

William Penn Association
a Premier Fraternal Life Insurance and Annuities Company
proudly presents

RAJKÓ Hungarian Gypsy Orchestra from Budapest

A European tradition in folk and classical music at its best

“Ferenc [Franz] Liszt and His Beloved Gypsy Music”

A Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Liszt



The world famous RAJKÓ Orchestra has toured most Continents of the World with unprecedented success. They have performed in North America on many occasions and this year's Tour marks their long awaited return. Performances will feature an eight member orchestra with traditional instruments producing the “Authentic Gypsy music” sound of the 19th and 20th Centuries. Franz [Ferenc] Liszt was greatly influenced by the music of the Hungarian Gypsy orchestras of the 19th Century; he incorporated many tunes in his compositions. The concert will include traditional folk music, classical masterpieces and old evergreen favorites, presented in a style which can only be heard in Budapest. Every performer is a highly skilled master of his instrument and the orchestra members have played together for decades, assuring a perfect ensemble sound.

“A concert to be attended and not to be forgotten.”

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 7:30 PM

Our Lady of Hungary Church, Montreal

90 rue Guizot Ouest, Montreal, QC, H2P 1L4

Reservations and information: 514-273-1318 ~ email: magyar@magyar.org

Admission: \$20 [Students under 16, \$ 10]

www.rajko.hu

RAJKÓ Hungarian Gypsy Orchestra from Budapest

The world famous **Rajkó Orchestra** offers a unique musical experience and is comprised of highly skilled Gypsy musicians who have been rigorously trained at its legendary music school in Budapest, Hungary. The school, together with the orchestra was established in 1952 and it specifically recruited talented young persons with Roma backgrounds and trained them in the traditions of Central European Gypsy style music. However, the students were also offered a classical musical training, shaping them to be exceptional performers. "Rajkó" means "young Roma" and, in fact, it is an appropriate name for the students at the school. The exceptional artistic standards of the "Rajkós" are unique in that they preserve a musical tradition, which is rooted in improvisation, an essential ingredient to their virtuosity.

The **Rajkó Orchestra's** 2011 Tour consists of eight exceptional musicians, with a line-up consistent with the classical form of a Gypsy orchestra: Two lead violinists, called the "Primás", second violin, viola, cimbalom, clarinet, cello and double bass. These instruments assure the authentic sound of the much loved and admired "Gypsy music" of the 19th and 20th Centuries. The incredible range of their repertoire covers many genres from classical to folk music, and from operettas to gypsy music. As an added benefit, this year marks the 200th anniversary of birth of Franz Liszt, who loved Gypsy music and based several of his famous compositions on this style. In the performance of the **Rajkó Orchestra** we may hear the very same music Liszt adored.

The great achievements of the **Rajkó Orchestra** include highly successful tours throughout Europe, North and South America, Australia, and the Far East where they have repeatedly excited and thrilled audiences. Recently they were invited twice to perform in the Vatican for the Pope and at the European Congress of the Pastoral Care for Gypsies. They have frequently appeared on national and international television and radio, and also have a number of critically acclaimed recordings to their names.

The William Penn Association Celebrates its 125th Year of Service to Members

The William Penn Association was founded on February 21, 1886 in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, by thirteen Hungarian coal miners. The goal of the founders was to extend a helping hand to each other and to the many Hungarian immigrants who worked and suffered in the mines and industrial centers of America at a period in its history when insurance of any sort was still in the far away future. With no sick benefits, no unemployment compensation, and no death benefits for their families, and with the immigrants being maimed and killed by the thousands in the ever-recurring industrial accidents, they had no other recourse but to turn to each other for help. This is how fraternalism was born in America and prompted the thirteen founders to establish the Association.

Today the William Penn Association stands as the unrivaled major Hungarian fraternal society in America. Its goals are to provide benefits to its members and their beneficiaries; to provide housing for its elderly and disabled members; to render other fraternal services to those (including scholarships for their children); and to aid in the preservation of Hungarian culture and Hungarian ideals in this great land of America. While the Society exists to promote and support the study of Hungarian culture, to unite American Hungarians and to perpetuate the language of the homeland, one does not have to be of Hungarian descent to join the society.

**To learn more about the William Penn Association
visit [/www.willampennassociation.org](http://www.willampennassociation.org) or call 1-800-848-7366**

The tour was made possible through support from the Balassi Intézet (Institute) of Budapest (bbi.hu)