

19th Jász World Days

21-23 June 2013



FESTIVAL OF JÁSZ CULTURE AND GASTRONOMY



**Organizers of Jász World Days are the Self-government of Jászberény and Jász Association
Realized by Jászkerület Nonprofit Ltd.**

About Jász World Days

After nearly twenty years, Jászberény is the host of Jász World Days again. Firstly Jász people met in 1995 in Jászberény to remember their ancestors with decorum on the 250th anniversary of redemption, the self-release of Jász people. Participants remembered for those predecessors who redeemed their liberty in 1745 by purchasing their rights from the authority of the Teutonic Order. Redemptors who founded the Jász Ternary District, which was an independent public administration unit, counted their freedom and autonomy the most important values.

Maintenance of historical traditions, preservation of Jász culture, presentation of Jász settlements, affirmation and presentation of Jász identity to visitors have become the permanent aims of the program. Among realized programs, we regularly find pontifical mass, inauguration of the Jász captain, fancy pageant of the Jász settlements, display of Jász artistic groups and craftsmen, exchange of ideas, organization of concerts and exhibitions. In the last 18 years, all Jász settlements were hosts of moved Jász people and people who still live in Jászság.

The greatest part of participants of the more and more popular Jász World Days programs are people who identify themselves as Jász people but there are more interested persons from the outside world as well. So much so that the number of guests reached several thousand in the past twenty years. As the interest intensified about the World Days, the range of programs broadened. Organizers have always tried to address all generations and offered popular events to visitors.

In 2012, the circle of World Days ended. During this period, 18 Jász settlements have successfully organized this most important celebration of Jász unity and perpetuation, the Jász World Days. In 2013, the Jász capital Jászberény restarts the circle. Our town devotes a great importance to keep the traditions but we would like to introduce new elements too. Organizers set store by presenting Jász values, and at the same time, let participants enjoy the programs and propagate our town's attractive image in the country.

World Days in the capital of Jászság

After a 18-year old period, when all of Jász settlements were organizers of the World Days, Jászberény's turn to continue the tradition. The organizer of the event is a steering committee whose main goal is that the world would be a bit Jász during these three days.

Composition of programs costs much time, a lot of energy and an important financial background that let the town be a worthy venue of the World Days between 21-23 June. Leadership of the town and the organizers take the responsibility to restart the series of World Days. They would like to host Jász people at a worthy event and introduce new principles and findings.

World Days, which is organized in Jászberény again after 1995, isn't one of summer festivals but it would like to strengthen the Jász identity. This particular program keeps traditions of previous meetings and at the same time organizers try to not make mistakes.

The main venue of the program is the main square and side streets of it. From performances, we can underline Carmina Burana performed by choirs from Jászberény and Szolnok Symphonic Orchestra, the concert of Rózsa Magdi, performance of Ghymes Orchestra, probably together with Jászság Folk Ensemble, 'Kowalsky and the Vega'. Other programs are the following: street party, street market, artistic exhibitions. A 'Jász Ambassador' will be elected and a special 'Jász Day' will be organized at the end of the program.

MAIN PROGRAMS

Friday, 21st June

After the official opening of World Days, which is Carl Orff's Carmina Burana, the well-known chorus is performed by choirs of Jászberény and Szolnok Symphonic Orchestra. Conductor is Tamás Gál, born also in Jászberény.

The importance of Jászberény's cultural life is verified by the opening of exhibition of György Máté, sculptor. The artist finished his studies as sculptor at Hungarian Art College, his masters were Iván Szabó and Jenő Barcsay. Since then, he has been a professor at the almost 100-year Jászberény Educational College, from 1982 he worked as senior lecturer of the Art Faculty. Above his exhibitions in Hungary, the artist has exhibited his works abroad too. Mr Máté lives and works in Jászberény, his statues can be found in the region.

His sculptures are results of a unique work which base on intensive experimentation with forms and qualities. His exhibited wood and bronze sculptures present his classical European idiom as well as his natural talent and his unique style.

This high-toned exhibition will be opened by János Sturcz, Art historian, Head of Art History Faculty of Hungarian Fine Arts University. A catalog was made on the occasion of the opening.

One of the main aims of the World Days is to address all generations and all people with different interests. Experiences of the previous meetings confirmed that the most popular evening programs were the high-quality and popular pop music concerts. Jászberény chose Ghymes Orchestra to end the first day program. Title of the newest album of the 30 year old and Kossuth Prize awarded Ghymes is '30 light year'. Particular carrier of Ghymes connects to the International Music Camp of Jászberény where musicians could get to know more on authentic folk music. They recorded 18 albums, from which 10 platinum and 4 gold records.

This success points to the fact that the public is open to the quality, emotional and considerable music. Ghymes is an unquestionable integrated part of the universal culture, the orchestra created, carried and preserved important values.

Their attractive performance in Jászberény let visitors participate in a concert that respect traditions of the town but also connects to its modern image.

Pageant, cavalrymen, costume, gala

Traditionally, main events of the World Days happen on Saturday which is the second day. Based on the twenty year old tradition, the day of 22nd June starts with a pontifical mass, then the cited pageant follows. Previous Jász and Kun captains and prominent guests seat in carriages.

The pageant will be lead by cavalrymen of Jász Equestrian Bandery. After the political changes, Jászság one of the first who rediscovered equestrian traditions. János Bolla, the present Jász captain, founded Jász Equestrian Bandery in 1990 evoking old cavalry traditions of Jászság.

Costume of Jász Equestrian Bandery is analogue to wear of the former legendary Nádor cavalrymen, their flag is a reproduction of the ancient flag of Free Jász. Our crackerjack cavalrymen often represent Jászság abroad. In carriages and in the public many people will wear traditional Jász costumes. **Rediscovering of Jász wear was encouraged by the strong Jász identity.** Pioneers of rediscovering were members of folk dance groups, equestrian banderies, folk song choirs and decoration artists' circles. In 1989, Jász Museum urged Jász wear to be in the focus again.

On the occasion of 250th anniversary of the Redemption, not only perpetrators but private person ordered Jász costumes. The design came from original separates in Jász Museum and in local historical archives. Since then, new generations made prepared countrymen costumes that they wear honestly. Participants arrive to the main stage where the present Jász captain leaves his position and the new Jász captain access the post.

Jászság Prize

This almost twenty-year old program couldn't be realized by the participating settlements without the financial and organizational support of Jász Association. As a result of their work, the smallest and poorest settlements could organize their own several-day programs.

As a partner of Jász Association, Jászság Foundation grants a person, who had an outstanding work in cultural life of the region, by the 1 million Forint Jászság Prize. Among the laureates, we can find painters, historians, teachers, local history researchers and folklorists.

In 2012, József Sisa gold-worker was awarded.

During the gala and on a small stage through the afternoon not only the Jász settlements will have the possibility to present themselves, but also their art groups, dancers, NGOs, traditionalists, folk singers, musicians and choirs. The stage becomes a true cultural cavalcade of the Jász people, where everyone will surely recognize someone, since acquaintances, friends, relatives will give an account on their talents in front of their own audience. The program is followed by a banquet, where Ödön Fehér and his band will assure the right ambiance, preserving and reviving the worthily famous tradition of Jász Gypsy music.

The Jász culture in the world

Our culture in the world is presented also by the exhibition of Ossetian artists (a people relative to the Jász), which will also be opened on Saturday, after the gala, in the attic gallery of the City Library. The exhibition offers an insight into the everyday life of the North Ossetian - Alan Republic (part of the Russian Federation), through the works of internationally significant artists from different age groups.

The **Ossetian painters** aspire to show their past, Alan traditions, drawing on contemporary artistic currents. At the exhibition, the Hungarian audience can discover the deeply rooting Ossetian-Alan culture, even with an insight into the world of the heroic Nart Saga. The 3000-year-old Nart Saga is the traditional mythology of the North-Iranian peoples of the Caucasus (Scythians, Sarmatians, Alans). The Saga contains the legends of the Ossetians, that is the descendants of the Alans.

The Jász (closest relatives of the Ossetians) knew this epic in the 14th century. Thus these two peoples consider it important to preserve their cultures together, and to keep in touch, for which an ideal occasion is the 19th Jász World Summit to be organized in Jászberény, the so-called Jász capital.

Preserving traditions: the basics

Coming back from the exhibition to the main square, the presentations of traditionalist groups await the visitor at the main stage by Jászberény Perpetuators Ensemble and the **Jász Perpetuators Association**. The key leader and methodological center for the Jász tradition is the 139-year-old **Jász Museum**, which, besides its scientific and cultural activity also considerably assists and supports the preservation of traditions. In 2007 the Orbán Sipos Children's Local Studies Group, and in 2008 the Jász Perpetuators Association was established in the Jász Museum. The members of both are making great efforts to discover, revive and preserve the Jász traditions.

The **Jászberény Perpetuators Ensemble** was established in 1998, and at present it has 30 members. All their activities so far have served their objective; that is to discover and learn forgotten Jász dances, traditions and outfits.

After reviving the past, the world summit offers Saturday evening programs for visitors interested in the present. First a concert by Magdi Rúzsá, then a sensational street party will entertain those who do not wish to end the most important day of the world summit in the late afternoon.

Day three is for artists and craftsmen

Without a doubt, the most eventful day of the world summit is Saturday, but as a novelty, this year we would like to raise the quality of the third day to that of the previous two. It would lose its less intense character, on the contrary, it would provide useful and enjoyable possibilities for those who would like to know more about Jász arts, crafts and gastronomy.

Sunday thus will be a truly Jász(like) day during the world summit. The planned events include: tasting of Jász specialties and a Jász Market, meeting of Jász stew-tart makers, the exposition of crafts and needlework circles, Jász Tastes cooking competition, the Jász Derring-do competition, traditional archery, Optikaland (optic adventure) and Main Square painting competition – fine art in the street, presentations by Jász artists and cultural groups.

The third day of the 19th Jász World Summit will host the **Jász Art Festival**, where the primary objective is to complete static forms (exhibitions, presentations...etc) in an interactive way, so that visitors may discover up close and by trying different activities the work of local artists, the world of crafts and gastronomy. Our goal is to present different arts to festival visitors in a way that they do not remain solely spectators, but instead active participants of the creative process. This festival has already been organized, it might prove a good idea to further raise the quality and attendance of the third day of the world summit. The program will include music (classical, popular and vocal music), folk arts (folk dance, folk music, folk crafts), fine arts and applied arts (painting, graphics, sculpture, enamels, textile), and dance (rock and roll, ballroom dancing, show dance).

The lecturers, participants of the program will be invited from the Hamza Museum and Jász Gallery, the Folklore Cultural Public Foundation, the Round Yard of Crafts (Erzsébet Tajti), the Jász Museum, the János Palotássy Music School, the Mária Fejér Folk Decorations Club. Among the craftsmen we invited János Antal, bone carver from Jászárokszállás, Lajosné Benke, husk-doll maker from Jászárokszállás, Ildikó Farkas, potter from Jászberény, Antalné Huszárovics, straw artist from Jászszentandrás, Pál Kalla, cooper from Jászberény, the Haversack Workshop, and plenty of other arts and crafts masters from nearly every settlement of the Jász area will present their skills and secrets of their profession.

The festival presents traditional crafts and professions of the micro-region, and the visitors may also try several activities and processes. Besides the joy of creation, a crafts fair will also be on the program, and show workshops to add an interesting spectacle; here the visitors may get an insight into traditional crafts, especially characteristic of the traditions of the Jász area, and can meet living and working craftsmen.

Jász artists and cultural groups will be presented at the small stage, and in the afternoon there will be a real Jász lunch with music. Traditional food and letting it in today's cuisine plays an important role in preserving Jász traditions. Great results are attained by the **Jász Gastronomy Association**, who have been organizing for ten years the cooking competition of Jász food in the summer in the Margaret Island in Jászberény, which is very popular among the older and younger generations too.

Adapting to the program of the world summit, we will concentrate on Jász tastes during the competition. In parallel with the cooking competition, the Jász Derring-Do competition will be organized by Traditionalist Friendly Circle of the Rusty Blades of Biriny (i.e. Jászberény) tried many times, together with the organizers of the Jász World Summit; where the 5 most skilful Jász of each settlement are expected (3 brave men and 2 clever women) who will recklessly stand up to the 7 trials of the Jász, intentionally placed in their way.

The teams of 5 have to compete in folk tricks, cunning tasks, to measure their skills, agility, strength of their arms, and they will show (brighter than the Sun), who are the best of the Jász, who will thereafter be respected and venerated, and furthermore return to their lands rich in gifts.

Besides all this, the closing concert of the guitar camp will also take place, as well as presentations of folk singers, choirs, music schools and dance groups. The main stage will host a Jász dance gala, where every genre is introduced, and in the evening the prize winner Jászság Folk Ensemble will present a show entitled “**The Peacock**”. Preserving folk dance traditions is crucial in the cultural image of the city, so the Jász folk dance movement is a serious base for traditionalism. The Jászság Folk Ensemble, established in 1971 in Jászberény, has become internationally known since then, and it has been determined to gather, learn and promote Jász dances.

The evening will again be entertaining, with the concert of the band **KOWALSKY and Vega**, of which the lead singer was born in Jászberény. The event will end with fireworks.

The Jász Museum and its Foundation carry out a significant task gathering and promoting Jász food. They publish cookbooks and postcards presenting old food and recipes in Hungarian and German, they set up gastronomical exhibitions and dinner parties at the museum garden.

Each year, on the 11th November on St. Martin’s Day the stew-tart making competition is a great success in Jásztelek. Jász inns and restaurants wouldn’t miss typical Jász food on the menu (potato dumplings soup, pearl barley soup, stewed lamb, Pandur Goulash and all sorts of delicacies). Traditional food is widely prepared and consumed in the Jász area even today (macok, unleavened pie, butter noodles, cakes risen on water, cabbage with meat etc.), and of course there is no wedding or other big occasion in the family without lamb stew or home-made strudel.

For three days the Jász have the world

On all three days of the event, the street of Jász settlements awaits visitors, presenting crafts workshops, as well as the street of food and the fair, or the arts exhibitions of the city.

The program will be realized with the help of volunteers, who will be trained prior to the event on the main idea of the world summit, its background and the execution. The organizers of the meeting place great emphasis on addressing the emigrated Jász, and as a highlight of the event, the famous horn of Lehel will be sounded at the gala.

The Jász people are well known of their strong sense of identity, which is revealed in many different field of life, especially as far as the preservation of traditions is concerned. The unfolding and strengthening of this traditionalism was widened after the change in regime in 1989, since associations, foundations were formed, who assumed a leading role right from the start in preserving folk and civilian traditions, and today are of great help in organizing the 19th Jász World Summit.

The long week-end on the 21-23rd June, 2013. Jászberény calls home all the Jász people living in Hungary or abroad, to meet their past and roots in the Jász capital, to fortify there their fate in present and future.