



Serbian bachelor Milovan (right) walks along the rail track on the border with a friend; he's on his way to meet his future wife in Albania.

Manjola leaves her home in Albania to make her way to a new fiancé. Photos: Sanja Jovanović



Picturing family matters

A photo **exhibition from south east Europe:** pictures tell thousands of words and travel further

Young Serbian women leave the country and move to the big cities in search of a job. Meanwhile, for the men left behind, it's becoming harder and harder to find a wife willing to live on the land with them. This has seen a lucrative business arise: marriage brokers. These professionals find Serbian men wives from Albania, usually women who are themselves looking for a better life abroad. Serbian photographer Sanja Jovanović (née Knežević) recently followed the marriage brokers around as they did deals. Her photo essay, Family Matters,

shows people, driven by personal hardship, crossing borders into what was once an enemy country. In 2010, Jovanović took part in a photography master class for snappers working in south eastern Europe; it was sponsored by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and World Press Photo. The photographers then produced visual reports on neighboring countries that offered new perspectives on changing circumstances.



See all of the photo essays and find out more about the exhibition online: www.seenewperspectives.com



An engagement party follows a successful cross-border marriage deal.

Lasting allure of a Balkan melody

A grant allows film maker Stefan Schwietert to investigate the **music behind the Iron Curtain**

His film tells of the passion of a Swiss couple, the Celliers, for the music of eastern Europe. During the Cold War era, between 1950 and 1990, they made intrepid trips to Romania and Bulgaria, collecting music that, until then, was completely unknown in the west. Marcel Cellier was actually traveling in eastern Europe as a heavy metals buyer. But his savvy ear for music had also allowed him to master numerous instruments and he developed a love of certain kinds of music. "I only ever had one thing on my mind and that was to capture the beauty of this music," Cellier says. "And to experience the emotionality in music that can move you to tears." Through countless radio broadcasts and millions of record sales, Marcel Cellier brought his music collection to an international audience. He also launched musicians like the Roma-

nian pan pipe virtuoso, Gheorghe Zamfir, and the legendary female choir, Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares (also known as the Bulgarian State Television Female Vocal Choir) on their paths to fame.

Retracing steps in eastern Europe

In 2008, thanks to a Border Crossers grant from the Robert Bosch Stiftung, filmmaker Stefan Schwietert was able to retrace the steps of Marcel and Catherine Cellier in eastern Europe, with the aim of seeking out their musical heroes and reviving an interest in their rich and varied musical taste. The contrast between the encounters now and in the past makes for a fascinating piece; it reveals the changes that have taken place, in people and in their surroundings, while also emphasizing the immortality of song. With more than a million record sales

to his name, Zamfir still plays the pan pipes today, teaching at a music school in Bucharest. The voices of the Bulgarian women, whose career began in tiny mountain villages and who performed on the great stages of Europe and America, are still incredibly powerful today - although it does feel as though they have passed their heyday. And folk musicians Ioan Pop and Dumitru Farcas give vivid descriptions of the role the communist state played in supporting as well as controlling local musicians. Stefan Schwietert contrasts archive footage with contemporary reports and the music is beautifully showcased. As Schwietert puts it: "the film tells a great love story, that of Marcel and Catherine Cellier, as well as their lifelong passion for the music of eastern Europe."

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Border Crossers

The Robert Bosch Stiftung funds research trips by writers, filmmakers and radio broadcasters to the countries of central and eastern Europe and North Africa. Over 220 writers have benefited from a Border Crossers grant since 2004, among them winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature Herta Müller. The work of the Border Crossers aims to encourage dialog and mutual understanding between cultures. www.bosch-stiftung.de/grenzgaenger

