

European Day of Jewish Culture 2013 in Belgrade

Article by Branko Snap, President of the B'nai B'rith Lodge Serbia

For the seventh time, the B'nai B'rith Lodge of Serbia organized and funded the celebration of the European Day of Jewish Culture. This year it was a concert given by the Jewish Chamber Orchestra and the Serbian-Jewish Choral Society of Baruch Brothers.

The Jewish Chamber Orchestra was founded in 2012 by Professor Ladislav Mezei in cooperation with the B'nai B'rith Lodge Serbia of which he is a member. The orchestra members are Jewish professional musicians and their friends. The orchestra is established with the aim to show to its environment the music of Jewish and non-Jewish composers who wrote on Jewish themes. Performances are related to the tradition, culture and history of the Jewish community of Serbia as part of Jewish Europe.

The Serbian-Jewish Choral Society Baruch Brothers from Belgrade was founded by the Jewish Community of Belgrade in 1879 as the Serbian Jewish Choral Society. After the Second World War, in 1952, the society renewed its work, adding to its name the memory of the three brothers from the Baruch family from Belgrade who perished in the Holocaust. It is believed to be the oldest active Jewish choir in the world, constantly performing both at home and abroad.

This year's concert was given at the Kolarac University, Belgrade's most prestigious concert hall. It was attended by over 800 people including the representatives of the Republic of Serbia, City of Belgrade, foreign embassies, celebrities and other public figures. All of the concerts have been free of charge.

Members of other lodges of B'nai B'rith Europe can enjoy this concert by watching the video hereunder

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UVDzRd6jdo>