



LAVRIN DIPLOMA FOR 2022

is awarded to

LUDWIG HARTINGER

The **Slovenian Association of Literary Translators** confers this year's **Lavrin Diploma** to **LUDWIG HARTINGER**, a renowned Austrian translator and mediator of Slovenian literature to German-speaking countries. The Lavrin Diploma is an award given annually for a high-quality translation oeuvre of Slovenian literature, humanities and social sciences into foreign languages and for invaluable contribution towards promoting Slovenian literature abroad.

Austrian translator, essayist, poet and editor Ludwig Hartinger was inspired to start learning Slovenian and translating from it by a book of French translations of poet Srečko Kosovel which he accidentally stumbled upon in Paris while living there. Kosovel's line "razpokan bodeš hrepenel" charmed him and the Slovenian word 'tolmun' (river pool)—which has no equivalent in German—only deepened his love for the Slovenian language because it took him back to his childhood mindscape in Saalfelden on the 'Sea of Stones'. A life-long connection and commitment was born between poet and translator; it is thanks to Hartinger and his rare talent for language and poetry that Srečko Kosovel became known and valued also in German-speaking countries. To commemorate the centenary of Kosovel's birth, Hartinger and Aleš Berger co-edited the monograph *Icarus's Dream* (2004) on the poet's work and life for Mladinska Knjiga publishing house, and later also Kosovel's *Selected Letters* (2006) and *Selected Prose* (2008).

Ludwig Hartinger has written works in both Slovenian and German. He is one of those translators of Slovenian literature, especially of Slovenian poetry, who has mastered the language to the extent that he is able to transpose—or 'smuggle'—Slovenian texts into German authentically and subtly by considering all linguistic, rhythmic, and other special features. In addition to translating Srečko Kosovel, Hartinger has also made outstanding

translations of poets Tomaž Šalamun, Dane Zajc, Svetlana Makarovič, Aleš Debeljak, Maja Vidmar, Boris A. Novak, Esad Babačić, and Aleš Šteger. In addition, he has translated such authors as Pierre Reverdy and Fiston Mwanza Mujila from French into German.

Since 1985, Ludwig Hartinger has been an editor with prominent Austrian publishing houses such as Müller Verlag and Edition Thanhäuser, formerly also with Wieser publishing house. He has been publishing the book series RanitzDrucke and is on the editorial board of the distinguished journal *Literatur und Kritik*. An active and tireless literary intermediary, Hartinger has made many translations and presentations of Slovenian authors in German-speaking countries happen. He lives between Salzburg, Saalfelden and Karst where he roams around and “is remembered by his solitary walks, a silk shawl and a worn briefcase he always carries around”—thus Drago Jančar describes “the word smuggler”, the protagonist of his story *Avestina*, who can easily be identified as the unmistakable Hartinger’s alter ego.

This year’s Lavrin Diploma recipient has previously received the Pretnar Award for his contributions as an ambassador of Slovenian culture and literature abroad in 2004 and in the same year also the Central-European-Initiative-Prize for his work as a literary intermediary. At the 28th Vilenica International Literary festival 2013, the title ‘Honorary Guest’ was granted for the first time to writer Boris Pahor and also to Ludwig Hartinger, the long-lasting supporter and visitor of the festival and also the recipient of the so-called ‘Vilenica Teardrop’, the unofficial Vilenica recognition, in 1989. Indeed, Hartinger has been a faithful visitor and collaborator of the Vilenica festival since 1986, and has been on the festival jury since 2007. Finally, it is in this year that Hartinger will turn 70.

With his poetry translations and with his own poetry, Ludwig Hartinger “travels through time, through words, *a road runs white through confluence and shading*, a wanderer, a literary drifter roams the landscape, the landscape of the world, the landscape of undergrowth, the landscape of slopes, the landscape of words, the landscape of word sounds, the landscape of word images,” writes Jančar. For his excellent translations done with great sensibility and reflecting extensive knowledge of both source and target languages and cultures, for his highly professional and precise translation work, and for his tireless endeavors to make Slovenian

literature and culture better known in German-speaking countries, the Slovenian Association of Literary Translators awards this year's Lavrin Diploma to Ludwig Hartinger.