

ACADEMIC NITRA 2025



47th INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMIC FESTIVAL
OF FOLKLORE ENSEMBLES

Nitra 6th – 9th July 2025

Event is organized under the auspices
of the President of the Slovak Republic
Mr. Peter Pellegrini



Peter Pellegrini
prezident Slovenskej republiky

prevzal

ZÁŠTITU

nad

festivalom

Akademická Nitra 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'P. Pellegrini', written in a cursive style.

Bratislava 6. júna 2025

Speech of Klaudia Halászová, the Rector of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

Dear participants of Academic Nitra, fans of folklore, dear guests,

it is an honour to welcome you on behalf of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra to our university and to the city under the Zobor hill. We are proud that our university can be not only a space for science and education, but also a living center of artistic activity.

Culture is one of the most important pillars of our lives, in which we can see the power of a nation. It is a universal language and within the captivating folklore is a phenomenon that cannot be resisted. I am convinced that this truth will be confirmed repeatedly during the current 47th International Academic Festival of Folklore Ensembles Academic Nitra. I am pleased that behind the word folklore, for many young people from our academic environment as well as from abroad, lies above all a beauty, wisdom, return to roots, pride of their country. It is the beauty hidden in the time left to us by our ancestors. Our aim is to protect and enhance this heritage, because it is a bridge to the future.

Let me thank the President of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini for his patronage of the festival and all those who contributed to the fact that this holiday of folklore, combining modern with traditional, entertainment with education, culture with art, people from different countries, is a respected and popular cultural and social event.

Dear friends, I wish you all many unforgettable artistic experiences, together to feel the breath of the ancient past, dressed in beautiful costumes, preserved in the singing and dancing of the performers.





Speech of Pavol Findura, the President of the Academic Nitra 2025 festival

Dear friends,

I am sincerely pleased to welcome you to the 47th Festival of Academic Folklore Ensembles on behalf of the organizing committee of the festival. Academic Nitra 2025 takes place on the soil of our alma mater, which has been an integral part of the historical city of Nitra and the Nitra region for several decades. During each year, young performers, university students transform tradition into an experience that unites generations, cultures and countries.

Academic Nitra is a unique European festival with a long tradition. Once again, we tried to do everything to make everyone feel comfortable with us and have a lot of artistic experiences. Our aim is to present the diversity and variety of national and foreign folk traditions, bring joy and perhaps even learn about the importance of preserving the customs of our ancestors. The festival will feature more than 350 performers from all over Slovakia, neighbouring Poland, Serbia, Bulgaria, and from distance magical India and Hawaii.

I wish the performers to receive not only awards from Nitra, but above all the enthusiasm, friendship and inspiration that will accompany you in your next musical and personal life.

Dear friends, folklorists and honorable spectators, I wish everyone the joy of encountering true art, which will remain in our hearts long after the last tone has passed. I wish you a beautiful festival!



List of participating folklore ensembles AN 2025

National

EKONÓM
HORNÁD
MLADOŠŤ
POL'ANA
TRNAFČAN
ZOBOR

Foreign

SONJA MARINKOVIĆ FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE
(Serbia)

THE SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE
OF WARSAW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
(Poland)

RAJASTHANI FOLK LEGACY SOCIETY
(Rajasthan / India)

DANCE ENSEMBLE OF THE NATIONAL
SCHOOL OF ARTS DOBRI HRISTOV
(Bulgaria)

AHUNA OHANA
(Hawaii / USA)





Panel of judges

Mgr. art. Mgr. Barbora Morongová, PhD.

Director of the Department of Living Heritage and Culture of Disadvantaged Population Groups of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic,
Dance pedagogy, Ethnochoreologist and Choreographer

Mgr. Peter Obuch, PhD.

Ethnomusicologist, Musician, Cultural worker of the Center
of Traditional Culture in Myjava

Mgr. art. Igor Holováč

Choreographer, teacher at the Department of Dance Music and Dance
Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava

Mgr. art. Balázs Bogdán

Former professional dancer of the Hungarian State Ensemble
in Budapest, dance teacher



Organization of the festival

Organizers

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic

Co-organizers

Self-Governing Region of Nitra
City of Nitra

Financial support

Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Self-Governing Region of Nitra
City of Nitra
Supported using public funding by the Slovak Arts Council

Partners

Andrej Bagar's Theatre in Nitra
Regional Enlightenment Centre in Nitra
AgroForestry

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Kaufland; TESCO; Heineken; Berto sk, s. r. o.

Media partners

TV Nitrička, MY Nitrianske noviny, Roľnícke noviny,
Slovenský CHOV, Poľnoinfo.sk, Poľnohospodár





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PhDr. Renáta Chosraviová

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Festival programme

July 6, SUNDAY

19.30 – 20.00 h

Costume parade
Nitra city parade

Pedestrian zone, Svatopluk's square

20.00 – 22.00 h

„Zbl'íska aj z d'aleka, vitajte v Nitre!“

Performance of ensembles
for the citizens of Nitra

Svatopluk's square

July 7, MONDAY

18.00 – 20.00 h

The first festival
competitive evening
„Vitae discipulus“

Andrej Bagar Theatre

19.00 h

„Host' do domu, Boh do domu.“
Foreign folklore ensembles
programme

Diamant Dudince Spa

July 8, TUESDAY

18.00 – 20.00 h

The second festival competitive evening
„Vitae discipulus“

Andrej Bagar Theatre

19.00 h

„Host' do domu, Boh do domu.“

Foreign folklore ensembles programme

Amphitheater Šaľa

July 9, WEDNESDAY

13.30 h

Meeting of representatives of the
ensembles and the Chairman of the Nitra
Self-governing Region, the Mayor of the
City of Nitra, the Rector of the Slovak
University of Agriculture in Nitra
Concert Hall of the District House

18.00 – 20.00 h

„Academia vitae gala“
Representative gala programme

Andrej Bagar Theatre





EKONÓM

www.fsekonom.sk

Country: Slovakia

Founder: University of Economics in Bratislava

Ensemble director: Ing. Imrich Petkáč

Artistic chief: Victor Peeters

Heads of the components: Mgr. art. Michal Zábrazný, Mgr. Dominika Hromníková,
Juraj Durmek

Title of the Programme: Si mi svetlom

Choreography: Ján Kysučan

Musical arrangement: Los Koplikos (Pavel Koplík)

Folk music leader: Juraj Durmek

Programme characteristics:

The programme draws on the Kopanice region – specifically from both sides of the modern border: Trenčín and Moravian Kopanice. It presents "halekáčky", different types of czardas of Hrozenske and from the various regions of Kykulske Kopanice (Trenčín region) and Vyškovec (Moravské Kopanice). It tells a story as old as time itself – about a boy from Vyškovec and a girl from Kykula, who love each other and meet secretly before the village dance and song event, where the inhabitants of these two villages met occasionally.



HORNÁD

www.fshornad.com

Country: Slovakia

Founder: Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

Ensemble director: Bc. Alexandra Ťasková

Heads of the components: Bc. Patrik Seliga, Ingrid Stracová

Organizational leader: Bc. Alexandra Ťasková

Title of the Programme: Kolorované

Choreography: Štefan Štec

Musical arrangement: Folk music Fajta

Folk music leader: Matej Topoľovský

Programme characteristics:

In the choreographic block, the author tries to reconstruct and capture the ancient artistic expressions of the Zemplín village of Pozdišovce in eastern Slovakia. The old photograph of women from the beginning of the 20th century was an inspiration that helped to uncover the older layers of dance, but also the visual and aesthetic feeling of this village. It is the original garment that brings a fashionable variation of the time, but also an artifact that literally forms the „silhouette“ of the folk culture of Pozdišovce and their identity. Are we seeing only a reconstruction of the past on the scene, or can we still feel and touch the essence of the old art world today? Let's try to add colors, color black and white images, and maybe we will be able to do so for a moment.





MLADOŠŤ

www.ufsmladost.sk

Country: Slovakia

Founder: Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica

Artistic chief: Martin Urban

Heads of the components: Tatiana Urbanová, Bohumil Novák, Ondrej Druga,
Leonóra Súdiová, Juraj Súdi ml.

Organizational leader: Gabriela Haringová

Title of the Programme: Ornamenty

Choreography: Martin and Tatiana Urbanovci

Musical arrangement: Miroslav Kapec, Michal Výboštok, Pavel Martinka,
Jaroslav Hazlinger

Folk music leader: Juraj Súdi ml.

Programme characteristics:

The programme block will offer the viewer a taste of ornaments from Podpol'anie. Ornaments in dance, singing, music, costumes, embroidery and carvings, individual mastery transformed into collective culture. The connection of visually seen and heard ornamentation, inspired by artifacts of traditional folk culture in the compositional unit is a dramaturgical and directorial concept of the new programme of the University folklore ensemble Mladost'.



POL'ANA

www.fspolana.sk

Country: Slovakia

Founder: Technical University in Zvolen

Ensemble director: Ing. Pavol Gejdoš, PhD.

Artistic chief: doc. Ing. František Chudý, PhD.

Heads of the components: Ing. Mária Vargovská, PhD., Ing. Alexander Králik

Title of the Programme: Fašiangy, fašiangy, fašiangové časy

Choreography: doc. Ing. František Chudý, CSc.

Musical arrangement: Ing. Pavol Gejdoš, PhD.

Folk music leader: Ing. Pavol Gejdoš, PhD.

Programme characteristics:

The period from the Three Kings to Ash Wednesday is called Carnival. This is the transition between winter and spring. Habits and ceremonies of the carnival period symbolized actions to ensure harvest and fertility. Carnival customs are extremely varied and persist in many Slovak villages to this day.

The programme block reconstructs some of the social and dance opportunities of the Carnival period in various areas of central Slovakia, pointing out the diversity and common roots in the organization of these holidays.





TRNAFČAN

www.trnafcan.sk

Country: Slovakia

Founder: University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava

Ensemble director: JUDr. Pavol Skaličan

Artistic chief: Kristína Polachová, Dis. art.

Organizational leader: JUDr. Pavol Skaličan

Heads of the components: Soňa Spevákova, Petra Mičianiková

Title of the Programme: Pod zeleným

Choreography: Kristína Polachová, Dis. art.

Folk music leader: Soňa Spevákova

Programme characteristics:

The programme is inspired by the dance and song events in Horné Orešany, which were held outdoors in the summer months and the space of the dance area was decorated and fenced with green branches. They were given the name 'Under the Green' by entertainers. From the recordings and narratives we created a choreography with which we wanted to bring the events of one such pastime closer.



ZOBOR

www.fszobor.sk

Country: Slovakia

Founder: Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

Artistic chief: Ing. Ondrej Debrecéni ml.

Organizational leader: Ing. Kamila Ondrášová, PhD.

Title of the Programme: Podľa muziky

Choreography: Peter Hrabovský

Folk music leader: Ján Gordulič

Programme characteristics:

Folklore ensemble ZOBOR presents the musical and dance traditions of the Nitra region and southern Slovakia with the socio-normative structures of community life in the first third of the 20th century. In the preview it will present "verbunk" dances from Branov, "czardas" dances from Tvrdosovce and musical motifs from Strekov. The musical procession, inspired by the play of the well-known Roma music family Anyalayi, known as Pepešovci, connects the individual parts of the programme. Verbunk melodies are based on the play of Jozef Benca, a longtime lead violinist from Branov, and the motifs are based on the work of Ferenc Farkas from Tvrdosovce, famous for its distinctive style and interpretative plasticity.





SONJA MARINKOVIĆ FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE

<https://akudunssonja.org.rs>

Country: Serbia

Founder: University of Novi Sad

Ensemble director: Milovan Ognjanovic

Artistic leader: Aleksandar Madžarević

Organizing leader: Julijana Konstantinović

Title of the Programme: Oj, jabuko zeleniko

Choreography: Radojica Kuzmanović

Music arrangement: Petar Josimović, Ivan Sabo

Folk music leader: Saša Petrović

Programme characteristics:

A mix of dances, songs and wedding customs from Koretište (a village in the municipality of Gnjilane, Kosovo and Metohija).



THE SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE OF WARSAW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

<https://zp.it.pw.pl>

Country: Poland

Founder: Warsaw University of Technology

Director, Artistic leader, Organizing leader: Klara Hadi

Title of the Programme: **Sącz dance**

Choreography: Jarosław Wojciechowski

Music arrangement: Dominik Lasota, Arkadiusz Górka, Krzysztof Heering,
Krzysztof Kozłowski

Folk music leader: Justyna Nowak

Programme characteristics:

Sącz – the region was one of the poorest in Poland but had the richest costumes. Very few of the region could afford one but those who could have been eager to show it of. The choreography illustrates a scene from a social gathering, showcasing the possible course of entertainment and performances typical of that time.





RAJASTHANI FOLK LEGACY SOCIETY

Country: Rajasthan / India

Founder: Kayum Khan

Director: Mohammed Hussain

Artistic leader: Mangu Khan

Title of the Programme: Kalbeliya dance

Choreography: Kayum Khan

Programme characteristics:

Kalbeliya dance is a very famous and popular dance in the world listed in Unesco. It is a dance by 3 dancers, who come out one by one. The last dancer concludes her performance by moving rapidly across the stage. Kalbeliya dance, also known as the Sapera or Snake Charmer's Dance, is a vibrant folk dance from Rajasthan, India, performed by the Kalbelia community, who were historically known for snake charming. This dance mimics the movements of a serpent, with women in flowing black skirts swirling and swaying to the rhythm of traditional instruments.



DANCE ENSEMBLE OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS DOBRI HRISTOV

<https://artschool-varna.com>

Country: Bulgaria

Founder: Ministry of Culture Bulgaria

Director: Radoslav Ivanov

Artistic leaders: Radoslav Ivanov, Krasimir Niggolov

Organizing leader: Radoslav Ivanov

Folk music leader: Dancho Radulov

Title of the Programme: Kudi

Choreography: prof. Kiril Dzenev

Music arrangement: Nikolai Stoykov

Programme characteristics:

Kudi is a traditional activity practiced by young men during the winter months. This custom reflects their attitude toward hard work and resilience. It involves visiting the homes of young women, where the men display their physical strength and good health. The aim is to demonstrate that they are ready to face life's challenges. These visits also offer young men the opportunity to visit their beloveds, meet their families, and express their feelings through dance and playful jokes. The tradition originates from the Thracian ethnographic region.





AHUNA OHANA

Country: Hawaii / USA

Director: Joe Ahuna

Title of the programme: “He Makana Ohana na ke Aloha” (A family gift of Aloha)

Choreography: Joe Ahuna

Music arrangement: Joe Ahuna

Programme characteristics:

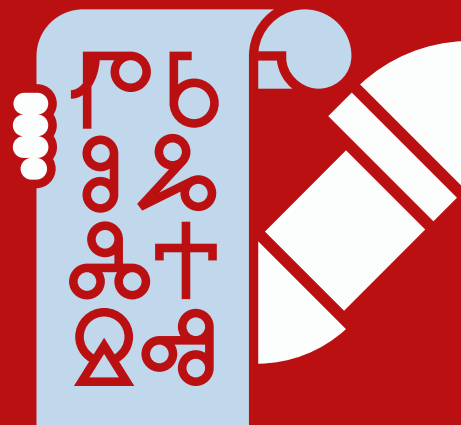
Great things sometimes come in small packages. The Ahuna Ohana features only 3 of the 36 family members of the Ahuna family. The show consists of a grandfather and his two grand daughters presenting: He Makana Ohana na ke Aloha, a Family gift of Aloha. Aloha means love in Hawaiian. We, as a family, would like to share the Gift of Aloha through the music, dance and songs that were passed down through the generations. The grandpa taught his grandchildren to play the ukulele, and the fireknife dance. He taught them to help people to be happy by sharing their talents of singing and dancing. We believe that learning and sharing your talents as a family will strengthen the family.



Nitra, milá Nitra

Pribinove a Cyrilo-metodské slávnosti

4. – 6. júl 2025



Cyrilo-metodská
národná púť

Jiří Pavlica & Hradišťan,
Slovenský komorný orchester

Polemic

Vyraja - kvetinové umenie
Róberta Bartolena

Historický festival
Pribinova Nitrava

Akademická
Nitra

Bad Karma Boy

Putovanie po Cyrilo-metodskej ceste

Skyva

Deň otvorených dverí na Nitrianskom
hrade a Martinskom vrchu

Živo na korze

Čaro umenia
a remesla

Slávnosti pre malých hostí

Ako sa žilo na Veľkej Morave

Slovenské filmové divadlo

Fotodeň na nádvorí

Príbehy hliny

Literárna Nitra

Nitriansky jarmok

Nitrianska holba

Hlavní organizátori:



Mesto Nitra



Rímskokatolícka cirkev
Biskupstvo Nitra



Nitriansky
samosprávny kraj



Cyrilo-metodská
cesta

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
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Viac info na webe:

nitra.sk/nmn2025



Spoluorganizátori:

Archeologický ústav SAV, Castellum n.o., CVČ Domino, Dedičstvo Slovanov o.z., Divadlo Andreja Bagara v Nitre, Dom Matice slovenskej v Nitre, Domof creativity, European route saint Cyril and Methodius, Evropská kulturní stezka sv. Cyrila a Metoděje, Fond na podporu umenia, Krajská knižnica Karola Kmetka v Nitre, Krajská organizácia cestovného ruchu Nitriansky kraj, Krajské osvetové stredisko v Nitre, Kreatívni ľudia, mesto Kroměříž, Nitrianska galéria, Nitrianska organizácia cestovného ruchu, OC Promenada, Ponitrianske múzeum v Nitre, Reštaurácia a vináren Buganka, Róbert Bartolen, Slovenská filharmónia, Slovenské poľnohospodárske múzeum v Nitre (Agrokomplex), Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita v Nitre, Staré divadlo Karola Spišáka v Nitre, Štátny archív v Nitre, Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre, Zoborský skrášľovací spolok

Organizers



Co-organizers and Financial support



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Factsheet of the international academic festival of folklore ensembles Academic Nitra 2025

Year	Organizer	President, Director, Deputy Director	Number of ensembles	Laureate
1970	VŠP v Nitre	I. Paška, O. Burian, P. Sklenka	10	FS Gymnik
1972	VŠP v Nitre	I. Paška, O. Burian, P. Sklenka	10	FS Zobor
1974 – 1991	VŠLD vo Zvolene	E.Senko / M. Križo / A. Šatanová	–	–
1992	VŠP v Nitre	O. Debrecéni, E. Ondrejčeková, M. Járek	11 + 5	FS Mladost
1994	VŠP v Nitre	O. Debrecéni, M. Járek, M. Mráz	11 + 8	FS Torysa
1996	VŠP v Nitre	M. Járek, P. Sklenka	13 + 13	FS Ekonom
1998	SPU v Nitre	J. Tomáš, O. Debrecéni (čestný prezident), D. Wolfová	11 + 10	FS Stavbár
2000	UKF v Nitre	K. Félix, D. Wolfová	11 + 4	FS Stavbár
2002	SPU v Nitre	M. Bajla, D. Wolfová, M. Járek	13 + 7	FS Zobor
2004	UKF v Nitre	J. Fulier, M. Járek, D. Wolfová	11 + 6	FS Borievka
2006	SPU v Nitre	V. Rataj, D. Wolfová, M. Járek	12 + 5	FS Borievka
2008	UKF v Nitre	M. Tvrdoň, M. Járek, D. Wolfová	9 + 11	FS Technik
2010	SPU v Nitre	V. Rataj, D. Wolfová, M. Járek	11 + 12	FS Technik / Figulinas, Taliansko
2012	UKF v Nitre	M. Tvrdoň, D. Wolfová, M. Járek	11 + 9	FS Hornád / Rosénka, ČR
2014	SPU v Nitre	E. Horská, V. Rataj, J. Depešová	11 + 6	FS Hornád / Poľana, ČR
2016	UKF v Nitre	M. Líšková, A. Krausová, D. Wolfová, P. Zaujecová	11 + 5	FS Hornád / Promni, Poľsko
2018	SPU v Nitre	R. Štěpánková / V. Rataj	10+6	FS Technik / Roksolanija, Ukrajina
2021	UKF v Nitre	M.Tvrdoň / A. Krausová	13+3	FS Hornád / Aurora Borealis, Rusko
2023	SPU v Nitre	P. Findura / O. Debrecéni	7+6	FS Mladost / Skalni, Poľsko

Bulletin Academic Nitra 2025

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