

EVA

**SHOWS YOU ALL THAT IS GOOD ABOUT
BUDAPEST**

E V A

Eva is Hungary's premier solo recording artist.

Born in Budapest, Eva won a talent contest at the age of sixteen which led to her being invited to join a group called "The Newton Family". The group soon established itself as one of Hungary's leading bands.

In 1983, Eva won the "Yamaha Song Festival", resulting in TV and live appearances throughout the world.

Eva participated as the frontwoman of the Newton Family at the Seoul Song Festival in 1986, and won the Best Outstanding Performance award.

The idea of making an Olympic song with Leslie Mándoky, the star of "Ghenghis Khan", was born here. This song was released in Korea in 1987. It was performed by Eva and Leslie at a huge concert to mark the opening of Olympic year.

1987 and 1988 are proving to be the most successful years so far for Eva. Her latest national number one, "Hot French", is written and produced by Scotsman Bob Heatlie and ensures her place as a firm favourite with the public in Hungary. The track is also featured on her second solo album, entitled "Blue Glasses". The album has been in the Top 10 for three months, reaching the number one position for one month.

It was also Bob Heatlie who wrote "Clap your hands for Mikhail Gorbachev" for Eva. Although criticised by the Press, it has met with public success in Hungary. It was also released in Holland and an accompanying video made in Amsterdam. Part of the song was broadcast on the BBC Six O'clock News on June 3rd, 1988. The release of "OK Gorbachev" is being prepared for many European countries.

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I really like Budapest a lot. I think that the magic of the city is that the Danube — this poetic river — divides it neatly in two. Pest is on the left side and Buda is on the right, and the two parts make a complete geographic and architectural balance. If I were to guide you around Budapest, and you had plenty of spare-time — but who's got plenty of time for anything these days? — then I'd take you to the castle first.

In the first picture (No. 1 slide) you can see Matthias Church. The history of the Matthias Church (Church of Our Lady) has been so entwined with that of Buda that it has virtually become the symbol of it. The medieval church was built before 1255 and has been reconstructed several times since. It became the Hungarian Kings' custom to appear first in state before the people of the capital Buda in this church, except the last two kings, who were crowned here. The building is a work of art in itself, but a few minutes spent walking around the area makes it an unforgettable experience. It's a romantic place. If we step out to the Fisherman's Bastion, which is in front of the church, then we can take a look down at the slender bridges spanning the Danube.

(No. 2. slide) I like Chain bridge most of all. It always reminds me of a ballet dancer. The Chain Bridge was the Hungarian capital's first permanent stone bridge. It was designed by Englishman William Clark and built by Adam Clark between 1839 and 1849. The Chain Bridge was one of the greatest technical achievements of its age. The Castle is only a few minutes walking distance from here.

(No. 3. slide) The neo-Baroque Royal Palace was built between 1714 and 1723, but since then it was enlarged several times up until the beginning of the 20th Century. Almost all of the Hungarian kings lived here. Nowadays you can find the Hungarian National Gallery and the National Széchenyi Library here. Let me have just a small personal digression.

(No. 4 slide) This lattice-work gate, through which one enters the Castle, is very close to my heart. It featured in the video that was made for the Seoul Olympics and probably I grew so fond of it during shooting. You can see the Parliament building over on the Pest from here, but I think it's more interesting to go down there and take a closer look.

(No. 5 slide) The neo-Gothic Parliament building has become a symbol of Budapest. It was constructed between 1884 and 1902 to the design of Imre Steindl. This is where the Hungarian legislature sits and where the Prime Minister works. Parliament is quite a famous building, but it's best known to me for the big celebration each Christmas when lots of children are invited here. A huge Christmas tree is brought from very far away.

I was once invited when I was a child, and I remember being very frightened of going up the big steps and through the huge entrance. Let me show you this entrance. (No. 6 slide)

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