

Crescendo Summer Institute 2019

First week

In addition to solo lessons, we place great emphasis on community music at our master courses. This year, as always, we had a wonderful opportunity to play numerous masterpieces of special compositions. Both faculty and students volunteered to perform at the Crescendo Festival, providing the public a glimpse into the repertoire of various cultural backgrounds. Faculty of Crescendo Summer Institute gave an excellent concert at the synagogue, which has an amazing acoustics. They have performed pieces from Johann Sebastian Bach, Alfredo Casella, Claude Debussy, George Gershwin, Joseph Haydn, Ludwig August Lebrun. Bernard Le Monnier and his wife, both violin virtuosos, have performed a piece written by Le Monnier, for two violins, called “The Crossing”.

Our student have chosen Baroque, Romantic and mostly Modern pieces as the program of their concert and the audience in the great hall of the Tokaji Ferenc Highschool enjoyed solo and chamber music pieces performed by songs, on strings, woodwind, brass and guitars. The students played music composed by Ian Clarke, Gaetano Donizetti, Ruggiero Leoncavallo, Jacques Ibert, Pál Járdányi, Robert Muczynski, Astor Piazzola, Gilles Silvestrini, Richard Strauss, Georg Philipp Telemann and Andrew York.

Every year, the Creative Church plays an integral role at the crossroad of faith and art: the message of the Bible is told with the help of several branches of art. Interactive audience engagement allowed everyone to experience special experiences at the Reformed Church. Beat Rink, writer, theologian and founder-director of Crescendo International delivered the sermon. Through music, participants of Crescendo Summer Institute have served on Sunday at the Holy Mass and at the service in the Reformed Church. Churchgoers enjoyed music – amongst others – by Johann Sebastian Bach, Jorge Cardiff, Alphonse Hasselmans, Georg Friedrich Händel, Antonio Marcello, Antonio Vivaldi and Eugène-Auguste Ysaÿe.

At Crescendo Summer Institute, in addition to the professional program, we place great emphasis on preparing the younger generation for the challenges of artistic life. We start every day with a Tune-In and we end the day in small groups, discussing this year’s topic, which is “freedom”. There

is also possibility for personal conversations and pastoral care with the help of pastors, psychologists, theologians, trainers and coaches.

Participants of the Summer Institute take part in a special creating process in a wonderfully relaxed and a competition free environment. Through the many shared experiences new friendships, professional connections have been forged, and old ones have been renewed.

Second Week of Crescendo Summer Institute

Special program followed the full first week. The professional training was carried on through solo lessons, smaller chamber groups and practices of different ensembles. As an adventure in music history, Haydn's work was discovered on a deeper level. Apart from chamber pieces by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven – with the title “Where Viennese classics meet” – opera scenes were performed in the Synagogue on June 30. The following day the Crescendo Flute Orchestra gave an unusual concert at the Cultural and Conference Centre in Tokaj. “Dance like no one is watching” was the title of the joyous event; they played transcriptions of special symphonic orchestral works. The audience was able to enjoy the theme of the musical pieces in a tangible way: chocolate and refreshment was served during Tchaikovsky’s “Chocolate” from the Nutcracker suite. Moreover, they have had a chance to learn the basic steps to the saltarello during Mendelssohn’s Saltarello movement from the Italian Symphony. One of the highlights of Crescendo Festival was the programme called ‘The Cross’, where concertgoers heard extracts from Stabat Mater by Pergolesi, Scarlatti and Vivaldi. Pieces from “The seven last words of Christ” for string quartet and orchestral movements followed the Stabat Mater. Paolo Paroni and Delta David Gier conducted the evening. Soloists of the song and opera section performed a short version of the L’isola disabitata (The deserted island) next to the traditional opera scene excerpts by Viennese classical composers. Erika Dallos led the opera department; the performance was directed by Tamás Herczeg and Krisztina Irma Tarjányi, choreographed by Paul Lorenger and Tina Bailey. Sectional concerts closed the series of solo and chamber music lessons between August 2 and 4. Participants of brass, deep string, flute, woodwind, piano, violin, youth and chamber courses presented what they have learned during the Summer Institute. Hungarian and international guests attended musical church services at different denominations on Sunday morning, August 4. The service at the Reformed church was

broadcasted by the Radio “Europa”. Delegated participants of every instrument group and age group had a chance to perform at the Gala, followed by Haydn’s Symphony No. 104 in D major; conducted by Delta David Gier (USA).

Tokaj’s unique institutes and buildings have been an inspirational background to courses and the Festival. The Hungarian hospitality was wonderfully represented by the warm welcome and the pleasant atmosphere of the town. Homely rooms were available for community programmes. Hungarian participants and guests from far away felt at ease, community-building programmes helped establishing a friendly atmosphere. Small group discussions carried on the theme of the morning Tune-Ins. Becky and Tom Chevis (GBR), Krisztina Irma Tarjányi (HUN), Matthias Richter (GER), Delta David Gier (USA), Hermann Rohde (GER) and Beat Rink (SUI) all gave a different perspective to this year’s theme “Freedom”. Some titles were “Our valuable freedom”, “My chain is gone”, “Creative and free”, “Ego-less”, “Free of weeds” and “The Spirit of freedom”.

Thanks to the eventful series of programmes, participants of Crescendo Summer Institute and Festival were once again enriched by new and international experiences and friendships. They returned home with the hope they would meet many newly acquainted friend again at the 17th Crescendo Festival, which will take place between July 22 and August 3, 2020.