



Veszprém-Balaton 2023  
European Capital of Culture

# SHINE!

## GRAND OPENING

programme booklet

**17-22 \ 01 \ 2023**

**VESZPRÉM – CITY CENTRE**

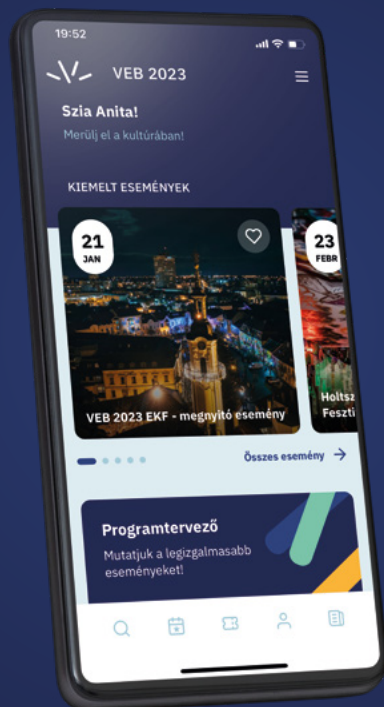
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# VEB2023 APP

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Veszprém-Balaton 2023  
European Capital of Culture



# CELEBRATION

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023, all eyes across Europe will look on Veszprém and the Bakony-Balaton region. The European Capital of Culture programme year marks the beginning of a period that will open new doors for everyone living here and those visiting. Doors that open to our rich cultural treasures and values.

To the abundant heritage that has been built up over centuries, even millennia, and which is a source of pride for all Hungarians. In the 2023 ECoC year, we would like to celebrate these by making them tangible for all by showing how much treasure is lying at our feet, even if often overlooked. We reach together for the front door handle on 21<sup>st</sup> January, when we officially start the 365-day cultural season, which hopefully will extend far beyond.

Let us celebrate together!

# VESZPRÉM AND REGION TO BECOME A CULTURAL-CREATIVE CENTRE



On 21<sup>st</sup> January, the European Capital of Culture 2023 programme year will be launched with a grand opening ceremony to fill Veszprém and the Bakony-Balaton region with culture for 365 days. However, it is not only one year that the programme team is thinking about, but long-term cultural development.

Interview with Alíz Markovits,  
CEO of Veszprém-Balaton 2023 Jsc.





### TYPICALLY, IT IS A CITY AND NOT AN ENTIRE REGION THAT IS AWARDED THE ECoC TITLE.

Yes, there are only a few such examples in the history of the ECoC programme. But the fact that the municipalities are so diverse and different in terms of their character is unprecedented. Veszprém has recognised that it can only be truly successful with its surrounding region and therefore initiated closer cooperation with the Bakony-Balaton region. We are happy to see that 116 cooperating municipalities have joined the programme.

### WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL OF THE ECoC TITLE FOR THE CITY AND THE REGION?

In Hungary, after Pécs, Veszprém and the Bakony-Balaton region have been awarded the European Capital of Culture title. It is important to stress that the ECoC title is not only a distinction for the year and the variety of programmes organised in that period. Our aim is to create long-term sustainable processes that go beyond 2023. For example we want to fill the historic city centre of Veszprém with vibrant life again; we have therefore launched a programme to revitalise the vacant niche businesses that can also serve as creative community spaces. Another of our ambitions is combatting seasonality. To this end, for example, we have launched 'Off-Season': as the name implies, an out-of-season contemporary literary festival. I think the ECoC programme is a great opportunity to discover the treasures of the region and make local people proud to show their values and traditions to visitors.

### WHAT PROGRAMMES TO EXPECT IN 2023?

We formulated as early as the application stage the challenges and ambitions to which we sought to respond through culture, and we have built our programme around this arc, which consists of the whole spectrum of culture. Music will be a major focus of the offer, as it is a priority aspect in Veszprém as UNESCO City of Music. But we are also preparing with a series of exciting topics such as gastronomy, literature, film, visual arts and sport. Due to their diversity, we have grouped the programmes that energise city and region life and may even set it on a different course into clusters, based on which of our aspirations they can address. It will certainly not be easy to browse the programmes: the VEB2023 application has been developed for precisely this reason.

*It is worth visiting Veszprém and the Bakony-Balaton region, where an unusual density of good things awaits!*

# THIS YEAR A CELEBRATION OF REGION'S CREATIVITY

– János Can Togay, Chief Cultural and Creative Adviser



Veszprém and Lake Balaton form a well known and popular region of Hungary. Our goal is to further explore and strengthen the creative efforts that have been initiated, which have enriched this landscape in recent years, and made ties between Veszprém and the region increasingly close and inspiring. Our projects and programmes reinforce and promote this growing dynamic.

This year is a celebration of creativity in the region. The opening is a fitting overture to this celebration. The theme is Veszprém and the region's past, present and hopes. VEB2023 will feature hundreds of projects and programmes throughout the year 2023. Many of these were already launched in their own way in the past years, and we hope there will be a

significant number of them that will continue to be sustainable beyond the Year of Culture in the life of the city and the region. As chief artistic and creative adviser I have been involved in many projects as an initiator or accompanying consultant. I am delighted that the Hungarian Motion Picture Festival has found a home in the region; I look forward to the permanent Castle Dungeon Exhibition and the opening of our Centre of Digital Experiences (CODE). I hope that the Off-Season Literary Festival and Chaconne Festival will be an attraction of Veszprém for many years to come, and for my part will do my best to make our initiative Balatorium, an artistic-cultural event dedicated to the ecology of Lake Balaton, contribute to the future of the Lake in the medium and long term.

# CULTURAL DREAM WORLDS IN THE CENTRE OF VESZPRÉM

– Péter Muraközy, Operative Director

On 21<sup>st</sup> January we would like to create an atmosphere in the centre of Veszprém that will give a glimpse into the vision of VEB2023 ECoC, which already was in our minds when the programme was born. In different locations we will present dreams and desires in the form of stylized snow globes that we looked at as a wonder as children, because we would just shake them and it would start to snow in the miniature world. This idyllic image is symbolised by the spheres to which we have invited performers with different themes to represent our dreams. Veszprém has always loved singing, music and dancing, and it is our common desire to keep it that way for as long as possible and for more and more people. The performers will stand in the spheres and we will stand outside and marvel, listen or even dance around them. Folk music and folk dancing will be the focus at one venue, at another, singing, while a third will feature bar pianists, but you can also meet musicians and DJs in shop windows or stunt performers as you come and go. On this day, the places that were opened under the VEB2023 ECoC programme will also be celebrating. At Paper Dog Culture Bistro, a string of the greatest jazz performers will give the stage to one another and music will not stop for a moment from early afternoon until the evening. A special start to the day will be an unusual children's programme starting in Expresszó at 10 a.m. This is PomPom party, Hungary's only family electronic party

series with soap bubbles and balloons, glitter tattoos and lots of other fun activities for children, with a child-friendly volume and environment. We are convinced that a party is not age-specific, so we're making sure that all those parents and their children are welcome to join us who don't think a party with children can be fun only when the music is childish, too. After the opening show, the atmosphere will continue to build up in the streets of the city centre: NECC Party will take care of entertainment at the twenty-storey building, and Kruder & Dorfmeister, one of the most prominent duos of the international electronic music scene in Old Town Square.



# BLESSED GIZELLA

Who made Veszprém a city of Queens



Every day, King Stephen and Queen Gizella cast their guarding gaze on the people of Veszprém from the castle, where since the 1930s their monumental twin statues have stood. Blessed Gizella, one of the most cultic consorts in Hungarian history, founded the cathedral and nunnery of Veszprém together with her husband, and is still highly revered to this day in the city and its surroundings.

Gizella, who was of Bavarian origin, arrived with her husband, King Stephen, the founder of the state to Veszprém, the place where Stephen defeated Koppány in 997. Gizella was an opinion-forming cultural companion to Stephen. According to contemporary accounts, Gizella supported Stephen, but in no way interfered with the direction he should take. They mutually loved and respected each



other, lived in harmony and their actions that shaped Veszprém are proof of this. Queen Gizella spent time in Veszprém, not in the palace, but in the monastery of the nuns of Veszprém Valley, named after the Virgin Mary, the first nuns' convent and women's educational institution in Hungary. It was founded around the year 1000 in the valley of the Séd, present-day Betekints Valley, where the walls of the 18th century baroque Jesuit church now stand. The first inhabitants of the convent were nuns of Greek origin from Byzantium, but Benedictine nuns from Bavaria were also brought in, whose beneficial work Queen Gizella had known from her home in Regensburg and recalled the good days when she lived and worked with them as a Bavarian princess. At the same time, she was also fulfilling a dear duty, for it was Queen Gizella's task to furnish the churches with ecclesiastical vestments and ornate tablecloths. Together with the nuns, she embroidered the coronation robes on Byzantine silk with gold thread, depicting the Saviour, the Virgin Mary, the apostles, the prophets, the first martyrs and saints of the Church, and her own family, Stephen, Gizella and their son Imre, at the bottom of the robes, to place the convent and the town of Veszprém under their protection. The unrivalled heritage built in Veszprém by Gizella is still a great pride of the town and is celebrated every spring on the occasion of Gizella Days. Veszprém is also known as the city of Queens, as Hungarian queens were always crowned by the Bishop of Veszprém.

Naturally, you can also meet Gizella at the opening event of the ECoC year, where she will talk about the past, present and future of the city. Extraordinary visual and theatrical elements will evoke the rich history of the Queen and Veszprém, performed among others by Yvette Bozsik's dancers.



# FAUSTUS VERANCICS

## The man who could fly

Faustus Verancsics was castle captain of Veszprém in the 1500s. The pioneering polyhistor produced countless designs for inventions, one of which is believed to be linked to the town of Veszprém and several legends are associated with him.

Who was Faustus Verancsics? He was born into a noble family of Dalmatia and left home at an early age to live with his uncle, Antal Verancsics, one of the most prominent religious and political thinkers of his time. After his years with him, the young scholar tried his luck abroad, and in 1579 he was appointed castellan of Veszprém and governor of the bishopric's estates. He spent three years in Veszprém and the Bakony, and the technical problems he encountered as castle captain repeatedly prompted him to think and to pursue technical development. According to contemporary records and a legend, the idea of the parachute came to him in the castle of Veszprém when he was wondering how he could leave the castle if they were surrounded so that he could reach his beloved as soon as possible. Others say that he came up with the idea of a parachute because he wanted to create a device that would allow him to escape easily from the enemy.

You can still meet the parachutist Faustus Verancsics when you walk through the castle of Veszprém; a bronze plaque commemorates him just under Heroes' Gate.



Photo: Wikipedia

The figure and works of Faustus Verancsics will be brought to life at the opening ceremony of the ECoC year in an unconventional theatrical setting. The figure of the flying man will be seen on the twenty-storey building in a grand, spectacular animation, where he will fly around the region and Veszprém.

# 200 YEARS IN THE APPEAL OF THE VERBUNK GENRE

Verbunk dancing and music developed in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when soldiers were recruited into the army in a special way, with dance. The word derives from the German Werbung, which means to lure, wager, woo - and indeed in the early days this was the sole purpose of the dance. However, as the years went by, the musical and dance aspects of the genre evolved. Verbunk as we know it today developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and several dance groups continue to carry on its tradition in Veszprém and across the country.

As a tribute to the verbunk genre, the opening of the ECoC year will also be a chance to indulge in the special interweaving of music and dance. We will recall the musical past of Veszprém, including the legacy of Lipót Auer and the compositions of János Bihari. Dancers and fiddlers, men, women and children dance and play together, giving the audience the special atmosphere of verbunk.

The history of verbunk dates back to the 1700s, when soldiers were enlisted in the army through the process of musical recruitment. For this purpose, brass bands played the music in many places, and gypsy musicians played verbunk music for the Hungarians. Verbunk music was associated with Veszprém as early as the 1800s, when Veszprém County Musical Society was one of the first to publish a collection of 136 verbunk dances. Verbunk music has also had a great influence on many of our most famous composers, and elements of verbunk music can be found in the works of Ferenc Erkel, Béla Bartók, Zoltán Kodály and Franz Liszt, among others. János Bihari, the most famous Hungarian composer of verbunk music, founded his orchestra in the 19<sup>th</sup> century - it is said that even Beethoven listened to his music back in the day. Bihari bequeathed nearly 90 verbunks to posterity and remains one of the most important musicians in Hungarian history.





Veszprém-Balaton 2023  
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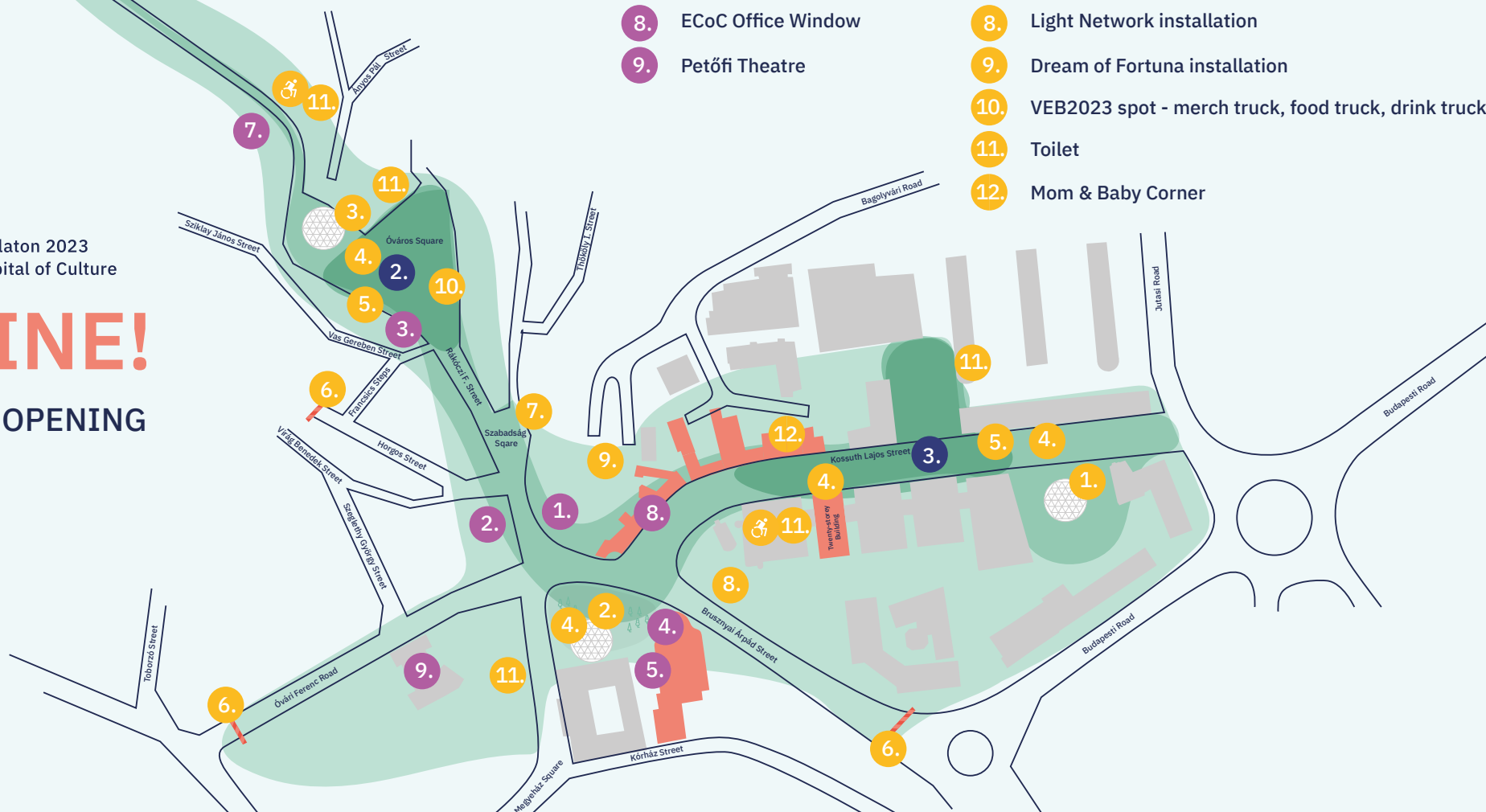
# SHINE!

Map of  
GRAND OPENING

- 1. Castle, main programme venue
- 2. Óváros (Old Town) Square, main programme venue
- 3. Twenty-storey building, main programme venue (the square in front of the post office)

- 1. Papírkutya
- 2. Wine & Vinyl Bar & Store
- 3. KUNSZT!
- 4. Hangvilla
- 5. Expresszó
- 6. Dubniczay Palace
- 7. House of Arts
- 8. ECoC Office Window
- 9. Petőfi Theatre

- 1. Folk musicians' spot (Szent Imre Square)
- 2. Pianists' spot (the square in front of Hangvilla)
- 3. Choirs' spot (the square in front of town hall)
- 4. Gastro spot
- 5. Info points
- 6. Road blocks
- 7. Flying Man light installation
- 8. Light Network installation
- 9. Dream of Fortuna installation
- 10. VEB2023 spot - merch truck, food truck, drink truck
- 11. Toilet
- 12. Mom & Baby Corner





## Expresszó Club and Concert Space

**10.00 - 13.00 PomPom Party – DJ Palotai**  
Hungary's only family electronic music party series – Because a party doesn't depend on age!

## Veszprém Archbishopric

**10.00 - 16.00 Insight into the WIP'23 - WORK IN PROGRESS exhibition**

## Papírkutya (Paper Dog) Culture Bistro

**10.00 - 11.00 Gyárfás Trio feat. Noémi Nagy**  
(István Gyárfás – *guitar*, Márton Soós – *bass*, Balázs Cseh – *drums*, Noémi Nagy – *vocals*)

**11.15 - 12.15 Fröccs Trio** (Marcell Gyányi – *bass*, Gábor Weisz – *saxophone*, Márk Badics – *drums*)

**12.30 - 13.30 Pankastic** (Krisztián Oláh – *piano*, György Orbán – *bass*, Panna Pálmai – *vocals*, Dániel Serei – *drums*, Gábor Ladányi – *guitar*, Jenő Lisztes – *bass*)

**13.45 - 14.45 Gáspár Károly Trio** (Károly Gáspár – *piano*, Géza Jónás – *bass*, Balázs Bágyi – *drums*)

**15.00 - 16.00 Chet's Mood Trio** (Patrik Sebestyén – *trumpet*, Márton Stummer – *guitar*, György Orbán – *bass*)

**16.15 - 17.15 Kőszegi Rhythm & Brass**  
(Imre Kőszegi – *drums*, Kristóf Bacsó – *saxophone*, Sándor Molnár – *tenor-saxophone*, György Orbán – *bass*)

**17.30 - 19.00 Oláh Kálmán Quartet**  
(Kálmán Oláh – *piano*, József Barcza-Horváth – *bass*, Elemér Balázs – *drums*, Kálmán Oláh Jr. – *saxophone*)

## House of Arts Veszprém

**10.00 - 22.00 Exhibitions of the House of Arts Veszprém and the Vass Shoe Exhibition are open on Saturday and Sunday.**

## Space for folk musicians and folk dancers (St Imre Square)

**14.00 - 15.30 Zagya Band** Featuring: Veszprém-Bakony Dance Ensemble, the folk dancers of Kiscsősz Élő Kút Association and Ajka-Padragkút Dance Ensemble, Szentgáli Szűrös Dance Ensemble

**15.50 - 17.20 Naszály Band** With the participation of the Balatonalmádi Folk Dance Workshop and Márkó Cserdülők, Zöldág Folk Dance Ensemble

**17.40 - 19.00 Samu Zoltán and Band** Featuring: the Balatonfüred Folk Dance Ensemble, Gerence Traditionalist Folk Dance Ensemble and Tapolca Batsányi Dance Ensemble

## Bar pianists' spot (in front of Hangvilla)

**14.00 - 14.50 Zoltán Oláh** (Finalist of the 2022 Bar Pianist Competition)

**15.00 - 15.50 István Pikács** (Finalist of the 2022 Bar Pianist Competition)

**16.00 - 16.50 Ferenc Rigó** (founding member of the Hungarian Bar Pianists' Association)

**17.00 - 17.50 Tibor Taligás** (Special Prize Winner of the 2022 Bar Pianist Competition)

**18.00 - 19.00 Gyula Nyári** (President of the Hungarian Bar Pianists' Association, Pianist of the Hungarian State Opera)

**21.00 - 22.15 György Orbán** (*bass*), **Gyula Nyári** (*piano*)

**22.30 - 23.45 György Orbán** (*bass*), **András Lakatos Pecek** (*drums*), **Kálmán Cséki** (*piano*)

**00.00 - 01.00 Mónika Lázár** (*vocals*), **András Lakatos Pecek** (*drums*), **László Lakatos** (*piano*), **György Orbán** (*bass*)

We reserve the right to change the programme. For possible changes please monitor the media pages of Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture and [veszprembalaton2023.hu/en](https://veszprembalaton2023.hu/en).

**Choirs' spot (outside City Hall)**

14.00 - 14.20	Vox Angelis (Badacsonytomaj, Nemesgulács)
14.30 - 14.50	Orlando Ensemble
15.00 - 15.20	Gizella Female Choir
15.30 - 15.50	Padrag Miners Male Choir
16.00 - 16.20	Opus Ensemble
16.30 - 16.50	Pueri Castelli
17.00 - 17.20	Ferenc Liszt Choir Society – Búzavirág Children's Choir
17.30 - 17.50	Ferenc Liszt Choir Society
18.00 - 18.20	VVV Vocals
18.30 - 19.00	Veszprém City Mixed Choir

**ECoc Office Window (3 Kossuth St)**

14.00 - 14.40	Little Moon Session – Bence Tóth
14.50 - 15.30	Little Moon Session – Andris Heilig
15.50 - 17.00	Little Moon Session – Zoli Juhász
17.20 - 18.00	Little Moon Session – Géem
18.20 - 19.00	Little Moon Session – Bors
21.00 - 22.15	InterUrban – Daumantas Lukosiunas (LT) – improvisational concert

**Petőfi Theatre of Veszprém**

19.00 - 19.45	Eve's Apple – circus show
11.00 - 12.00	in Kossuth Street (outside the ECoc point)
12.00 - 13.00	Balaton Plaza (Mall)
13.00 - 14.00	StopShop shopping centre
16.00	A Petőfi a Day

Hungarian Virtù – Hungaricum  
– Operetta Whirlwind

**Óváros (Old Town) Square – Kossuth Street – Castle**

20.00 - 21.00	SHINE! – Grand Opening
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**Electronic music main stage (Óváros Square)**

21.00 - 22.00	K-lu (Timișoara)
22.00 - 00.00	Kruder & Dorfmeister (Austria)
00.00 - 01.00	Ad:Mark (Efeřsina)

**Electronic music stage (outside central post office)**

21.00 - 01.00	NECC PARTY
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**Óváros (Old Town) Square – Kossuth Street**

21.00 - 00.00	Spark! – street theatre show
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### PomPom Party

10.00 - 13.00

Expresszó Club and Concert Space

PomPom Party is Hungary's only family electronic music party series. A place where the whole family can party together; a party with quality (adult) music, all with a child-friendly volume and environment.



### Papírkutya (Paper Dog)

10.00 - 19.00, Papírkutya Culture Bistro

Papírkutya Culture Bistro has been a long-standing supporter of live music, and a particular fan of jazz, so on this special day, it provides a late breakfast or early lunch with its invited musicians in an uplifting atmosphere. So let's have breakfast, lunch and dinner to jazz.



### Folk musicians and folk dancers' spot

14.00 - 19.00, St Imre Square

In addition to folk music from home, the repertoire of the orchestras will include folk songs and dance music from the Hungarian and other nationalities of the Carpathian Basin. The performers are dedicated practitioners of Hungarian folk music and folk dance, who see it as their task to present and pass on their heritage to younger generations. During the opening event, the Folk musicians and folk dancers' spot will provide the opportunity to do just that!



### Bar pianists' spot

14.00 - 01.00, Outside Hangvilla

This genre, which has a history of at least 100 years, is special in its diverse and multifaceted quality, with practitioners who are equally at home in both classical and popular music. A bar pianist's repertoire covers all genres and styles: operetta, opera, musicals, retro and contemporary Hungarian hits, film music, French chanson, international melodies, classical pieces and much more! The opening event will be enriched by such great artists in the Bar Pianists' spot.



## Choirs' spot

**14.00-19.00, Square in front of City Hall**

The choral movement continues to be the largest worldwide receiver for amateurs wishing to make music. Our city and the region have a long tradition in this area, but we also want to set an example for future generations to show them the rich variety of children's and adult choirs in the region, which have excelled at international and national competitions. This diverse palette will be on display in the whirlwind of the opening event at Choirs' Space.



## Little Moon Session

**14.00-19.00**

**ECoC Office window (3 Kossuth Street)**

The Little Moon songwriting evenings in Veszprém provide a showcase for talented but little-known artists and a meeting point for local musicians. It is a musical treat for the audience, an attentive audience for the performers, and encouragement and motivation for the next generation that a career in music is a worthwhile and viable undertaking.



## Spark!

**21.00-00.00, Óváros Square - Kossuth Street**

Spark! is a thrilling street theatre show that has conquered the world with its combination of high-impact drumming, dynamic choreography and stunning visuals. The production of seven performers is constantly on the move, engaging audiences wherever they can, so you can meet them wherever they are in the whirl of people!



Photo: Max Parovsky

## Electronic music main stage

**21.00-01.00, Óváros (Old Town) Square**

After our opening show at Old Town Square, the evening will be rounded off with electronic music, featuring the famous Vienna-based DJ duo Kruder & Dorfmeister as well as DJs K-lu (Timișoara) and Ad:Mark (Elefsina), representing the other two European Capitals of Culture 2023.



**22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2023**

<b>09.00-16.00</b>	<b>Óváros (Old Town) Market</b>	<b>Óváros Market</b> Old Town Square farmers' market offers local goods and those from farmers and producers of the Bakony-Balaton region to market fans.
<b>10.00-20.00</b>	<b>House of Arts Veszprém</b>	<b>House of Arts Veszprém and the Vass Shoe Exhibition are open on Saturday and Sunday.</b>
<b>10.00-12.00-14.00-16.00</b>	<b>Archbishopric of Veszprém</b>	<b>An insight into the WIP'23 – WORK IN PROGRESS exhibition*</b>
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Tourinform Veszprém</b> (2 Óváros Square)	<b>Free Veszprém Walk</b> Departure: Tourinform Veszprém Office
<b>11.00</b>	<b>Hangvilla</b> (Studio Room)	<b>Kabóca Puppet Theatre – Tricky Tale</b> Hungarian folk tale-premiere
<b>17.00</b>	<b>University of Pannonia</b> <b>Great Hall</b>	<b>The Great 'Hymn' Story – With Thy plenty and good cheer</b> A talk by Krisztián Nyáry and Ádám Bősze, with Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra
<b>17.00-18.30</b>	<b>Petőfi Theatre of Veszprém</b>	<b>A Festival of Adams and Eves</b>
<b>18.30</b>	<b>Hangvilla</b> (Studio Room)	<b>János Háý Caraffa – I am I</b> role play, premiere Pannon Várszínház performance
<b>19.00</b>	<b>Petőfi Theatre of Veszprém</b>	<b>VESZPRÉM RECITES TOGETHER</b>
<b>20.00</b>	<b>Hangvilla</b> (Central Hall)	<b>The Hammer of the Village</b> Forte Company performance featuring Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra
<b>20.00-21.00</b>	<b>Papírkutya (Paper Dog)</b>	<b>InterUrban – CinAmono (LT)</b> concert

\* Registration for the walk: [www.veszpremiersekseg.hu](http://www.veszpremiersekseg.hu).

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## Óváros (Old Town) Market

9.00-16.00

Good atmosphere, friendly conversations, shared breakfasts and lunches, clean, quality and local ingredients. Shopping bags or baskets, or even canvas bags. Everyone goes to the market for different reasons and in different ways, but once you've had a taste of the market, you'll get hooked. We want to revive this feeling every two weeks in Old Town Square.

And this opening weekend will be no different. At the farmers' market in Óváros Square you can buy directly from local producers and farmers from the Bakony-Balaton region. Fresh bread, sausages, home-made cheeses, jams and Balaton wines will be available for tasting. To make the market even more of a community experience, there are also food trucks in the market area, a great place for breakfast or lunch.



## The Great 'Hymn' Story – With Thy plenty and good cheer

A talk by Krisztián Nyáry and Ádám Bősze, with Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra

Krisztián Nyáry and Ádám Bősze's musical adventure around 'Hymn'. The informal talk will reveal a lot. For example, what was the anthem before the anthem? What does the swineheard's dance have to do with Kölcsey's text? Why did the poet consider his own work a mediocre poem? How many minutes did Ferenc Erkel take to write the music for the

anthem while under house arrest, and does an authentic score of it even exist? Why did the politicians of various regimes dislike Erkel and Kölcsey's work, and what alternative marches did they try? And many other interesting facts - in plenty and good cheer.

**A production of Óbudai Társaskör on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of 'Hymn'.**



Performance Tayos © Horváth Judit

## “EVERY ENCOUNTER A MATTER OF FATE” – YVETTE BOZSIK DANCE ARTIST

At the opening on 21<sup>st</sup> January, Yvette Bozsik will present a special dance choreography to evoke Queen Gizella, the past and present of the city of Veszprém, and the intricacies of human relationships. Interview with Yvette Bozsik about the emotionally and visually rich production.

### WHAT MESSAGE DOES THE CHOREOGRAPHY AT THE OPENING SEND OUT?

I love watching people walking down the street, meeting and moving away from each other. We think these happenings are random. All encounters are a matter of fate; who we connect with or who we avoid is not random. Anything can happen to anyone. Do we ever notice? Locked in time, hurrying, with monotonous glances, but sometimes full of hope, emotions, listless, tired, hurrying lovingly, or just standing still. Dancing or repeating the movements of the daily routine. Old acquaintances meeting, intersecting, rejoicing, passing each other by. Angry at each other, pushing and shoving, staring at their phones, reading newspapers, no longer remembering what it was really like to live.

### ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL OR UNIQUE FEATURES TO THE PERFORMANCE?

The character of Gizella is played by Samantha Kettle, a dancer of English birth, who is graduate of Ballet Rambert Contemporary Dance School London. She has been a member of Bozsik Yvette Company since 2006. Gizella's

diverse female qualities and stages of her life are presented in the production, with several dancers performing The Young, The Pregnant, The Weaver and The Elderly Healer.

The Dance of Gizella, the choreography embodies creative feminine energy. The work will be a worthy event at the opening ceremony of the Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture programme.

### DO YOU PERHAPS HAVE A FAVOURITE PART OF THE PRODUCTION?

The most beautiful part is the story in Trinity Square, the place of Love, everyone heals, everyone slows down, since it's a sacred place. The central event is a church wedding starring two beautiful young people, and then they and the wedding party enter the tent of love and leave with important messages to share with the audience. All beautifully composed. It is the most extraordinary setting, a sacred space with important spiritual messages and an uplifted spirit. It is like looking at beautiful photographs of the wonderful people of a wonderful city.





# COMMUNITY DANCE AT THE OPENING

We have talked with choreographer Zoltán Zsuráfszky Jr

The opening ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> January will feature a programme based around the verbunk. The audience will be able to see a new interpretation of this long-established dance genre in the streets of Veszprém thanks to the choreography Verbunkos, or the Community Celebration of Virtù, created by choreographer and dance artist Zoltán Zsuráfszky Jr. As part of our conversation, we asked him about it.

**THE TITLE OF EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND AT A EUROPEAN LEVEL. WHAT DOES THIS CULTURAL CONNECTION MEAN TO YOU?**

I am very proud that Veszprém will be European Capital of Culture in 2023. Europe is the cultural cradle of the world, within which Hungary is exceptionally rich and has traditional roots that are unique in the world. I believe that we are both European and Hungarian, but that through Hungarian folk art we can bring a distinctive character to the stage of Europe. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, what else could stand for and proudly represent our present and future than to hold hands and be connected in Hungarian and at the same time European culture.

**WHAT MESSAGE WILL EMERGE FROM THE OPENING PRODUCTION?**

In the opening event of ECoC, in the choreography Verbunk, or the Community Celebration of Virtù, we bring to the audience the essence of folk dances with ancient roots, the Verbunk, found in the Carpathian Basin, in an innovative interpretation that is appropriate for our time. Invoking the most significant dance personalities



Photo: Páholly Stúdió

of our dance history, we are bringing to life a real community human dance in the streets of Veszprém under the open sky. We invite the people of the street to dance, a common act, a common verbunk evolves from a child's idea into a whirl of city folks, igniting a fire in human hearts.

**IS THERE ANY SPECIFIC ELEMENT TO THE PRODUCTION?**

My favourite detail is the start, the focal point of ignition. In addition to the traditional world, there is also hip-hop in it, for example. The past and the present are combined in an urban setting in the streets of Veszprém.

### 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

17.00	<b>House of Arts Veszprém</b> (Dubniczay Palace)	<b>Tegularium</b>
18.00	<b>House of Arts Veszprém</b> (Dubniczay Palace: Castle Gallery)	<b>Balaton + Retro</b> – advertisement and propaganda in the service of the ideal holiday
19.00-20.30	<b>Papírkutya (Paper Dog)</b>	<b>Sebastian Schub (DE/GB)</b> concert

### 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

10.00-16.00	<b>University of Pannonia Great Hall</b> (Bdg 'B')	<b>University of Pannonia Open House</b>
16.30	<b>Tourinform Office Veszprém</b> (2 Óváros Square)	<b>Free Veszprém Walk</b> Departure: Tourinform Veszprém Office
18.00	<b>House of Arts Veszprém</b> (Csikász Gallery)	<b>Gyula Várnai: Another Zodiac</b> exhibition opening with a guided tour with the artist
19.00-20.30	<b>Papírkutya (Paper Dog)</b>	<b>Sebastian Schub (DE/GB)</b> concert

### 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

18.00	<b>House of Arts Veszprém</b> (Dubniczay Palace)	<b>Glass Focus</b> Opening, group exhibition of contemporary glass art
19.00-20.30	<b>Papírkutya (Paper Dog)</b>	<b>Sebastian Schub (DE/GB)</b> concert

### 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

14.00	<b>Veszprém Archbishopric</b>	<b>Insight into the WIP'23 – WORK IN PROGRESS exhibition*</b>
16.00	<b>House of Arts Veszprém</b> (Dubniczay Palace)	<b>Art Collectors' Day:</b> <b>KULTUR.KONTAKT.KONKRET</b> – exhibition opening, Schroth Collection (D, Soest) in Veszprém
18.00	<b>House of Arts Veszprém</b>	<b>Art Collectors' Day:</b> <b>Focus on female artists</b> – exhibition opening, a selection of the material of the Vass László Collection, Modern Gallery – Vass László Collection
20.00-21.00	<b>Terem</b>	<b>InterUrban – Daumantas Lukosiunas (LT)</b> improvisational concert

\* Registration: [www.veszpremiersekseg.hu](http://www.veszpremiersekseg.hu).

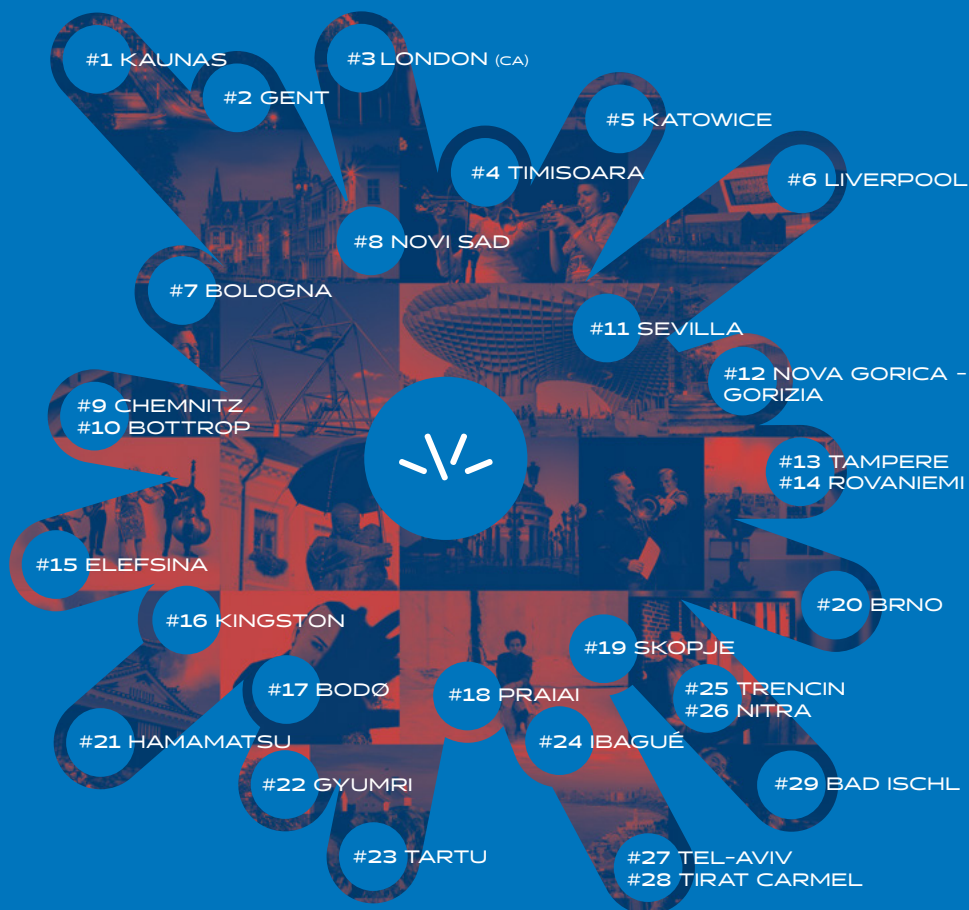
We reserve the right to change the programme. For possible changes, please monitor the media pages of Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture and [veszprembalaton2023.hu/en](http://veszprembalaton2023.hu/en).

# INTER URBAN

2023  
50 WEEKS #29 CITIES  
150 PROGRAMMES

## HOSTING THE WORLD

MUSIC / DANCE / FINE ARTS / LITERATURE / FILM / GASTRONOMY



Veszprém-Balaton 2023  
European Capital of Culture



INTERURBÁN 2023.HU

Photo: LUKOSIUNAS



## Daumantas Lukosiunas

20.00, 20<sup>th</sup> January – Terem | 21.00, 21<sup>st</sup> January – ECoC Office (3 Kossuth Street)

Lithuanian Daumantas Lukosiunas is a master of instruments from many cultures and periods, playing didgeridoo, guitar and bass, shaman drums and gong: a one-man band with a touch of electronics thrown in. In his concerts, he puts a strong emphasis on improvisation, making an imprint of the places and impressions that surround him.



Photo: Terekas Tomas

## CinAmono

20.00, 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Papirkutya (Paper Dog)

The young quintet's sparkling sound is enhanced by the voice of Laura Budreckytė. Playful vocal improvisation, easy-to-follow compositions, Nordic cheerfulness and freshness characterise this group that follows the classical jazz trail. They bring the nature- and song-centred, elegantly experimental material of their latest album, *Music is the Ocean* (2021) to Veszprém.

Photo: Remis Ščerbauskas – autoportrait



## With Love from Kaunas - Photo exhibition by Remis Ščerbauskas

23<sup>rd</sup> January – 5<sup>th</sup> February – Kunszt!

It's as if Remis Ščerbauskas' street photographs were taken from a café window. Strange coincidences, poetic characters and a breathing portrait of a city are captured in the images.

Ščerbauskas is a dispassionate observer, leaving space for the imagination of the viewer, drawing the lines of abstraction with restraint. Postcards from Kaunas, from a dear acquaintance, thinking of whom brings a smile to your face.



Photo: Klostès

## Film screening and artist meets audience event: Klostès

19.00, 24<sup>th</sup> January – University of Pannonia (Bdg 'E', Chamber Room)

Where does the history of a city hide itself? In personal stories, in the stones of buildings, and in the layers of collective consciousness. Ireland's Aideen Barry has animated Kaunas's emblematic modernist buildings, interspersed with the personal memories and living history of the city's inhabitants. After the screening, you can find out more about the film and its making at an artist meets audience event.





# HELLO VEB MAGAZINE

## Roam Veszprém and the Bakony-Balaton region with Hello Veszprém-Balaton magazine

Portraits, tour guides, hidden treasures, behind-the-scenes secrets and stories of the landscape: Hello Veszprém-Balaton, the official online magazine of the Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture (VEB2023 ECoC) programme invites you to explore the Veszprém-Bakony-Balaton region.

What legends are associated with the monadnocks of the Lake Balaton area? Where can you find unique antiques while walking around the Balaton Uplands? What are the traditions behind the ECoC beer? What are the stories embedded in the walls of the houses in the centre of Veszprém, and what makes a dish from the Bakony so original? Whether it's about VEB2023 ECoC workshops, local history, gastronomy, culture, design or even ecological topics, Hello Veszprém-Balaton magazine offers a wide variety of regional programme and venue recommendations, interviews, cultural and local history at [helloveb.hu](https://helloveb.hu)  
The online magazine produced by the

Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture programme's organising team provides a wealth of interesting regional news as well as a range of behind-the-scenes information about VEB2023 ECoC projects, its own and co-produced events and the municipalities that have joined the programme. You can peek into the attics of the sites participating in the Pajta (Barn) Programme, find out how CultNet communities work, tour the most amazing forests and ruins of Lake Balaton and the Bakony, visit lesser-known or deservedly famous sites, or learn about the local history of forgotten parts of Veszprém. You can get a closer look at Veszprém and the Bakony-Balaton region with the themes of VEB2023 ECoC, which feature priority programmes, cultural attractions, local artists, community-building organisations and faces of over 100 municipalities in the region as well as events related to VEB2023 ECoC.

[helloveb.hu](https://helloveb.hu)

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texts x people x veszprém



international contemporary literary festival

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# VEB 2023

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EUROPEAN CAPITAL  
OF CULTURE

 **VESZPRÉM**  
THE CITY OF QUEENS

 **VESZPRÉM**  
CITY OF MUSIC

