

# ANALYSIS OF SLOVENIAN SONGBOOKS AND REDESIGN OF THE SCOUT SONGBOOK

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## Introduction



The need arose to create a new scout songbook to improve content and design, mirroring the existing songbook "Strune do lune".

The scout songbook "Strune do lune" required a redesign in terms of content and graphics, which necessitated the creation of a new visual product. The visual appearance creates the first interaction between the user and the publication, which emphasises the content and entices the reader to engage with it. Like any printed material, a songbook needs to be attractive and recognisable.

We have designed a new songbook entitled "Melodije do galaksije", which contains songs and their corresponding chords. When designing the songbook, it was important to place the chords correctly above the lyrics to make it easier to accompany them with an instrument (e.g. a guitar). As the content and text must be aesthetically arranged and logically structured – e.g. to ensure that a song is not continued to the next page – we looked for the best possible solution.

The aim was to create a coherent visual identity for the new Scout songbook and to design its layout to be both a design upgrade and a mirror image of the existing songbook.

## Results & Discussion



The songbook "Strune do lune" has a 148 × 210 mm portrait format, with 224 pages. The songbook is softbound and stitched. The songs are divided into four chapters. The chapters are indicated at the top of each page with a more significant, centred title and a black rectangle on the outer right-hand margin indicates the chapter names. On some pages, the songs extend beyond the mirror of the page. The pagination is in the bottom right corner (Figure 1 – above). The Segoe UI typeface was used for the lyrics. Its italic version is used for the choruses, while the bold version is used for the chords above the lyrics. The song titles are set in Penguin typeface, while the author's name is displayed in Courier New. The illustrations relate primarily to the content of the songs they accompany and are placed in places that would otherwise remain blank.

The songbook belongs to the scouts with blue and green scarves; therefore, this combination appears on the cover. The front cover is decorated with various elements that represent the scouts. The title is written in AR Berkley font. The chapters begin on the recto pages immediately after the previous chapter's songs end, with no blank pages in between. Some songs continue on the next page, so the pages must be turned (Figure 1 – below).

We kept the portrait format for the new songbook "Melodije do galaksije" to ensure similarity and consistency. The main font, Source Sans Pro font, was selected, which has a high x-height, improves readability and has narrower characters compared to the other fonts. This results in shorter lines or verses that are easier to fit into the narrow text block. The font size has been left at 9 pt, while the line spacing has been increased from 10 to 11 pt. We have kept the italic version for the choruses to ensure adequate differentiation and the bold version for

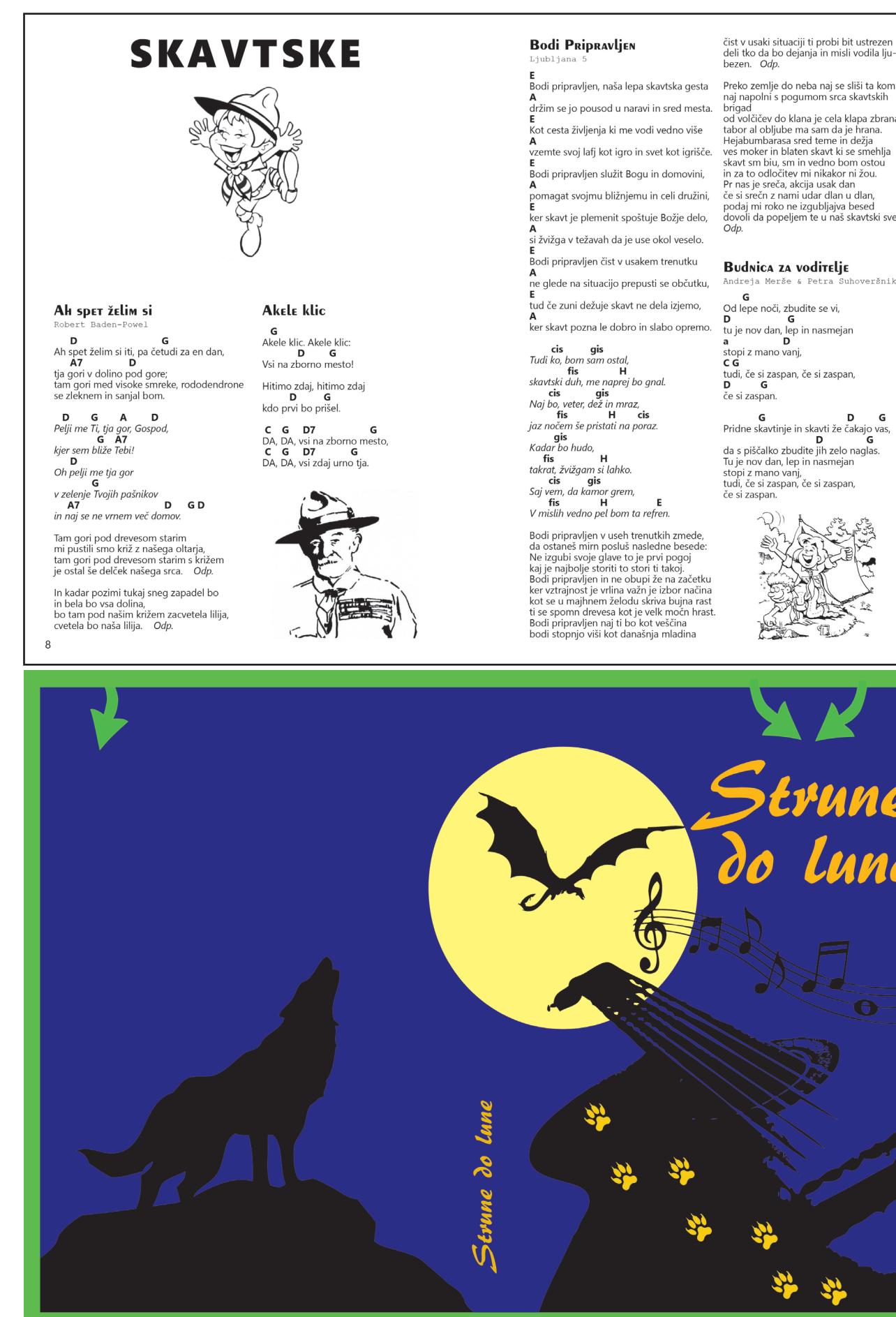


Figure 1

Beginning of a chapter (above) and cover (below) of the songbook "Strune do lune".

the chords, as these need to be easily recognisable. Once we had determined the font size and line spacing, we set up a baseline grid in Adobe InDesign, created several typical pages and used this as a basis for determining the size of the mirror of the page and its placement on the page. We ensured no song was split across multiple pages, so users did not have to turn pages when playing or singing.

The Museo Sans was selected for song titles due to its preferences: easy-to-read, reasonably geometric, strong font with low contrast. We used Museo Sans 700 for the songs and Museo Sans 900 for the chapter titles. The chapter titles were placed on the recto (left) pages, while the songs began on the verso (right) pages. We have retained the chapter indicator at the edge of the page but moved it to the outer edge of the sheet (Figure 2).

Most songbooks analysed use illustrations anywhere on the page to fill blank spaces between songs and enhance the page. We wanted to ensure that the new songbook's illustrations were stylistically consistent and original, primarily enhancing the theme rather than simply filling space. We decided to present the illustrations in the style of an animated book, where the illustrations create an animation by quickly turning the pages (Figure 3).

## Conclusion

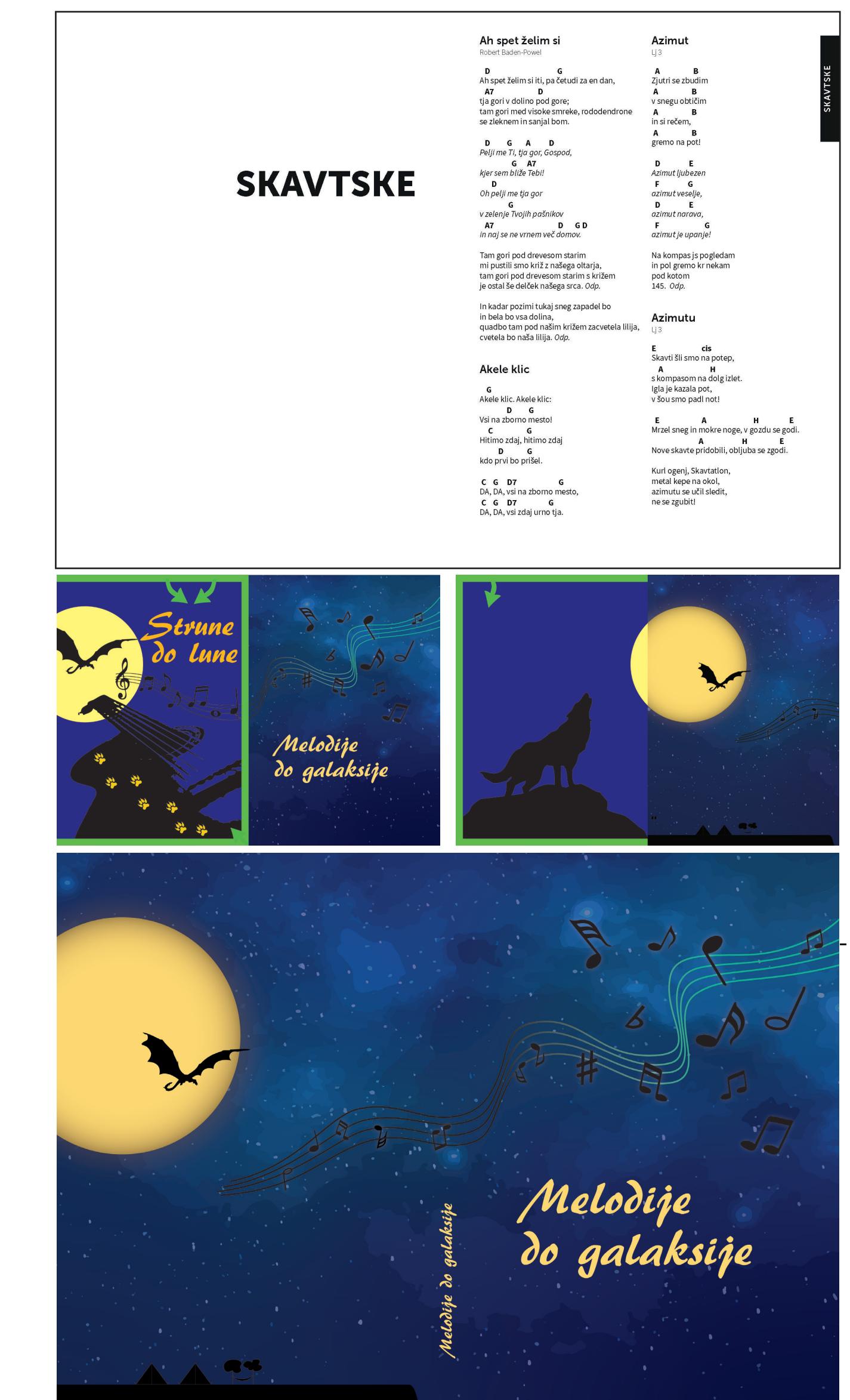


Figure 2

Beginning of a chapter (above) and cover (below) of the songbook "Melodije do galaksije".

<b>Uvodne pesmi</b>			
Bjelinski pome	28	Aleluja (Kozalica)	26
Kraljevski pome	26	Aleluja (Nade veselje)	26
Kraljevski pome	38	Aleluja (Trepška)	27
Mladost je kot vrah	38	Aleluja (Trepška)	27
Ode	47	Zahvalite se Gospodu vsi	27
Dopravljanje mostov	54	Zahvalite se Gospodu vsi	27
Prijetje z letom	63		
Prijetje z letom	72	Besedile izkliceni	28
Ti si ta bolj sveta	75	Gospod na te devere	35
Varih	75	K Tvojemu ustrijetu	39
Vsega dan razlogom	78	Predte stopan odee	40
Vse kar biva	78	Rat bi ti prinesel dar	62
<b>Gospod, usmilji se</b>	85	Svet	65
Gospod, spet sem tušek	85		70
Kyne	43		
<b>Slava</b>			
Slava Božji Gospod	66	Aleluja (Božji vitez)	36
Slavi Božji	67	Aleluja (Božji vitez)	42
Slavi ga	67	Svet	69
<b>Psalmi</b>			
Cakaljka (Zdravljica)	33	Jagnje božje	37
Dajte Gospodu čast	33	Obhalilne pesmi	28
Kakov je življenje	40		
Marijina hrvatska	46	Blagor. Čistinu vitez	29
Najboljši je Bog	50	Čistinu vitez	29
Pojte z meni	57	Brez brezec	31
Predte stopan odee	57	Čistinu vitez	31
Psalm 136 (Gospod je ohrbil)	64	Jesus, adoramus te	37
Psalm 136 (V rojem svetem temploju)	64	Jesus moj ljubljeni	38
Slava Božji Gospod	64	Jesus moj ljubljeni	38
Slavi Božji	67	Kralj vesolja	41
Slavi Božji	67	Kralj vesolja	41
Upaj, izreži!	73	Ko dvignem me	42
Vesolje nad svetloščem	76	Luc je za svet	42
Vesolje nad svetloščem	76	Najboljši vitez	49
Zahvalite se Gospodu vsi	80	Najboljši vitez	51
<b>Aleluja</b>			
Aleluja (Jaz boži vedeš hoči za teboj)	25	Poj lebemi	60
Aleluja (Zemra kritko je načrtala)	25	Nes vidiš	65
		Strešnjekoma	67

Figure 3

Illustrations for animated book and realisation on one page.

green and blue colours on the cover and includes unifying elements. However, the new font for the lyrics provides more space; custom illustrations add new dimensions to the songbook. We managed to avoid splitting songs across multiple pages, which has a good effect on the usability of the songbook. The goal of making "Melodije do galaksije" a design upgrade and, at the same time, a mirrored sequel of its predecessor has been achieved.