

PRESS RELEASE

Concert by Blla-Blla-Blla... in Ydrogeios

A very interesting concert of the Skopian ethno-jazz-rock band **Blla-Blla-Blla...** is taking place **at Ydrogeios on Thursday, 3 April at 9:00 p.m.** The concert is offered by the **Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe** (CDRSEE) at the occasion of the "Reconciling for the Future" conference which is taking place in Thessaloniki from 3 - 6 April 2003. The concert is open to the general public and the entrance is free. Seat reservation is recommended (Ydrogeios 516517).

The **Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe** is bringing **Blla-Blla-Blla...** to Thessaloniki with the aim to demonstrate the common cultural elements as well as the beauty of the differences between the Balkan peoples and with a firm belief in the power of music and its role, and that of the arts in general, in the reconciliation process between peoples. Two of **Blla-Blla-Blla...**'s members are of Albanian background and the other two of Slav background.

Blla- Blla - Blla... was initially formed as a punk group in 1988. At the time, the band played in various clubs in Skopje and Pristina. One of the best known concerts was at the **New Rock** Festival in Qubqana in 1990. The recording of this concert was issued together with the **No Name Nation** band, and published by the French record label **Tian An Men 89** in the year 2000. In the past 5 years, after acquiring a violin player, the band changed its sound completely and this new style is now known as the "**Oversky Balkanische ReForm**".

A CD with their new music was recorded in 1999 (Bagi music) and after that many concerts followed in various venues and festivals in FYROM and its neighbouring countries including the Caravan Festival in FYROM, the BBC Rhythm and Pop Festival in Tirana, Albania and Kalimi I Urave in Pec, Kosovo. Currently the band is working on a new album to be released shortly.

The line-up is:

- Idriz Ameti - lead singer
- Ermal Skupi - violin
- Vlatko Janevski - bass
- Dimitar Petrov - percussion

For more information, call Helen Kontos, United World Music Management, at 2310-224093 or 6945-382478