

# AquaPhone

Štúrovo, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (Saturday), 11:00 – 22:00

## Motive

At the beginning of the nineteen fifties, the bridge between Štúrovo (Slovakia) and Esztergom (Hungary) was in ruins. It was almost impossible for relatives and friends on each side of the Danube to get in touch or communicate. People would go down to the river, mostly on windless evenings, to talk to each other. The water carried the sound of short messages, often encoded, to the other bank half a kilometre away.

The AquaPhone performance refers to this phenomenon, honouring all the lives whose secrets had at one time been entrusted to the Danube, recalling this testimony of people's yearning to talk together, and of their inventive genius bridging borders and distances under difficult conditions.

The Swiss musicians Alfred Zimmerlin and Markus Eichenberger took up the idea of Hanneke Frühauf and created this performance, a musical improvisation on a dialogue. Michal Hvorecký's text will cross the Danube in the original Slovak and in Hungarian and German translation. It will be accompanied by improvisations on cello and clarinet by the Swiss musicians.

The performance follows the VIII<sup>th</sup> Bridge Guard Book Festival in Štúrovo with participation of publishers from Slovakia and Hungary. In the afternoon the exhibition of the 29<sup>th</sup> bridge guard opens in the Bridge Guard Residence followed by a discussion with present authors. After the AquaPhone performance local food and drinks will be served in the courtyard of the residence and the international world music group Freedom Café will play.

## Contributors

- Michal Hvorecký** Writer. Born 1976 in Bratislava. Studied esthetic. Writes short stories, novels and blogs. His books have been published in six languages. He translates prose and plays from German. He is married and has a son. They live in Bratislava. His novel 'Danube in America' is related to the river the AquaPhone performance is arching. Recently he published 'By heart', a portrait of the author and the landscape. His website is [www.hvorecky.sk](http://www.hvorecky.sk).
- Renáta Deáková** Translator. She was born in 1968 in Bratislava, she lives currently in Budapest. She studies Slovak and Hungarian languages on the Komenský University in Bratislava. Renáta translates Hungarian literature in Slovak languages and she received a number of awards for her translations. She is the founder of the Mona Sentimental association that supports the propagation of Slovak literature and culture abroad.
- Mirko Kraetsch** Translator, reader, facilitator. Born 1971 in Dresden. Studied Czech language and Culture Sciences at the Humboldt University in Berlin and Charles University in Prague. Translates Czech and Slovak literature into German. Helps with the presentation of Czech and Slovak literature in German speaking countries and supports writers in contacting interested publishers.
- Markus Eichenberger** Musician (clarinet), music teacher, composer. Lives in Zürich and Menzberg (CH). Since 1982 solo projects. Concerts in Europe, radio and television broadcasts.
- Alfred Zimmerlin** Music ethnologist, composer, musician (cello) and music critic. Lives in Uster (CH). Concerts and radio recordings in Europe and USA.
- Tomáš Radil** Works at the Institute for Biology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, is professor for psychology in Prague, author. Born in 1930 in Bratislava. Since 1940 lived in Parkan (today Štúrovo), the birth place of his parents, went to school in Esztergom. 1944 deported with the whole family to Auschwitz, only he and his father returned. Author of two books: 'With fourteen alone in Auschwitz' published in Czech, 'Auschwitz boys' published in Hungarian. Lives in Prague.
- Gyöngyi Écsi** Folk singer, fairy tale teller, puppeteer. Soloist in the folk ensemble 'Young Hearts' from Bratislava, singer in the group 'Vents d'Est'. She was the first recipient of the Anikó Mikola award in year 2007. She lives in Chotín (Slovakia).
- Freedom Café** International world music group lead by Márton Bakai from Esztergom.

Organiser: Cultural association "Štúrovo and Vicinity", Association of the "Slovak-Hungarian Friendship", Štúrovo  
 Event is supported by: "Štefan and Viera Frühauf Fund" of the Corymbo Foundation, Baden, Switzerland



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Štúrovo, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (Saturday)

### Programme

11:00 – 14:00	<b>VIII<sup>th</sup> Bridge Guard Book Festival</b> Presenters are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Albert Marenčin - PT Publishers</b> (Bratislava)</li> <li>o <b>Ráday Könyvesház</b> Bookshop and Publishing House of <b>György Orbán</b> (Budapest)</li> </ul>	Pedestrian zone (in case of bad weather in the Gyula Bartha gallery)
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Angyalbárányok (Angel Sheeps)</b> – interactive puppet theatre with <b>Gyöngyi Écsi</b> (Hungarian)	
14:30 – 15:00	Opening of the exhibition with works of the current bridge guard <b>Janine Geber</b> from Barnitz, Germany.	Bridge Guard residence Pri Colnici 2
15:00 – 17:45	Fresh titbits made by chef <b>László Bencze</b> and drinks will be served.	
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Childhood, Danube, Languages</b> – Discussion about literature and life Participants: <b>Tomáš Radil</b> (Prague), <b>Michal Hvorecký</b> (Bratislava)	
18:00 – 19:00	<b>Dialogue over the Danube between Štúrovo and Esztergom – AquaPhone Performance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Text: <b>Michal Hvorecký</b></li> <li>o Translation: <b>Renáta Deáková</b> (Hungarian), <b>Mirko Kratesch</b> (German)</li> <li>o Music: <b>Markus Eichenberger</b>, Clarinet, <b>Alfred Zimmerlin</b>, Cello</li> <li>o Speaker: <b>Éva Uzsák, Karol Frühauf</b></li> <li>o Sound: <b>Roman Laščiak, Pavol Prockl</b></li> <li>o Production: <b>Juraj Himmler</b></li> </ul>	Near the Maria Valeria Bridge on both banks of the Danube. You can enjoy the performance also on the bridge. The text will be spoken in German, Slovak and Hungarian language. Under all weather conditions.
19:00 – 22:00	Local specialities from the cuisine of the Chef Fresh titbits made by chef <b>László Bencze</b> with drinks from the area will be served.	Bridge Guard residence Pri Colnici 2
20:00 – 21:00	Concert of the world music group <b>Freedom Café</b>	Courtyard of the residence (in case of bad weather in the cinema Danubius)

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