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Founder, 'cellist/ethnomusicologist Dr. Janice Foy



As a second generation Croatian, I've enjoyed visiting my third cousin Nikola Bečki & his family in Samobor, where I performed music by Boris Papandopulo & others. My cousin's boss Damir introduced me to Boris, his father, & we had a wonderful friendship that included writing me a solo 'cello Rhapsody, before he died. What an honor!

Back in San Pedro, tenor Frank Politeo (with whom I gave many concerts accompanied by Kay Grantham), introduced me to Fr. Mate Bižaca's choir & I became enthralled with Fr. Mate's unique Dalmatian chant style. This is where my Croatian sacred musical research began & in 1988 I met Fr. Mate's family & former Mary Star of the Sea saxophonist Prof. Biskupović, in Brač! Many kudos go to my Ph.D. mentor Dr. Miho Demović, Maestro of the St. James Cathedral Choir in Zagreb whom I interviewed (thanks to Vedrana Šenova) in a secret location, like a 'musical spy'.

In 2000 I saw the Serbian army's devastation everywhere - our American papers didn't tell us the full story so seeing it up close enabled me to bring my musical talent hoping it would heal their craving souls & spirits. Following a documentary taping with pianist Mira Lepur in Vodice, a miraculous event occurred. I was playing Bach's Bourrée in a Murter Chapel (spared from Serbian bombing), & noticed everyone had stopped in their tracks to listen. Suddenly thunderous applause erupted taking me by surprise! Does it take a war to preserve societies' artistic values or do technocratic societies feel Art isn't essential to one's life as it was in the past? The respect & appreciation I felt during my trips will never be forgotten.

Please visit the UCLA music library to read my Ph.D. dissertation: "Croatian Sacred Musical Tradition in Los Angeles: History, Style and Meaning."

I look forward to my next Croatian trip through Adriatic Tours to perform (and maybe premiere Papandopulo's piece) for all my professional colleagues and stanch supporters such as Father Segarić, from St. Anthony's Church!