



United States Embassy Slovenia

Public Affairs Section

Press Release

New U.S. Embassy music project to pay tribute to R.E.M. and highlight environmental issues

The U.S. Embassy in Slovenia will follow last year's popular Bob Dylan music project with a tribute to R.E.M., who broke up last year after a successful 30-year career. ***Projekt REM: Čista energija glasbe*** will once again feature 15 local artists covering classic R.E.M. songs. The project will be dedicated to raising awareness about environmental issues, and will highlight the work of several Slovenian environmental groups.

A major, free concert at Kongresni trg in Ljubljana on September 8, 2012 at 6 p.m. will coincide with the release of the project's music CD.

Once again the U.S. Embassy has put together an all-star cast of musicians to interpret R.E.M. songs. The line-up includes Siddharta, Elvis Jackson, The Tide, N'toko, Vlado Kreslin (backed by Croatia's The Bambi Molesters), Zoran Predin paired with Massimo Savič, Melodrom, Severa Gjurin, Murat & Jose, Narat, Lollobrigida, My Buddy Moose with Chris Eckman, Polona Kasal, Mia Žnidarič and Steve Klink Trio, The Toronto Drug Bust, and several more surprises. Songs will range from the early 1980's right up to material from last year.

"R.E.M. is the greatest latter day band in America," said U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer and project team leader Christopher Wurst. "They defined indie music in the 1980's, captured the world's attention in the 1990's and have continued to record important music and put on great live shows right up to their break up last year."

R.E.M. has played several shows in Slovenia, both in Ljubljana and Isola. Their most recent concert was opened by Vlado Kreslin, and they were later joined onstage by Kreslin and Chris Eckman, both of whom are on this project.

Events connected with the project will be designed to highlight environmental issues, and will coincide with a two-month environmental photography exhibition sponsored by the U.S. Embassy and Ecologists Without Borders, in conjunction with *National Geographic* magazine, in Tivoli Park's Jakopičevo sprehajališče, in September and October.