

Grand Opening of the Anniversary 70th Dubrovnik Summer Festival

With the raising of the Libertas flag onto the city's bell tower to the verses of the *Hymn to Liberty*, the **70th Dubrovnik Summer Festival** was opened in a spectacular ceremony **in front of the Saint Blaise's church**. The Festival will be held until 25 August on some thirty site-specific locations around Dubrovnik.

The opening ceremony, under the motto "Dubrovnik sets sail," was written and directed by the Artistic Director of the Festival **Dora Ruždjak Podolski** and Assistant Artistic Director **Saša Božić**. **The Festival Drama Ensemble** included Milka Podrug Kokotović, Doris Šarić Kukuljica, Perica Martinović, Nataša Dangubić, Nina Violić, Izmira Brautović, Mirej Stanić, Srđana Šimunović, Nika Lasić, Glorija Šoletić, Maro Martinović, Ozren Grabarić, Frano Mašković, Branimir Vidić, Nikša Butijer, Milan Pleština, Livio Badurina, Nikola Baće and Hrvoje Sebastijan along with **students from the Zagreb Academy of Dramatic Art, children and people of Dubrovnik** and **Lindo Folklore Ensemble**. The **Lower Saxony State Orchestra** from Hannover, **Ivan Goran Kovačić Academic choir**, **Libertas Mixed Choir**, **Dubrovnik Chamber Choir** accompanied by soloists **Tomislav Mužek** and **Evelin Novak** under the baton of maestro **Ivan Repušić** were also a part of the breath-taking performance at the opening ceremony.

The evening ended with a bang – a majestic fireworks show to celebrate the start of the anniversary festival season which presents its numerous domestic and international audiences with over 80 theatre, music, dance, folklore and other performances over 47 days. The programme gathers top Croatian artists and acclaimed international guest artists in a staple Festival combination which will start off the Festival's music programme this evening, **11 July**, with a gala concert in front of the church of St. Blaise.