

65th Festival closed with Opera Gala program

Dubrovnik, 26th August, 2014 – The 65th Dubrovnik Summer Festival was closed with the Opera Gala concert, performed by the Zagreb Philharmonic, conducted by maestro Ivo Lipanović, and leading world baritone Željko Lučić and soprano Lana Kos, as part of the Vip program and in collaboration with the City of Zagreb, last night, 25th August, in front of St. Blaise's Church.

Before of a large audience in front of St. Blaise's Church, the overture from the opera *The Force of Destiny (La forza del destino)* and ballet music from the opera *Macbeth* were performed, while one of the leading world baritones, perhaps the first Verdian one, Željko Lučić performed the aria *Eri tu* from *The Masked Ball (Un ballo di maschera)*, *O prodi miei* from *Nabucco* and the King's aria from the opera *Macbeth*. Soprano Lana Kos performed Violetta's aria *E strano* from *La Traviata*. The soloists then performed together in the duet *Madamigella Valéry* also from *La Traviata*.

Following the concert, the Orlando Prize awarding ceremony took place. Neva Rošić was awarded the Orlando Prize for the best achievement in drama for this year's Festival, whereas the Croatian Baroque Ensemble was awarded for the best achievement in the music program of the 65th Festival. After that, the 65th Dubrovnik Summer Festival was closed in a ceremony which lacked the traditional lowering of the Festival's flag, the outstretched flag instead carried by the Festival Drama Ensemble in the space in front of St. Blaise's Church to the tunes of the *Hopping Dance* by Đelo Jusić, performed by the Zagreb Philharmonic and the Floklore Ensemble Lindo.

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Dubrovačke ljetne igre, kao središte hrvatskog i svjetskog duha i kulture, kao mjesto stvaranja, a ne gostovanja, mjesto susreta, ideja i novih umjetničkih izričaja, i ove su godine tradicionalno podržali Ministarstvo kulture RH, Grad Dubrovnik, Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija te brojni sponzori, na čelu s generalnim sponzorom Vipnetom, kako bi zajedno ostvarili ovaj najprestižniji kulturni događaj u Hrvatskoj.

Kontakt za medije:

Karla Labaš

Ured za odnose s javnošću i marketing

M. 091 323 42 56

E. karla.labas@dubrovnik-festival.hr

T. 020 326 111

F. 020 326 113

www.dubrovnik-festival.hr