

Speech by Alenka Adamič at the book presentation
Tirana, February 8, 2024

Good morning/ good day

H.E. Mr. Peter Japelj ; Ambassador of Slovenia;

Mr. Genci Likoskendaj, Honorary Consul of Slovenia;

Prof. Dr. Vasil S. Tole;

Mrs. Alda Bardhyli,

Distinguished guests.

It is an honour for me to have been invited to this stage for the presentation of the book about my father, Bojan Adamič.

Here with me are my daughter Nina, my granddaughter Nia La and my son Gregor with his wife Saša.

I feel honoured because of 2 reasons:

- 1.) **The first of which is that we are in the country which my father admired so very much.** We were able to read in the letters, sent to my mother, his descriptions about how friendly people are, how rich the culture is here and what beautiful nature surrounded him.

He was extremely fascinated by Albanian original folklore elements, by costumes and by music. He wrote to her that the dances were wild. Not the choreography, but the passion and attitude of the dancers were so noble and exciting. Pure exaltation. After I visited fabulous Gyrocastra folkloric festival last year, I finally understood him.

Together, with my father, we went to concerts, to the cinema. He enjoyed all kind of music, from the symphonic ones to punk, rock or folk music. He listened to music composed by other people, he was exploring their way of craft, their way of performing. But never copied anybody and still tried to catch the new trends in performing.

I was impressed that my father was extremely fond of everything new and different, as well as he had always appreciated knowledge, originality, and improvisation and - never wanted to be adored because of his music.

2.) **Secondly, why I feel so special being here, would be the immense appreciation on my father's work in Albania by citizen of Albania.** This book is, beside the international symposium held in Tirana in May 2022, the result of never-ending research and enthusiasm by prof. dr. Vasil Tole. With the help and support from others here around, he made our dreams for the book possible.

You probably don't know, but before all this research, only a little was known about my father's work and life in Albania in 1947. He never wanted to talk about this time, so before we found his letters, we thought that he had been sent as a punishment for playing jazz. And that he had to teach athletics here to get some money. However later on we found out that that in fact was not true.

How did it start? In February 2021, 3 years ago, I received first email from H.E. Mr. Peter Japelj, asking me for a cooperation in preparing a concert in Albania with my father's music to strengthen the cultural connections between our two countries. The concert did not happen, but since then, all the research and historical data, that has been found, have finally enabled to explain the role of my father in Albania in 1947

That is what the book »Composer Bojan Adamic in Albania« is also about. Together with all the documents we received from the Archives in Belgrade, it describes a completely different view and outcome about my father's engagement in your country. I can honestly say that our Slovene – Albanian collaboration worked perfectly, what has already been obvious at the international symposium about my father in May 2022.

It is my pleasure to say, that during these years I built a close relationship with H.E. Mr. Peter Japelj, with Prof. dr. Vasil Tole and with dr. Darja Koter, the co-author of the book from Slovenia, who contributed a chapter on Adamic's life, work and significance for the development of music in Yugoslavia and beyond. Dr. Koter, who can unfortunately not be with us today, sends her best greetings to you all. So all this cooperation, sometimes also on a daily basis among us, was a great pleasure for me and my family.

Due to the research about my father, I have already visited Albania a few times in a row now and became very fond of the country, people and the culture. As I like to say, I am following the footsteps of my father now. And I like it!

There's a trace of Albania in his music, there's a trace of Albania in our family now. I am very glad that my family is here with me!

However, that is not all - Slovenian TV is preparing a documentary, called »Albanian Sonatina« (got the name from the music work Sonatina, which is being published in the book, too) about my father's staying here, so another view to his work is going to be presented in the next few months in Slovenia and hopefully later on also in Albania. Prof. Tole and Mrs. Alda Bardhyli and some others were recorded here in Tirana in June last year.

With my family, we would like to thank Mr. Valton Beqiri and Mr. Besnik Krajku for the very nice music performance. It was so special to hear my father's music here, in Tirana.

We express our deep appreciation to H.E. Mr. Peter Japelj, to prof. dr. Vasil Tole and to dr. Darja Koter for making this book possible.

Our deepest thanks and compliments goes to everyone involved in the book preparations, its publishing and today's very nice event.