

ORGAN CONCERT alternative ÓPUSZTASZER NATIONAL PARK

30 August, 2017/ Wednesday at 18:30 – departure from the conference site

15 Dóm sq, H-6720 Szeged/ Votive Church – Museum – Katedrális Restaurant

CATHEDRAL DÓM

The original plans by Frigyes Schulek. The cathedral's construction plans were started by Foerk Ernest in 1913. At current location of the Cathedral, the church of St. Demetrius had stood. The foundation-stone ceremony took place on June 21, 1914. The Church was formally dedicated on October 24, 1930.

It is the fourth largest church in Hungary. The dome is 54m outside (33m above the inside floor) and the towers are both 91m high. The "Heroes' bell" in the tower on the Tisza side weighs 8600kg.



ORGAN OF THE VOTIVE CHURCH

The main organ of the Votive Church was built between 1928 and 1930 in the organ factory of József Angster and his son, in Pécs, Hungary. The disposition was planned by József Geyer. This organ was made with 5 manuals and 99 registers. Most of the pipes are located on the gallery and there is also a remote work in the dome.

In 1930-31 the organ arm was made, its pipes were placed to the two sides of the sanctuary, its playing table was located in the church. This organ was made with 2 manuals and it has 25 sounding register.

For the year of 1932 the whole organ was made, it was the largest organ in Hungary and the third largest in Europe (after Passau and Milan).

There was a plan to expand the organ but because of lack of coverage it was not made.

In 2002 the organ got an electronic playing table which is able to store 1000 tone combination instead of the old 3.



ST. DEMETRIUS TOWER

Outside the Votive church stands the Saint Demetrius Tower, the oldest architectural relic of the city. The remain of the church erected in honour of Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki living in the 4th century is called the Dömötör Tower by the people of Szeged.



MUSICAL CLOCK

The tunes of this unique piece of art by watchmaker Ferenc Csúri could be first heard at the Open Air Festival in 1936. The music clock on the upper level of the building, opposite the main entrance of the Votive Church is a symbol of medieval universities. Twice a day, at 12.15 and 17.45 it shows the walk of the graduating students at the end of the academic year.



DÓM VISITORS' CENTRE

The iconic symbol of Szeged, the votive church (also known as the Dóm of Szeged), has been renewed as a result of the HUF 2.1 billion EU and national support. In the crypt, a multifunctional exhibition space has been set up which includes an information desk, a pilgrim cafeteria, and art shop and a bookshop. The liturgical space has also been renewed. New bench rows have been added to the transept, the acoustic has been improved, and the western tower along with the Demetrius (Dömötör) Tower has been opened to the public. However, as I mentioned before, these are just the basic facts. The church and the Dóm Square, which combines the characteristics of a Mediterranean style piazza with the formal brick architecture, is a real communal melting pot and the symbolic centre of a new beginning. It is a cathedral, a family-friendly church, a destination of pilgrims, a sacred space, exclusive conference and concert venue, home of the Szeged Open-Air Festival and an open and receptive community magnet. Recently, I got a postcard from Szeged. In the centre of the colourful card, there was the votive church and the Dóm Square. All the other attractions, the downtown bridge, the university, the bath complex have only been shown in smaller pictures. This postcard is a small proof that the city of Szeged is mostly associated with its cathedral and the Szeged Open-Air Festival.

