

Loli Ruža

Songs of the Roma and other songs from Eastern Europe



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Loli Ruža the Choir

The choir “Loli Ruža”, founded in 1997, with varied members, is, in and around Stuttgart, a unique ensemble of dedicated women who are specialized in Eastern European song. The songs, for two or four voices, with their (for our ears) unusual melodious and harmonious sound, originate from Bulgaria, Rumania and the Czech Republic, in particular from the Czech Roma, and were passed down orally without musical notes, merely by performance and repetition.

The deeply expressive songs are sung without instrumental accompaniment.



*Powerful songs, Songs filled with longings,
With love and passion, With pain and drama,
With joy and high spirits. Songs which fill the
room and set it in motion with their a-cappella
voices.*

Through their numerous performances the choir has succeeded in attracting an ever-increasing audience interested in this type of music and in their social engagement.

We arrange concerts or are invited to perform at weddings, funerals, christenings, birthdays and art exhibitions. Over the years the choir has developed a dynamic form of organisation which gives each singer the opportunity to express her individual talent and ability.

The musical leadership is presently in the hands of Tania Artmeier, Anne Donkel and Micaela Koepf.



What inspires us

We consider song, dance and art as a means through which we can express to others our feelings, thoughts, moods and healing powers. A universal language which can be understood by all throughout the world.

We are all artists, each in his own individual way, and we have joined up in order to perform together.

“If someone sings from the soul, he heals his inner self. If everyone sang from their souls, and through music became united, they would also at the same time heal the entire world.”

Yehudi Menuhin



Džas

*Džas cal'i famel'ija
legrajenca, dromenca,
dromenca, vešenca
čore čhavenca.*

*Ani na džanav,
kaj me merava,
kaj mro mochtro
rovena.*

*Together we go
Together we go
We don't know where.
All of us go
leaving everything behind.
We don't know
where the road will take us.
We don't know
where we are going
to dig our own grave.
We don't belong anywhere.
We are weeping.*



Our songs are deeply influenced by Ida Kelarova who taught us Roma songs in their most original form, without musical notes, merely by ear and repetition.

The Czech-born daughter of a Roma musician has been teaching singers, musicians, actresses and amateurs the passionate songs of the Roma people for over 24 years. Her emotional work has united our voices with our souls and with our hearts.

From healing powers of the emotional songs sung by the a-cappella choir "Loli Ruža" ("Red Rose") developed the multi-cultural symbol for the open-hearted passion.

Children of the Wind

The story of the Roma

An appreciation of their fate which is incomparable. A respect for their strength, their love of darkness which carried them through their oppression.

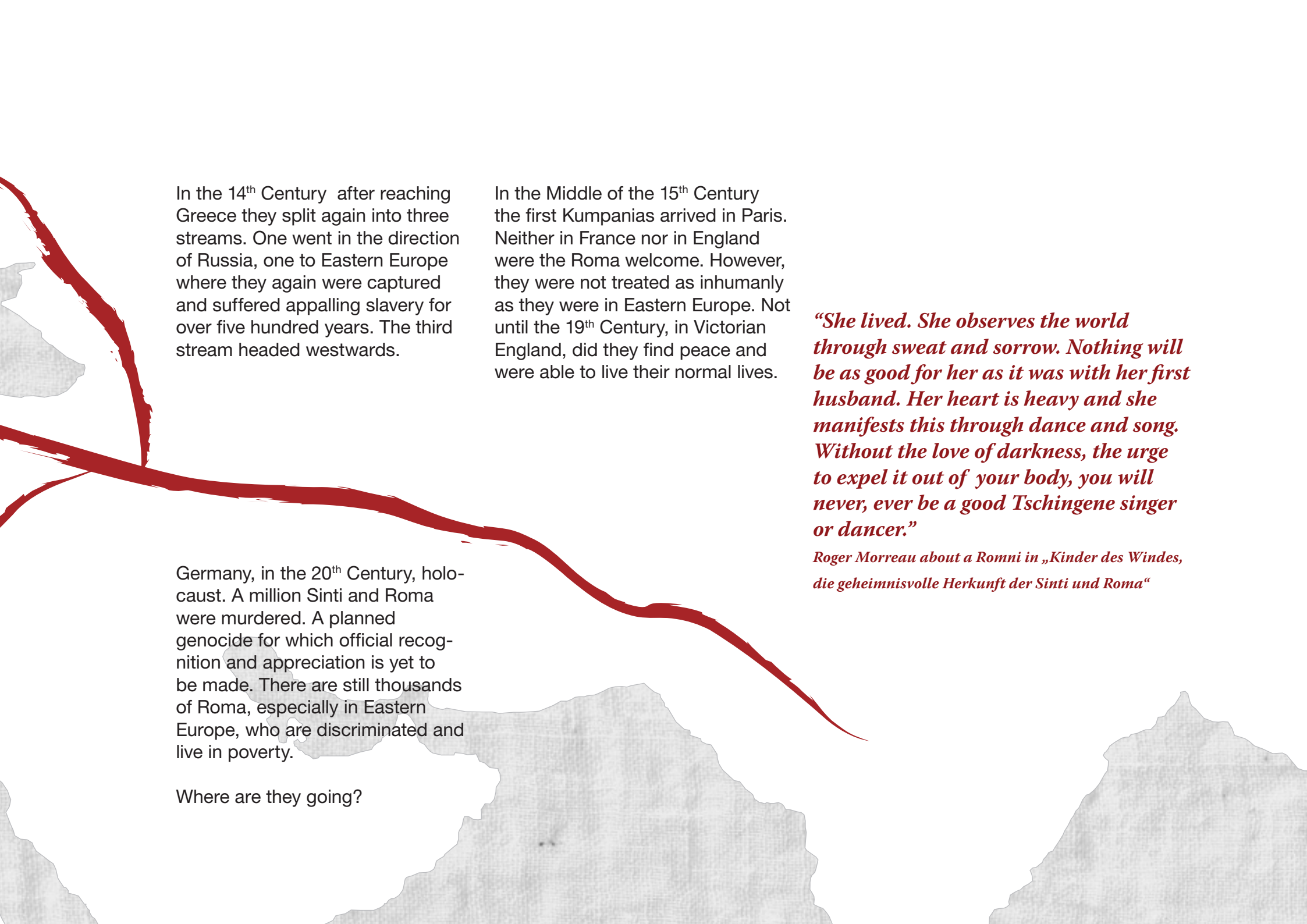
In their Indian past they were Banjara, Kanjar and Lohar. In Dashti-Navar, the gipsy desert, these three streams joined to make one major stream. They became the Dom, the outcast people of India. Many years later they were named in the town of Tabriz Loren, Lurs, Luren, Luri or Korula. In Constantinople they were called the Roum. After reaching Europe they were named Roma.

They did not leave their homeland in India voluntarily. In the 11th Century Afghan aggressors

captured thousands of nomads as slaves during their plundering raids. A vast internment camp was erected in the Gazni desert. They were only able to escape three hundred years later.

It was an endless trip till they reached the west of the Osman empire, the town of Tabriz. A friendly town in which they could

settle again and practise their arts and crafts. A place which was mainly untouched by the Mongolian wars. The next move was to Constantinople, but only for a short time. They were chased out as they were blamed for bringing the pest to the town.



In the 14th Century after reaching Greece they split again into three streams. One went in the direction of Russia, one to Eastern Europe where they again were captured and suffered appalling slavery for over five hundred years. The third stream headed westwards.

In the Middle of the 15th Century the first Kumpanias arrived in Paris. Neither in France nor in England were the Roma welcome. However, they were not treated as inhumanly as they were in Eastern Europe. Not until the 19th Century, in Victorian England, did they find peace and were able to live their normal lives.

“She lived. She observes the world through sweat and sorrow. Nothing will be as good for her as it was with her first husband. Her heart is heavy and she manifests this through dance and song. Without the love of darkness, the urge to expel it out of your body, you will never, ever be a good Tschingene singer or dancer.”

Roger Morreau about a Romni in „Kinder des Windes, die geheimnisvolle Herkunft der Sinti und Roma“

Germany, in the 20th Century, holocaust. A million Sinti and Roma were murdered. A planned genocide for which official recognition and appreciation is yet to be made. There are still thousands of Roma, especially in Eastern Europe, who are discriminated and live in poverty.

Where are they going?

Performance “A wonderful race of people – From the life of the Roma“



“Always on the move, the Roma live continually in the present. The conditions of their vagrant lifestyle differ from day to day. Memories, dreams, longings – everything is deeply rooted in “here” and “now”. Their songs originate from this desire, this urge to possess a fleeting moment with more passion, more intensity and without regret. “

Song/Play: Loli Ruža
Text: Jan Yoors
Direction: Katharina Koller
Musical leadership: Anne Donkel

The women's choir Loli Ruža gave, under the title "Das wunderbare Volk – aus dem Leben der Rom" based on the story by Jan Yoors, a scenaric performance of traditional and modern Roma songs on Saturday, 1.12.07 in the Vorstadttheater Tübingen. The play, written by Katharina Koller, was produced in cooperation with the Tübingen female choir "Chor Alle".



Performance “Count Dracula, you are so cold”



Song/Play: Loli Ruža
Text: Bram Stoker
Producer: Boris Rodriguez Hauck

The project “Count Dracula, you are so cold” – the story of Dracula, resulted from the cooperation with the producer Boris Rodriguez Hauck in spring 2004.

Boris R. Hauck wrote a play based on the original text by Bram Stoker. The theme: coldness and warmth, numbness and liveliness, shock and flow.

No blood flows, nor is there garlic or cross. Expression is shown solely by the Roma songs, the production itself, movement and words, and a large wooden box holding a few items. A play, both profound and emotional as well as humorous.



“The strangeness of the melodies and the harmony produced the exact type of gooseflesh to correspond with the action of the dramatic vampire story. The A-capella songs, filled with intensity and feeling, produced gruesome, but beautiful tones.”

Press commentary



“The Ensemble showed a notable acting talent and ambitiously represented in rotating cast the figures of the protagonists, Dracula, Jonathan and Mina Harker.”

Press commentary



References



2008

- 09.02. Konzert „Osteuropäischer Abend“, Zachersmühle, Adelberg
- 27.07. - 03.08 Chorprojekt in Pitres (E)
- 01.08. Konzert im Rahmen von „Musica en las Montañas“, V. Temporada, Pitres (E)
- 18.10. Konzert Club Voltaire, Tübingen

2007

- 16.06. Konzert bei der Feier anlässlich „25 Jahre Lehr- und Versuchsgarten Tachenhausen“ Hochschule Nürtingen
- 01.12. „Das wunderbare Volk - Aus dem Leben der Rom“ nach einem Roman von Jan Yoores. Szenische Lesung mit A-cappella Gesang alter und neuer Roma-Lieder. Vorstadttheater Tübingen
- 09.09. Osteuropäisches Fest mit dem Trio Bluesette, Zachersmühle, Adelberg

2006

- „Sie sind so kalt Herr Graf!“
die Geschichte Draculas nach einem Text von Bram Stoker, Gesang, Erzählung, Schauspiel.
Text und Regie: Boris Hauck.
- 13.01. Steinmetz- und Bildhauerwerkstatt Breier und Mack, Fellbacher Märchentage
- 29.04. - 01.05. Chorwoche Sipplingen/Bodensee
- 30.04. Konzert Jakobuskirche, Sipplingen
- 03.07. Benefiz-Konzert für das Freiwilligenzentrum Carleidoskop des Caritasverbandes für Stuttgart e.V. in der Kirche St. Georg, Stuttgart
- 05.10. Konzert im „da Loretta“, Stuttgart

2005

- 05.03. Konzert beim Frauenfest, Kulturhaus Schwanen Waiblingen
- 16.03. Konzert bei der Feier des Arbeitskreis Asyl, Stuttgart - Heumaden
- 11.05. Konzert in der Szenekneipe 1. Stock, Stuttgart
- 04.06. Konzert bei der Offenen Bühne in Reutlingen



„Sie sind so kalt Herr Graf!“
die Geschichte Draculas nach einem Text von Bram
Stoker, Gesang, Erzählung, Schauspiel.

Text und Regie: Boris Hauck.

10.11. Kulturwerk, Stuttgart

12.11. Dorfgemeinschaft Zumhof e.V., Rudersberg,
zwei Aufführungen

10.12. Workshop mit Dimitrar Gougov

2004

„Sie sind so kalt Herr Graf!“
die Geschichte Draculas nach einem Text von Bram
Stoker, Gesang, Erzählung, Schauspiel.

Text und Regie: Boris Hauck;

25.03. Premiere Kulturwerk, Stuttgart

26.03. Kulturwerk, Stuttgart

27.03. Zachersmühle, Adelberg

23.10. Kulturwerk, mitternächtliche Aufführung
im Rahmen der 3. Stuttgarter Kulturnacht

30.10. Konzert im Kulturwerk, Stuttgart

06.11. Zachersmühle Adelberg

13.11. Konzert „Kultur im Steinhauskeller“, Studiobühne
Besigheim

20.11. Kulturverein Weil der Stadt

2003

24.05. Konzert Paracelsus Krankenhaus Unterlengen-
hardt

26.09. Konzert Zachersmühle, Adelberg

2002

22.04. - 25.04. Proben mit Ida Kellarova (CZ)

13.05. - 15.05. Proben mit Ida Kellarova (CZ)

15.05. Interkulturelles Chorkonzert „Lieder der Roma“
mit Ida Kellarova (CZ), Hospitalkirche, Stuttgart

27.12. Konzert Weihnachtsfeier des Arbeitskreises
Asyl Stuttgart

References



2001

„Wie die Milchstraße an den Himmel kam“
Osteuropäische Lieder und russische Märchen erzählt
von Ulrike Kravczyk

- 20.01. Premiere Fellbacher Märchentage
- 10.03. Kulturwerkstatt Färberei, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt
- 20.05. Centraltheater, Esslingen
- 06.05. Singen beim Brunch - Klassentreffen
- 17.06. Konzert mit osteuropäischen Liedern zur Lesung aus „Papa, Mama, was ist ein Fremder“ von Tahar Ben Jellon, Kulturwerkstatt Färberei, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt
- 12.11. - 13.11. Workshop mit Ida Kellarova (CZ) in Stuttgart-Möhringen

2000

- 29.01. Konzert im Rahmen der Candle-Night, Zachersmühle, Adelberg
- 12.02. Konzert Fellbacher Märchentage
- 02.12. Konzert Kulturwerkstatt Färberei, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt

1999

- 20.03. Konzert Kulturwerkstatt Färberei, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt
- 23.10. Konzert Herbstfest der Kulturwerkstatt Färberei, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt
- 23.11. - 25.11. Workshop mit Ida Kellarova (CZ) in Stuttgart, Feuerseekirche
- 02.12. Straßenmusik in Stuttgart zugunsten des Vereins Govinda
- 10.12. Konzert Offene Bühne Roten Faden, Reutlingen-Betzingen

1998

Konzert im Atelier „Impuls“ von Christoph Haas, Stuttgart

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Text und Konzeption

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Leipzig

Layout

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Word of Thanks

We wish to express our appreciation to all the known and unknown women, men and children whose stories flow through the veins of these songs. Thanks to their voices, their pain, good fortune and their longings have time and time again echoed through time and room.

In particular we wish to thank Ida Kelarova, Desiderius Dužda and Marie Duždová, Gabriele Pedusa, Susanne Raff and all the women who have until now sung in the choir.

