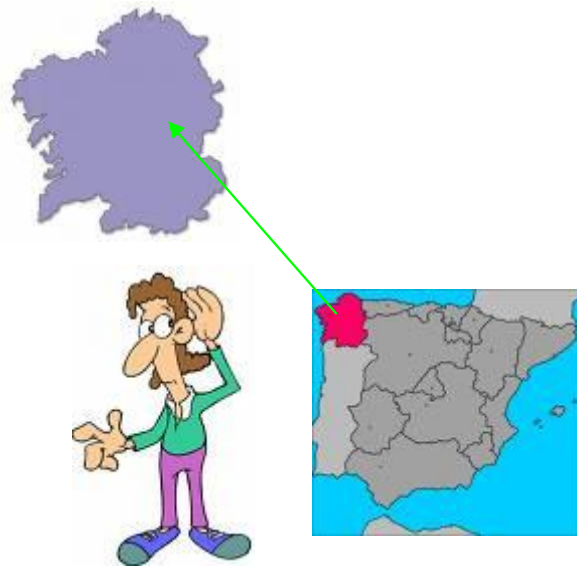


CHOPIN'S MONUMENT IN WARSAW

MAZOWSZE
THE BIGGEST FOLK GROUP IN POLAND



THE MUSIC WE LISTEN TO



Spanish young people listen to a lot of types of music like pop, rock, pop-rock, techno, rap, reggae, hip-hop, grunge and folk.

We are going to talk, above all, about traditional Galician music and its young performers and also about Spanish version of international hits.

TRADITIONAL GALICIAN MUSIC

In the last decades, there has been a revival of this type of music, sometimes combining with other foreign rhythms. A lot of singers of this type of music are successful in Galicia and in Spain. Some singers are also internationally known.

Genres

- ✓ The **Muiñeira** is one of the most known and used rhythms in Galicia. The name's origin comes from the peasants' dances they used to do waiting in the mills (*muiños*). They used to play these dances on the traditional parties. It's written in a binary time, and its rhythm is fast.
- ✓ The **alborada** is an instrumental composition written in 2/4 time and characterised by some descendant sentences. They are used to start the celebrations of a day. These phrases don't have lyrics. The **pasarrúas** and the **pasacorredoiras** are very similar to this kind of composition.
- ✓ The **foliada** is a gay song written in 3/4, and they are often played in the "romerías". This composition is similar to the **jota**, but **foliada** is slower than the **jota**.
- ✓ The Galician **pasodoble** is a variant of the Spanish **pasodoble**, but in this new genre, the bagpipe appears.
- ✓ The **polka** spread around Galicia coming from Europe during 19th century. Their tune is written in 2/4 and they are the most original.
- ✓ The **marchas procesionais** are slow melodies, written in 4/4, 2/4 or 6/8 time made to go with the processions.
- ✓ The **cantos** or **canteiras** are played only singing and they are typical from specific times of the year, like Christmas, or social events.



Great Galician musicians

The group *Luar na Lubre*, the bagpiper Carlos Núñez and *Milladoiro* are the most important Galician musicians, above all internationally.

But they aren't the only important Galician musicians; we can talk about others like Xosé Manuel Budiño, Cristina Pato, Susana Seivane...



GROUPS

But we particularly enjoy listening to another type of music (pop, rock, techno, rap, hip-hop or grung). Here some of them, famous in Galicia:

LOS SUAVES:

It's one of the main Galician rock's bands. In 1981, some friends from Ourense decide to make a rock band who will become soon Los Ramones partners. Their songs talk about daily topics.

They decided to adopt a cat as their pet, because cats are aggressive, independent, nightly and, above all, soft. That's the explanation of the origin of the group's name.



DIPLOMÁTICOS DE MONTE ALTO:

They are a group of “rock bravú” that combines wild rock and traditional Galician music. “Rock bravú” comes from outskirts like a new musical power for this new millennium. Their music expresses all styles which are very popular and moving for Galician teenagers.



DELUXE:



We can define him as a very imaginative musician who writes and plays most of his songs. Deluxe became an icon in Spanish independent music with songs like: "If things were to go wrong" or "Song for Ana".

Here, we have an example of modern Spanish lyrics:

Fito y Fitipaldis: “Antes de que cuente diez” (“Before I count to ten”)



I can write and not avoid
It's the advantage of growing old
I have nothing to impress
inside or out.

Awake at night I cross the sea
For dreams travel in the wind
And in my window blows the glass
Look to see if I'm awake

I got lost in a cross of words
I was written the wrong address
And carved my name in a bullet
And tried the cannon fodder
I have it all under control
And someone said no, no, no, no, no
That wind now comes the other way
Leave me the rudder... and someone said no, no, no.

What will take me to the end
Will be my steps, not the road
Don't you wee you're always behind
when you chase destiny?

It's always the hand and not the dagger
It's never what could have been
It's not because you say the truth
It's because you've never lied.

I won't feel bad
If someone doesn't come out
I've learned to get up
And crash into walls.
That life leaves us
Like the smoke of that rain
Like a kiss at the vestibule
Before I count to ten.

I won't feel strange again
Although I don't know myself
And I won't love you that much
And I won't stop loving you again.

I stopped flying, and sunk in the mud
And between so much mud I found myself
Some heat, without your arms, I now know I'll never return.

Melendi: “Loco” (“Crazy”)



And I'm back crazier than tying drawing hearts
After taking my breath in the Windows of your voice
And breathe again your air and my lungs
Are filled with life that I take away walking, in other directions
Of which I adhere that I soon forgot I don't understand what you
Have seen at that rate cutaway when it is removed if it's principles
Don't walk, don't walk, don't walk and I'm completely crazy, crazy ,drunk
So in love with you vices lying in a ditch at the finish of loneliness
And no longer way to the upside facing the wall my feelings are punished
Without knowing, that by looking back you aren't coming back, and I keep
Torturing my head over your skin if I'm raw, I throw alcohol,
forgot I don't understand what you
Have seen at that rate cutaway when it is removed if it's principles
Don't walk, don't walk, don't walk and I'm completely crazy, crazy ,drunk
So in love with you vices lying in a ditch at the finish of loneliness
So far from the sea, without your love the string is broken you tied
To the reason so far the sun, so far from the child of which only I stay.

MUSIC IN TURKEY

In 1700 BC Turks started to migrate from their homeland, Central Asia, to Asia, North Africa and Eastern Europe. One large tribe arrived in Anatolia in the 11th century AD and their Central Asian culture, blended with that of Anatolia resulted in a new colourful cultural life-style.

There are different styles of music in Turkey:

- a) Turkish Folk Music (popular mostly in rural areas)
- b) Traditional Classical Music usually similar to Folk Music, but also influenced by the music of neighbouring countries.
- c) International Classical Music also known as "Universal", "European" or "Contemporary", "Western" music.
- d) Pop Music influenced by Western traditional and folk music.

Traditional Classical Music

Traditional classical music was developed during the Anatolian Seljuk and Ottoman periods and was performed at court. It was popular amongst people living in cities and is still being performed today. This style developed parallel to the emergence of Ottoman art and "divan" or court literature.

AŞIK VEYSEL



Aşık Veysel (Şatıroğlu) was born in May 1894 in Sivrialan village, in Şarkışla county of Sivas province. Up until the age of seven, Veysel ran, played, laughed... Shortly after that, a smallpox epidemic threw his village into terror, and struck Veysel along with his two brothers. Like many young children of the village, his two brothers succumbed to the merciless disease. Veysel lost his left eye.

When Veysel's father discovered his son's passion for poetry, the sazes, and language, he had a baglama made for him. Veysel took his first sazes lessons from the master sazes players of his village, Molla Hüseyin and Çamşılılı All Ağa. Many years passed and Veysel grew

into a young man, married and had children. After a long life with many struggles, he became ill with cancer and passed on on March 21, 1973.

MANGA

MaNga is a Turkish rap rock band. Their music is mainly a fusion of alternative rock and hip hop music, with a touch of Anatolian melodies; with electronic elements. In 2009 they both won the Best Turkish Act award from MTV Turkey and consequently the Best European Act award from MTV Networks Europe in MTV Europe Music Awards 2009. They will represent Turkey at the Eurovision Song Contest 2010 with the song "



CIHAT ASKIN



Born in Istanbul, CIHAT AŞKIN started his violin lessons at the age of 11 with Prof. Ayhan Turan, at the Turkish Music State Conservatory of Istanbul Technical University, graduating in 1989. He completed his studies in London, studying under Rodney Friend at the Royal College of Music (where he took all the major solo and chamber music awards), and Yfrah Neaman at City University (1992-96, doctorate programme). Upon his arrival in Istanbul he was appointed as a violin professor in 1998 and founded the Advanced Music Research Center (MIAM) and became its first director in 2000 and appointed as an academic Professor in 2006 at ITU.

He gave his first recital at the age of 12 and was able to play all Paganini Caprices before he was 15. After his recital in 1983 he was invited by the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra to play Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Since then Cihat Askin became a prominent figure in the music life and he has been a regular soloist for all the major orchestras of Turkey. He has been invited to give recitals all through Turkey, and made tours as concertist and recitalist to Europe, Asia, Africa and the USA. Askin has appeared with violinist Shlomo Mintz and Ida Haendel, conductors such as J.L. Cobos, Yoel Levi and Alexander Dimitriev and orchestras such as Lausanne Chamber, Hannover NDR Symphony, Dusseldorf Philharmonic, Prag Symphony, Ukraine National Philharmonic and Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also invited to International Festivals in Turkey, Spain, Belgium, UK, Hungary, Bulgaria, Tunisia and Holland.

FAZIL SAY



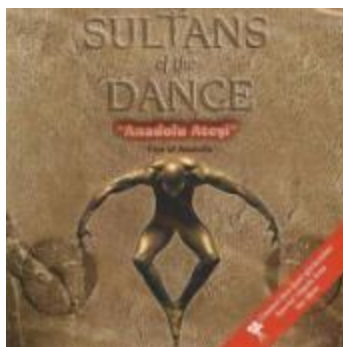
Say, started playing the piano at the age of four, continued his music training in Ankara State Conservatory as a student of Special Status for highly talented kids and graduated from piano and composition in 1987. As he continued his studies in Düsseldorf Music Academy with German scholarship, he earned his diploma in Germany in 1991 as Concerto soloist and became a piano and chamber music teacher in 1992 in Berlin Performing Arts and Music Academy. Say, who won Europe Young Concert Soloists Competition in 1994, won the Young Concert Artists International Auditions held in New York in 1995. Besides playing the piano, he composed many oratorios, piano concertos, pieces of music for chamber, orchestra and piano and many other songs.

Some of his composed pieces include Nazim and Requiem für Metin Altıok, four piano concertos, his orchestra piece Albert Einstein commissioned by Zurich Orchestra and his ballet named Patara which is commissioned by Wien Mozart Committee and was composed for Mozart's 250th birth year celebration.

He has performed with New York Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Berlin Symphony, Czech Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Saint Petersburg Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France and Tokyo Symphony.

SULTANS OF THE DANCE

Sultans of the Dance is a very famous Turkish Dance Group. It reflects the different tribes that had lived in Anatolia and shows their culture and the relationship. With a fabulous mixture of ballet, modern dance and oriental elements, the unique dance theatre Night Of The Sultans



performing Pandora's Legend carries the audience off into the mythology of the shamans of Central Asia - to Mesopotamia, in the realm of the gods. Experience the Magic of 1001 Nights in a breathtaking dance show!

Young dancers, princesses and sultans, almost divine in their beauty, capture the giant stage. With their virtuoso acrobatic blend of magic, they incite the audience to euphoric enthusiasm and standing ovations. Each dance is the unfolding of a legend, and embodies seemingly unlimited passion, the greatest ambition and explosive vitality.

School uniforms from Bulgaria



Spring



WINTER



autumn

