

# Hungary 1956 – 2016

## Cultural Festival

### Event Rationale:

The Hungary 1956 – 2016 Cultural Festival commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution and celebrates Hungarian traditional and contemporary culture and the contributions of Hungarian-Canadians to our local communities.

### Event Partners:

The Cultural Festival is sponsored by

- the Hungarian Embassy in Ottawa,
- the Canadian Hungarian Heritage Council,
- the Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources,
- the Bethlen Gábor Foundation, and
- the Canadian Hungarian Cultural Society of Edmonton.

The Cultural Festival is proud to partner with the following local organizations and businesses:

- Metro Cinema (partner in presentations of 5 Hungarian films)
- Art Gallery of Alberta (partner in presentation of the Zsolnay porcelain exhibit)
- Chateau Lacombe Hotel (partner in hosting the Wine and Food Festival and the Csárdás Bál)
- Arden Theatre, St. Albert (partner in hosting the Csik Ensemble Concert)
- Convocation Hall, University of Alberta (partner in hosting the classical music concert and the commemoration event)

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### Event Background:

Following the Hungarian uprising against Soviet occupation in 1956, Canada's initiatives welcomed Hungarian refugees who were fleeing the Soviet armed forces. More than 37,000 refugees arrived <sup>1,2</sup>; in fact, this influx marks the second largest refugee group accepted in Canadian history, exceeded only by the acceptance of over 50,000 southeast Asian refugees, sometimes known as the Vietnamese 'boat people' in 1979.

In marking the 60th anniversary of the 1956 uprising, Hungarian-Canadian communities are proud to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of their members to Canadian society, culture, and history. In Edmonton, for example, the Hungarian community is a vibrant and exuberant entity, numbering well over 8,000 individuals and including a community centre, two churches, a language school, a historical society, sports teams, folkdance groups, and musical groups, as well as numerous individual artists in many disciplines. Our event intends to showcase performing, visual, and applied arts, as well as encouraging scholarship and discussion of the impacts of immigration and integration on Canadian society and Canadian culture.

1) The Canadian Encyclopedia, <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/refugees/>

2) The crushing of the Hungarian uprising led to over 200,000 Hungarians fleeing to Austria. In response to public pressure, the Canadian government implemented a special program, offering the Hungarian refugees free transport, instead of loans. Thousands of Hungarians arrived in the early months of 1957 on over 200 chartered flights. More than 37,000 Hungarians were admitted in less than a year. (Canadian Council for Refugees, <http://ccrweb.ca/en/brief-history-canadas-responses-refugees> )

## Program of Events Summary:

Visual Arts (international):	Oct. 13 to 30 (Art Gallery of Alberta, 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square)
Hungarian Film Festival:	Oct. 24, 25, 26, 28, and 30 (Metro Cinema in Garneau Theatre, 8712 - 109 Street)
Visual Arts (local artists):	Oct. 25 to 29 (Old Arts Building, University of Alberta)
Performing Arts, Folk Music:	Oct. 26 (Arden Theatre, St. Albert, 5 St. Anne Street)
Performing Arts, Dance:	Oct. 26 and 29
60th Anniversary Ambassador's Reception:	Oct. 26
60th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony:	Oct. 27 (Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building, University of Alberta, Shuttle from the Hungarian Hall)
Performing Arts, Classical Music:	Oct. 27 (Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building, University of Alberta)
Hungarian Wine and Food Festival:	Oct. 27 and 28 (Chateau Lacombe Hotel, 10111 - Bellamy Hill)
Csárdás Ball:	Oct. 29 (Chateau Lacombe Hotel)

## Program of Events (in chronological order):

### Monday, October 24

#### 7:00 p.m. - Film Screening at Metro Cinema

##### Whooping Cough (1987)

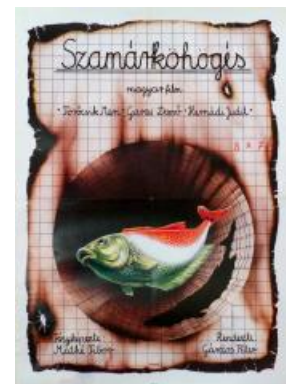
Director: Péter Gárdos

Writers: Péter Gárdos, András Osvát

Stars: Mari Töröcsik, Dezső Garas, Judit Hernádi

“The story of (a) 10-year-old boy and his family against the backdrop of the bloody events of 1956, in Budapest. Children do not yet understand what is going on, but they're happy because the schools are closed. But gradually, to adults and children, comes the understanding that something terrible is happening.”

( <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0092040/plotsummary> )



## Tuesday, October 25

**7:00 p.m. - Presentation by Mr. Gábor Borokai, Editor-in-Chief, Heti Válasz**

**Note the time change from earlier postings**

Hungarian Hall, 12845 – 68 Street, Edmonton

Mr. Borokai will give an informal presentation regarding Hungary today, entitled “Migránsválság és a népszavazás” / “Migrant crises and the referendum” followed by a Q&A session.

Coffee/light refreshments available.

**7:00 pm - Film Screening at Metro Cinema**

**Angi Vera (1979)**

Director: Pál Gábor

Writers: Pál Gábor, Endre Vészi

Stars: Vera Pap, Erzsébet Pásztor, Éva Szabó

Winner of “Best Feature” at the Chicago International Film Festival (1979) and “Foreign Language Film of the Year” at the London Critics Circle Film Awards (1981)



## Wednesday, October 26

**4:00 – 6:00 p.m. - Opening Reception hosted by the Embassy of Hungary in Ottawa**

by invitation only

Wales Room, 10th Floor, Edmonton Federal Building, 9820 – 107 St.

Invitations were extended to all MLAs, the Consular Corps, University of Alberta's Board of Directors, U of A Deans, U of A Chairs, community leaders from other cultural groups, Hungarian delegates from across Canada, and local Hungarian leaders

Performance by Csillagszemű Ensemble

There is a clear view from this location to the Legislature Building and the High Level Bridge. The High Level Bridge will be lit with the Hungarian Tricolor at dusk.

The Embassy is sending out electronic invitations for this event.

**5:45 p.m. (approximately) - High Level Bridge Lighting in Hungarian Tricolor**

The City of Edmonton has accepted our request for lighting the High Level Bridge in the three colors of the Hungarian flag: red, white, and green in honor of the anniversary celebrations. Bridge lights turn on in HUNGARIAN TRICOLOR automatically at dusk, and the prediction of sunset is 6:10 pm (according to the Weather Network).

**7:00 p.m. - Hungarian Folk Music Concert – Csík Zenekar**

Arden Theatre – 5. St. Anne Street,  
St. Albert (Tickets: \$25)

This concert marks the first time Csík has appeared in Canada.

Csík's 25-year-plus history includes over a dozen albums, as well as DVDs and films, and thousands of appearances throughout Europe.



### Relevant post from the Facebook:

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The Canadian Hungarian Heritage Foundation (K.M.T.K), the Embassy of Hungary (Ottawa), the Canadian Hungarian Cultural Society of Edmonton and the Csárdás Hungarian Folkdance Ensemble of Edmonton are thrilled to welcome the Csík band of Hungary to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Revolution on October 26th, 2016. This will be the Csík Zenekar's first concert ever, in North America.

"Today's world of music is very complex, and not only with respect to genres and styles, but also to the multitude of performers. A very interesting and exciting example of this diversity is the Hungarian Csík Band, which has been active for twenty years." [www.csikband.hu](http://www.csikband.hu) (visit the official website of the Csík band for more information about the band!)

**For more information contact Sándor Vörös: 780-902-4535**

**Tickets \$25.00**

**Purchase at [csardasedmonton@gmail.com](mailto:csardasedmonton@gmail.com) via PayPal**

Links of the Csík Zenekar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6RaU9n4ZuI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NbXt9ubrUU>

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"The group combines elements of folk music with pop, jazz, classical, rock – and they collaborate with some of Hungary's top artists. They have become wildly successful in Hungary with their approach... it is widely accepted that the Csík Band makes excellent music and their success is musically well-deserved." (KalmanMagyar.com)

"Many people wonder and discuss what kind of music has future in our ever accelerating and hectic lives. I think we all share those basic human feelings, truths that can be discovered in folk music. So, if we play this music truthfully, independent of their age, lovers of all music genres will find it enjoyable. Bands try to bring joy to music lovers in various ways and genres. I think in our constantly changing world, if we strive for the best quality, we can preserve the true values of old times, and delight our listeners, who are exposed to so many kinds of music these days. I hope as you listen to this music your heart will be lifted up as is mine when I play." (János Csík, band leader)

"In its 28 years of existence, the Csík Band has gained a level of popularity so lofty, it previously would have been unthinkable in Hungary's folk music world. In the first phase of their career, they played mainly dance house music, in a characteristic performance style built around three lead (prímás) fiddlers and both male and female vocals employed in multiple solos. Then they opened up a new chapter in the stories of their own oeuvre and of Hungarian world music when their landmark album *Senki nem ért semmit* (Nobody Understands Anything) created a new style by arranging popular music to blend it into the fabric of folk music. With this novel approach, they proved that folk music could capture the hearts of urban youth who know no more of rural culture than what they have learned in school. In short, the Csík Band made it to the top by removing barriers between folk and pop culture without yielding on the profundity of the folk music tradition, all while collaborating with such legends of Hungarian popular music as Gábor Presser, Levente Szörényi, János Bródy, Kati Kovács, László Földes, Tibor Kiss, András Lovasi and György Ferenczi." (MUPA, [https://www.mupa.hu/en/program/csik-band-2016-05-01\\_19-30-bela-bartok-national-concert-hall](https://www.mupa.hu/en/program/csik-band-2016-05-01_19-30-bela-bartok-national-concert-hall))

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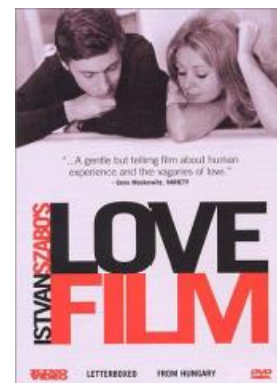
### 9:30 pm - Film Screening at Metro Cinema

#### Lovefilm (1970)

"Jancsi reminiscences about Kata his childhood friend in pre-WWII Budapest, They are separated as a result of WWII. Reunited as adults, they struggle with whether they will stay in each other's lives."

Director: István Szabó

Writers: István Szabó (screenplay), István Szabó (story) Stars: Judit Halász, András Bálint, Edit Kelemen



## Thursday, October 27

### 4:00 – 10:00 p.m. - Hungarian Wine and Food Festival, Day 1

Chateau Lacombe Hotel - 10111 Bellamy Hill NW, Edmonton

Hungarian wines from five different wine-growing regions are paired with fine Hungarian cuisine prepared by Chef Zsolt Varga (of the Hungarian Embassy in Ottawa)

"Hungarian wine and spirits are world famous, yet North American consumers are often unable to sample award winning Hungarian products due to limited availability in their respective market. Hungarian Wine Cellars addresses this gap by importing Hungarian wine for North American consumers to enjoy. All members of the Hungarian Wine Cellars team are well versed in not only the products they import, but how and where they are made, and the culture of Hungarian wine production." (Hungarian Wine Cellars Agency, Edmonton)

Villany Region: Vylyan Vineyards and Winery, Hungary

Lake Balaton North Shore Region: Canter Winery and Vineyard, Hungary

Lake Balaton South Shore Region: Garamvari Vineyard Estate and Winery, Hungary

Szekszard Region: Varbor Winery, Hungary

Tokaj Region: Tokaj Wine Boutique and Restaurant, Toronto

### 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. - Commemoration and Celebration of the 60th Anniversary

Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta, North Campus

#### NOTE:

In order to promote attendance, a bus shuttle, free of charge, will be available between the Hungarian Hall and the location of the commemorative event.

One can park at the Hungarian Hall free of charge, then take the bus at 4:15 p.m. to Convocation Hall. The bus will return after the end of the concert, at approximately 8 p.m.

#### Program:

##### Remarks

His Excellency Dr. Bálint Ódor, Ambassador of Hungary to Canada

Dr. Peter Hoppal, Secretary of State for Culture, Government of Hungary

Dr. Peter Szilagyi, Deputy State Secretary for National Policy

István Jakab, Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly

Dr. Stefania Szabo, Consul General of Hungary

Performance by Livia Poljak (Vancouver) Finalist of the World competition "Megavers a Diaszporaban"

Performance by the Csillagszemü Dance Ensemble

National Anthems (Canada, Hungary)

### 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Coffee and pastries (30 minutes)

### 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. - Reverberations through Reflection - Classical Music Concert

Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta, North Campus

The talented musicians on the program come from across Alberta:

Marnie Giesbrecht - organ

Mikolaj Warszynski- Zuzana Simurdova - piano duet Yue Deng - violin

Colin Ryan - cello

Roger Admiral - piano

Edmond Agopian - violin

Paul Dornian - clarinet

Gabriella Jonas – piano

Works by Liszt, Bartok, and Haydn.



## Friday, October 28

### 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Zsolnay Porcelain Exhibit Official Opening and reception

Art Gallery of Alberta - 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton

The exhibit will be open to the public from October 13 to 30, inclusive.

In total, 50 pieces of exquisite Zsolnay porcelain are visiting North America for the first time; the exhibit is valued at over 73 million Hungarian Forints/over \$340,000 Canadian dollars.

The history of Zsolnay porcelain is intertwined not only with that of a city rich in historical and cultural tradition and of an exceptionally talented family, but also of the whole of Hungary. The name of the Zsolnay Family and the depiction of the five towers after which the city was named in the Middle Ages have become known and recognized all across Europe and around the world during the periods when industry and commerce were not restrained by borders, and social and economic development were inspired by a desire for progress, and the uninhibited blossoming of culture and the arts. It was Miklós Zsolnay, a merchant, who set up the factory. His first request for permission was submitted to the Council of Pécs Free Royal City on 2 June 1852.



- Despite stiff competition, Edmonton was selected over other Canadian cities to receive this exclusive exhibit because of the comprehensive scale and wide variety of artistic disciplines during our 60th anniversary celebrations, as well as the depth of interest in our local community.
- Included in this exhibition are pieces made with the famous “Eosin” technique, which develops a special shine and color to the pieces by implementing a burning process following glazing.

Many consider Eosin artworks to be the most characteristic pieces among Zsolnay ceramics. The uniqueness is in the glaze, which includes a great variety of metal oxides that go through a complex reduction process during combustion. It can be said that each Eosin piece is unique and unrepeatable. Zsolnay Eosins are produced in a variety of colours, and they can be hand-painted, etched, or marbled – but each one is a masterpiece. The Eosin technique was developed by Vilmos Zsolnay in 1890 with the help of Lajos Petrik, director of the Budapest School of Applied Art, and Vince Wartha, professor at the Technical University. Its name comes from the Greek “eos” (dawn). Zsolnay has manufactured Eosin pieces since 1893; this dazzling, iridescent glaze and its chemical reaction are strictly guarded secrets. Around the turn of the century, the Art Nouveau movement re-ignited the interest in Eosin, thus encouraging the creation of beautiful pieces in the hands of such artists as Sándor Apáti Abt, Lajos Mack, Géza Nikelszky, and József Rippl-Ronay.

The official opening of the exhibit will be by

Dr. Peter Hoppal, Secretary of State for Culture, Government of Hungary.  
Champagne Reception (Hungaria Grande Cuvée Dry champagne and Hors d'oeuvres )

Related program to the Zsolnay Exhibition:

### 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Film Screening and Q&A with the Director at Metro Cinema The Lover of the Soil (2010)

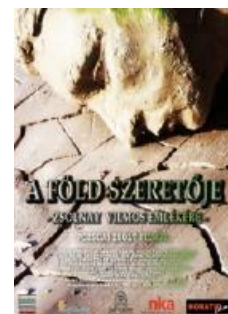


Director: Zsolt Pozsgai

Writer: Zsolt Pozsgai (screenplay)

Stars: Áron Öze, Gábor Koncz, László Görög

- Following the film, a Q&A and discussion featuring Director Zsolt Pozsgai will take place in the lobby; Hungarian wines will be available.



Zsolt Pozsgai is a Hungarian freelance writer, playwright, stage- and film director, and film producer. Born in Pécs, in South Hungary, in 1960, Pozsgai became a writer in his early teenage years, and, at the age of 14, he was already directing an independent amateur theatre company in Pécs, where he completed his secondary education.

Pozsgai's first featured theatrical play, titled *Horatio*, was a great success.

Pozsgai has worked in numerous theatres. Nearly all of the theatres in Hungary have programmed one of his dramas, many of which were also directed by him. He is also a screenplay writer and a very successful film director. He has also written and directed many television films. He is frequently invited to be a member of the jury at international festivals abroad, held primarily in the Middle and Far East. Pozsgai is the chairman of the drama division of the Association of Hungarian Writers. He frequently publishes articles and reports in Hungarian periodicals.

### **Friday, October 28, continued:**

#### **4:00 – 10:00 p.m. - Hungarian Wine and Food Festival, Day 2**

Chateau Lacombe Hotel - 10111 Bellamy Hill NW, Edmonton

Hungarian wines from five different wine-growing regions are paired with fine Hungarian cuisine prepared by Chef Zsolt Varga (of the Hungarian Embassy in Ottawa).

As a special feature of the Wine and Food Festival:

#### **7:30 – 9:00 p.m. - Presentation by John Szabo, Canada's first Master Sommelier**

Master Sommelier John Szabo was the first Canadian to add the "MS" after his name in 2004. He's seen the hospitality business from all sides including cooking and washing dishes, serving and sommellerie, importing, teaching, writing, photographing, speaking, emceeing, consulting and judging wine internationally. He was listed as "Canada's best-known sommelier" in *Meininger's Wine Business International*.

John is a partner and principal critic for *WineAlign.com*, Canada's largest wine publication, and wine columnist for *Ricardo*, *ModaLina*, and *CityBites Magazines*. He writes occasionally for US-based *Wine & Spirits Magazine*, and has published in dozens of other magazines and newspapers. His books include *Pairing Food and Wine For Dummies* (Wiley, December 2012), and *Sommelier Management* (Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers, Revised Edition 2013). But volcanoes are John's current fatal attraction. His latest book, *Volcanic Wines, Salt, Grit and Power*, will be published in September 2016.

John also consults on restaurant beverage programs, from small neighborhood operations to national chains. He counts Toronto's Pearson International Airport, the Trump International Hotel and Tower Toronto and the National Arts Centre among many past clients. And to get closer to the land, he is a partner in the small J&J Eger vineyard in Hungary.

(from John Szabo's website <http://www.johnszabo.com/about>. Photos also available on this site.)

### **Saturday, October 29**

#### **10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - KMKT meeting and KCsP Conference**

Hungarian Hall, 12845 – 68 Street, Edmonton

Attended by Dr. Peter Szilagyi, Deputy State Secretary for National Policy

## Saturday, October 29 continued

### 6:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. Annual Csárdás Ball.

Chateau Lacombe Hotel - 10111 Bellamy Hill NW, Edmonton

The 49th annual “Csárdás Ball” is the Canadian Hungarian Cultural Society's annual 'Black Tie Affair' where Hungarian culture is showcased through Alberta talent.

Guests are greeted with a champagne reception, followed by a four-course dinner, fine wine, and music. The Ball opens with the dance of the traditional Palotás. A 'big-band' ballroom dance follows.

This year's special performance will be by the Csillagszemű Ensemble.

The Csillagszemű (Starry-Eyed) Dance Ensemble is one of the most prestigious folk dance groups in Hungary. They regularly perform at the Hungarian Dance-Performers Gala in the Opera House and they take part at prestigious dance festivals and events. The Ensemble was awarded in 1998 with the Hungarian Heritage Prize and in 2003 with the European Dance Prize.

The Csillagszemű represents Hungary all over the world, including performance tours in Europe, New Zealand, Japan, and India just to name a few.

Sándor Timár, choreographer, has received several awards including the Artist of the Nation Award. His wife, Böske Timár established the dance ensemble in 1993, which is unique in Hungary and Europe. The ensemble counts some 750 children among its members, with the youngest being 3 years old. The Csillagszemű Dance Ensemble teaches dance through workshops in which children learn their native folk dances.

Proceeds from the ball support the Society's Kodály Scholarship, which is usually awarded to a young, musically gifted Albertan, to study at the Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music in Kecskemet, Hungary.

The organizing committee makes every effort to make this event memorable to all their guests.



## Sunday, October 30

### 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. - Movie Screening at Metro Cinema Love (“Szerelem”, 1971)

Director: Károly Makk

Writers: Péter Bacsó, Tibor Déry (novel)

Stars: Lili Darvas, Mari Töröcsik, Iván Darvas

“Love is a Hungarian film directed by Károly Makk, based on writings by Tibor Déry an author who was a political prisoner. It screened at the 1971 Cannes Film Festival where it received the Jury Prize. It was also selected in 2000 as one of the Budapest 12 a list of the 12 best Hungarian films.

The film is set in the early 1950s, an era of political persecution under Mátyás Rákosi, in which many Hungarians were imprisoned or executed. The story follows the deep bond shared between two women, Luca (Mari Töröcsik) the young wife of Janos, a political prisoner, and her ailing and bed ridden mother in law (Lili Darvas). Luca does not know the whereabouts of Janos or even if he is still alive, yet she still visits her mother in law daily, bringing flowers and cookies and 'gifts' from Janos to cheer her spirits. She protects her from the truth by writing letters pretending to be Janos, who supposed to be busy in America making films.

Many of the scenes in the film are interrupted with rapidly cut images of flashbacks, memories and thoughts that cleverly allow us into the minds of the characters and provide an interesting layer of insight into their relationship. Some of these images suggest that perhaps deep down inside, Janos' mother really does know the truth, but is happier to play along with the ruse than to accept it. Both the performances here from Lili Darvas and Mari Töröcsik (who is quickly becoming one of my favorite actresses) are amazingly believable and presented with a subtle touch that keeps the film from becoming too sentimental or bleak despite the heavily emotional and political themes.

Makk has created a brilliantly powerful film that both captures the sense of dread that comes from living under a totalitarian regime; and expresses the feelings and plight of his characters in a perfectly poetic way, all without resorting to any heavy handed preaching.” (Bonjour Tristesse).

