



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Minister

Zagreb, January 12, 2016.

Honourable Mr Vaizey,

the news that David Bowie, one of the biggest global icons of modern music, art and culture, has passed away has deeply moved us. On behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and myself please accept our sincere condolences.

The music of David Bowie has left a deep mark both in Croatian culture and literature. Many Croatian musicians and authors are beholden to his innovative, evocative and unique works of art. The versatility and unpredictability of this visionary artist, who with every new album pushed the boundaries of worldwide music production has influenced many generations. Throughout his fifty year career he touched on many musical styles whilst at the same time creating numerous unique visual and musical alter - egos such as Ziggy Stardust, Aladdin Sane and Thin White Duke.

The Croatian public had the privilege to see him perform during two music tours, Sound & Vision, when he performed in September 1990 at a full Maksimir stadium and the Earthling tour in 1997 at Dom Sportova.

His 26 studio albums, amongst which is his last *Blackstar*, released on his birthday, 8 January, a fascinating artistic last will and testimony of Bowie's music, are now public possession of world culture and art. Conceptual albums such as *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars*, *Station to Station*, *Low*, *Hunky Dory*, music co-operations with John Lennon, Brian Eno, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop as well as numerous anthological parts in films including *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, *Merry Christmas*, *Mr. Lawrence*, *Labyrinth* and *Prestige*, in fact with everything he has done, David Bowie has left us a permanent inheritance that evokes a deep gratitude for the fact that we have been privileged to live in the same era in which he was creating and through which he made the world and time a better place.

David Bowie was truly *The Man Who Fell to the Earth*, a Starman whose star will never cease to shine.

Yours sincerely,

Minister
Berislav Šipuš