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Interview with the star of the opening ceremony: CeeLo Green

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They say the opening ceremony of the 17th FINA World Championships will offer a unique experience for visitors concerning the visuals and the sound as well. Hundreds of artists performing on a floating stage as well as and numerous visual elements will guarantee that the opening ceremony of the greatest sporting event in the history of Hungary taking place at 9 p.m. on 14 July will be one-of-a-kind experience. Performers include five-time Grammy winner American singer, songwriter and producer CeeLo Green. We managed to talk to the renowned figure in R'n'B, soul and rap right before his trip to Budapest to ask him about his plans, experience with Hungary and relationship to sport.

This won't be the first time you visit Hungary. What are your impressions about the Hungarian audience so far?

You are right, I have performed in Hungary a couple of times before. In my experience Hungarians are highly enthusiastic, show their appreciation and know how to get out and enjoy life. This is something we have in common. The audience can maximize energy so much that it is easy to give back.

What is your opinion about our capital city, Budapest?

In fact I haven't yet had the opportunity to look around really. Every time I was here I had to move on. The last time I was here I was in the car in the evening and I had to drive all the way to Croatia. I had the opportunity to dine in a great restaurant in the city centre and it was fun.

Will you have a bit more time now?

I will be arriving a day before the show to adjust. My fiancée is joining me this time and she has some ideas about what she would like to see in the city.

Concerning the venues the 17th FINA World Championships will be quite special since the host cities will be involved in staging competitions. In addition to the capital city, fans may cheer their favourites in Balatonfüred, a city by the „Hungarian sea”, also. Have you ever been there?

Unfortunately, I have not yet had the opportunity to travel there but I hope I will.

Do you like doing or watching sport?

Honestly, when I was a kid I was really into sport. I used to play football for a while. Then I started to become more serious about my plans with music and I hardly had any time for sport. Still I think sport is important because it teaches you what team spirit is and energizes you completely. Of course, I like watching sport on tv.

Have you ever attended a major international tournament?

No, never.

How often do you tour Europe?

I am glad to say I have a lot of concerts on the continent.

Are you coming alone this time or your band is joining you?

Due to the short time period and the nature of the program my musicians are not coming with me now. It would have been difficult to organise their travel. I have agreed with the organisers to perform alone. I will sing two songs.

The event on Friday is promising to be quite remarkable also because performances will be held on a floating stage. Have you ever performed in similar settings?

Wow. This sounds amazing. I have never done anything like that before.

Why did you decide to accept the invitation and travel to Budapest to sing?

Recently I have been to Budapest as a participant at Gumball Rally. We got to the city late and I was thinking how cool it would be to return here someday. Upon arriving home my agency informed that I had received an invitation to perform in Budapest. It was great pleasure and honour for me, in light of what I have just mentioned about my recent experiences it was not a question if I accept it.