

Cormons

Music to the ears

Encouraged by the cultural association *Mittleuropa*, Cormons, a city of 7 500 inhabitants in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region of Italy, invited its twinning partners from Austria, Germany, Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovenia to take part in a conference on music led by eminent experts on a range of musical styles and disciplines. Some 60 participants from the twinned towns attended the three-day conference in August 2002, which concluded in a concert attracting an audience of thousands.

It was an opportunity for towns — such as Tokaj (Hungary), Friesach (Austria) and Brda (Slovenia) — who have established a long relationship based on their common interests in viticulture to discover what they share beyond their economic activities. The theme of this conference reflected the unifying effect that music — truly a common language — has on all nationalities, despite their different native tongues. The participants, many of whom were speakers of minority languages, were able to unite around the musical heritage that has bound Europeans from time immemorial.

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