

Roberto Bongiovanni:

Purcell opera workshop in Krems

On the 18th of May, 2018, as part of the opera staging series¹ of the Kirchliche Pädagogische Hochschule (KPH) in Krems, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* was presented to the audience of the KPH concert hall. The rehearsals of the opera, which was to be performed on stage by students and lecturers of universities in five EU-countries (Freiburg, Riga, Campobasso, Szeged, Krems), started in January 2017 in a three-day workshop in Schloss Zeillern, Austria. As a result of the January workshop and the intensive learning process during the summer semester since March 2017, the musical piece has already been learnt to an extent to allow stage rehearsals with the orchestra and the conductor in May 2017.

During the rehearsals, particular attention was paid to properly learn to pronounce the English libretto; to synchronize the singing of the various parts together during choral rehearsals, and not only separately, significantly improving the intonation; as well as to vocal warm up aiming at dynamic variegation, with particular attention to the high-pitch piano and *mezza voce* vocal parts, which not only did facilitate the implementation of dynamic instructions, but it also improved the comprehension of the text. The soloists worked with special correpetitors, which meant a great deal of help in memorization, in addition to the technical learning of the vocal parts. The students designed and organized the stage work with their own individual creative ideas, and they mastered the elements of the stage technology they chose on a professional level (shadow play and prism technique); they produced their own costumes; but they also excelled in the activities of the organization of the public, as the 300-seat auditorium was crowded in the evening of the presentation. The students also presented historical dance pieces (*The Triumphant Dance, Echo Dance of Furies, The Witches' Dance*) for the choreography produced by KPH dance instructor Ines Pilz to accompany the three acts of the opera.

The internationality of the show was demonstrated by the fact that the following partner universities participated in the show in addition to KPH's students and teachers: Dace Bickovska (Music Academy, Riga) and Martin Heidecker (Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg) – *flute*; Bence Asztalos – *violin* and Elisabeth Dombi – *correpetitor*; Lilla Ballabás – *Dido*, Arnold Halász, Béla Göllönt, Mehmed Erman Mete, Ferenc Fésűs – *choir* (University of Szeged); Stefano Morgione – *viola*; Giovanni D'Aprile

¹ The last piece of the series was Hans Krása's *Brundibár* in March 2015. Conductor: Roberto Bongiovanni. About previous project cooperation of the participants can be read in: Bence Asztalos: „Promoting creativity and entrepreneurship through music, performance and cultural cooperation.” in: *Teorie a praxe Hudební výchovy IV.* (szerk. Zuzana Selčanová, Barbora Šobáňová, Lenka Kaščaková, Ena Stevanovic, Miloš Kodejška), Univerzita Karlova Praha, p. 223-229, and Bence Asztalos: „Musik kreativ+.” in: *Studia UBB Musica* 2015/2, Cluj-Napoca, p. 85-93.

– *hunting-horn*; Fernando Lepri – *guitar*; Roberto Bongiovanni (Conservatorio Campobasso) – *basso continuo*.

Prior to the one-hour opera presentation, the director of KPH, dr. Isabella Benischek greeted the audience and Leonora Donat, lecturer at the Department of Music, gave an introductory lecture. Before the overture of *Dido and Aeneas*, the students of KPH presented the Baroque and Blue movement from Claude Dolling's *Suite for Flute and Piano*, to provide the atmosphere and set the stage for the show by combining baroque and jazz elements in a variation form. Prior to the presentation, the local paper *NÖN-Krems* and *Módszertani közlemények* in Szeged published articles presenting the show.² The opera premier could be realized by means of a sponsorship by Weingut Hagmann and the Audio Art Krems.

² www.noen.at/krems/veranstaltungen/20-2017-alle-veranstaltungen-im-bezirk-krems/48.179.821 (21.05.2017)
Dombi Józsefné: "Purcell-workshop Schloss Zeillern-ben". in: Bácsi János (szerk.): *Módszertani közlemények*. SZTE JGYPK, 57. évf., 2017/1, p. 40-41

CAMPUS
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KIRCHLICHE
PÄDAGOGISCHE
HOCHSCHULE
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Dido & Aeneas

Oper in 3 Akten von Henry Purcell

Abendvorstellung

Donnerstag, **18.5.2017**, 19:00 Uhr

KPH Wien/Krems – Campus Krems-Mitterau
Dr. Gschmeidlerstraße 28, 3500 Krems

Als Solistinnen und Solisten, im Chor und Orchester wirken mit:
Studierende der KPH Wien/Krems, Campus Krems-Mitterau,
das Musikteam sowie Gäste von Erasmus Partner-Hochschulen

Eintritt frei, Spenden erbeten

References:

- Asztalos, Bence: „Promoting creativity and entrepreneurship through music, performance and cultural cooperation.” in: *Teorie a praxe Hudební výchovy IV.* (edit. Zuzana Selčanová, Barbora Šobáňová, Lenka Kaščáková, Ena Stevanovic, Miloš Kodejška), Univerzita Karlova Praha, p. 223-229
- Asztalos, Bence: „Musik kreativ+.” in: *Studia UBB Musica* 2015/2, Cluj-Napoca, p. 85-93.
- Dombi, Józsefné: “Purcell-workshop Schloss Zeillern-ben”. in: Bácsi János (edit.): *Módszertani közlemények.* SZTE JGYPK, 57. évf., 2017/1, p. 40-41
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