

by Milos Rastovic

On February 17, 2018, there was a marvelous concert "Ruku pod ruku" ("Hand in Hand") featuring Serbian traditional folk dancing and singing in Bellefield Hall at the University of Pittsburgh. This journey through Serbian dance and songs was performed by Sumadija, Serbian Folk Dance Ensemble, Milwaukee, WI; Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing Association "Miroslav Bata Marcetic," Toronto, Canada; Ansambl narodne igre Kolo, Chicago, IL; and Carica Milica Choir, Pittsburgh, PA.

In the crowded hall of cheerful guests, ensembles performed dances from all parts of Serbia such as Crna Trava, Radujevac, Sumadija, Knjazevac, Vranje, Studenica, Gnjilane as well as from Lika and Northern Dalmatia, Bosilegradsko Krajiste, and Bosanska Posavina, Republic of Srpska. The audience enjoyed every moment of dancing, which was followed by long applause.

Serbian folk dancing ensembles have

a long tradition of perpetuating Serbian cultural heritage in the United States. Sumadija Serbian Folk Dance Ensemble of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Milwaukee, WI, was founded in 1969 with the support and help of Very Rev. Milan Markovina and Bob Milkovich, the first Artistic Director. Today, Sumadija is led by Michael Malich, the Artistic Director, and Darinka Sever, President, and it has 193 dancers from ages 6 to 35.

The Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing Association performs Serbian dances and music in Canada with over 450 participants divided into seven ensembles and one folk band. In 2004, the Academy was founded by Miroslav Bata Marcetic, who is the Artistic Director, and Dusan Suvajac who is the Music Director.

Ansambl narodnih igara Kolo was established in Chicago in 2017 in order to perpetuate Serbian folk tradition and culture.

Carica Milica is a female choir estab-

lished in the Pittsburgh area in 2014. Snezana Lazic is the Vocal Director of the choir. Their repertoire includes both sacred and secular music.

The final closing of the concert was the song "Tamo daleko." The audience and all ensembles on stage sang together, emotions were heightened among all of the participants. Some of them could not hide the tears in their eyes.

After the concert, there was a party at the American-Serbian Club on the South Side of Pittsburgh with music by 412 Bend. Many people including all of the performers were dancing and singing Serbian songs and eating Serbian food. Dancing and singing continued deep into the night.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Serb National Federation, we applaud Snezana Lazich and the many sponsors who organized and supported this wonderful event.

More photos on page 9

Serbian Folk Dancing Performances Entertain at **HAND IN HAND**



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Page 15

2018 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Page 7



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