



Welcome address
by Boris Kochan

So, it will be on a summer's night when his *Never Ending* Tour resumes. He, the shy one, might then be standing somewhere in a corner of the castle - supposedly inconspicuous, most certainly undetected. He who has defied any categorisation, he who reliably disappointed all sorts of expectations, he who consistently refuses to accept the current versions of reason.

In her song *Diamonds and Rust* Joan Baez recalls buying him a pair of "Cufflinks" – and refers to his "bluer than robin's eggs" eyes: Bob Dylan, however, has never worn and still does not wear cuffs links, although he probably still does before public appearances.

But how much freedom does the most successful songwriter of all times possess? As someone who not only won an Oscar but who was also awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for "new poetic creations in the great American song tradition"? As someone, who plays multiple instruments and furthermore has made his mark as a drawer, painter and sculptor? His "Never Ending Tour" constituting of over 4,000 concerts since 1988 is now scheduled to hit Upper Franconia - once again a location away from the mainstream displaying the past's charm with an outlook to the future.

Knockin 'on Heaven's Door- freedom and hope can hardly be expressed more beautifully than with Bob Dylan's legendary folk song from 1973: As such, I wish Dylan's 80th birthday exhibition outstanding – Heaven's door opening - success!

Boris Kochan