

# PÁS – Shining Brightly in the Sunshine State

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Editorial assistance from Milenka Melanie Feighner and Angie Lipchick

The year 2010 will be remembered for its record snowfalls and chilly temperatures. Even Florida experienced several frosts during the frigid winter which threatened orange groves and cooled the usually warm southern state.

The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PÁS) brought a ray of sunshine to Florida and warmed its audiences with two lively musical performances – one at Disney World on March 5, and another at the Slovak Garden on March 7. Perhaps it was no coincidence that temperatures rose steadily day by day after the troupe touched ground in Orlando!

### Magic at Disney World

At "Downtown Disney," PÁS put on a dazzling display in front of a large audience at the Waterside Stage, Walt Disney World's premiere venue for entertainers. Invited to perform as part of the 25th anniversary of Disney's Magic Music Days, PÁS presented a rousing program including elements of the one the troupe presented at the 44th Annual Folk Festival in Detva, Slovakia during July 2009. Opening with Vyhadzovaná, or the tossing dance from Myjava, the repertoire included a mazarca from the western region near the town of Kubra, a waltz, a medley of songs, a couples' dance from the central Liptov region, and the Zbojničský taniec, or the Dance of Jánošík, the Slovak Robin Hood, with axes.

PÁS's performance proved a real crowd pleaser. In consideration of the audience's probable unfamiliarity with the Slovak traditions, the group presented a short speech about PÁS and its mission to continue the traditions of Slovak folk song and dance in America. This was quite useful for the audience; one person in attendance initially thought the group was Spanish!

### The Slovak Cultural Garden

Founded in 1952, the Slovak Cultural Garden is a retirement community for Slovak Americans in Winter Park, northeast of Orlando. The Cultural Garden features a banquet hall for dining and entertainment in addition to an extensive library and museum, which opened to the public after the meal and performance.

At the Slovak Garden, there was no confusion about who were the Slovaks. The audience consisted mainly of ethnic Slovaks from Florida, other parts of the USA, and even Canada. As all gathered for the celebration of their 58th Annual Slovak Day, most were quite familiar with PÁS from their celebrated performances of recent years.

The activities commenced with the Liturgy celebrated by the Reverend Louis P. Lulijak, recited and sung in Slovak, with only the sermon given in English. As part of the Mass, following the Eucharist, the PÁS women performed a solemn liturgical dance to the hymn "I Am the Living Bread."

After the Liturgy, guests enjoyed a banquet including traditional Slovak foods such as schnitzel (rezeň in Slovak), pirohy and halubky (stuffed cabbage), with kolače for dessert.

Following the meal, U.S. Representative John Mica, of Florida's 7th District, delivered a short speech about how proud he is that Slovak Americans continue the traditions and religious faith of their immigrant ancestors.

Then PÁS awed the audience with a startling array of folk dances and songs from both eastern and western Slovakia. In addition to the dances performed in the shorter program at Disney, PÁS incorporated a suite of dances, including the women's karička (circle dance) to Dajce nam Paľenky (Give us some brandy), the men's military recruitment slapping dance, Verbunk, Šariška Polka, the Eastern Čsárdáš and Karčmár, Karčmár (the Innkeeper's Song). The show concluded with valašky (long handled axes) brandished for the ever-popular Zbojničský taniec. The audience applauded with resounding approval.

### Returning to Florida in 2011

Both events proved to be a great success and both Disney World and the Slovak Garden have asked the ensemble to return again for performances in 2011.

Credit for PÁS's success belongs to director and choreographer Angie Lipchick, who also meticulously scrutinizes the singing and music with musical director John Lipchick, who provides the group with accompaniment as well as coaching all aspects of their musical interpretation.

PÁS' next public performance will be at the Kent/Dudince Sister Cities' Association Anniversary Banquet on May 16, 2010 in Kent, Ohio at the Kent Elks' Lodge Hall (see article below).

For more information about the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble, visit the group's website at [www.pasfolkensemble.com](http://www.pasfolkensemble.com) or contact them via regular mail at PÁS Folk Ensemble, 1254 Old Concord Road, Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146. You may also call (412) 373-3873.

The entirely-volunteer members of PÁS are both proud and grateful to continue the historic traditions of our Slovak forebears both in the United States and throughout the world, and would like to express their thanks to all of those whose support makes their efforts possible.



## Seventh Annual Anniversary Banquet in Kent, Ohio

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association will hold its Seventh Annual Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, May 16, 2010 (originally scheduled for May 2, 2010). The Banquet will be in the Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane, State Route 59, which is located behind the Twin Star Bowling Lanes at 2245 State Route 59. Doors open at 1:00PM for a Social Hour, followed by dinner at 2:00PM and a program at 3:00PM. Music will be provided during the social hour and dinner by the Johnny Pastirik Band featuring orchestra members Johnny Pastirik, Len Jacko and Ken Javor. The program includes a performance by the PÁS Folk Ensemble of Pittsburgh, PA and the Slovenske Mamicky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble with members Milka Anderko, Maria Cvicela, and Monica Smid. Dancing will follow the program.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person, and are sold in advance only. Ticket orders with directions will be mailed. Please be sure to include names of all guests. Make checks payable to:

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association  
1544 Vine Street  
Kent, OH 44240

For more information, call President Rudy Bachna at (330) 673-3255.



PASs Mike Pacacha leaps during Outlaw Dance at Disney World



PAS group photo at Slovak Cultural Garden



## Trip To Slovakia and Poland

A 10-day trip to Slovakia and Poland in the footsteps of SS. Cyril & Methodius is planned for October 4 – 13, 2010, leaving from Kennedy Airport in NY. Some of the sites we will visit are: Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa and the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Poland. In Slovakia we will tour the city of Bratislava and the Devin Castle. There will be sightseeing at the Cathedrals and historical sites and entertainment in the following cities: Kosice, Presov, Spa District of Bardejov, Nitra, Trnava, Levoca, Sastin and the Slovak National Literary Museum in Martin.

For further information about this trip or to request a brochure of this trip, please contact Sr. Carol Marie at the following email address [carolmariesscm@yahoo.com](mailto:carolmariesscm@yahoo.com) or by phone at 717-766-6221.



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APRIL 2010						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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