

CRESCENDO SUMMER INSTITUTE 2023

The 19th Crescendo Summer Institute (CSI) was held in Tokaj between July 23 and August 4, 2023. The central venue for the event was the Tokaji Ferenc High School. The Opening Ceremony was enlivened by music performed by members of the CSI Faculty: Tünde Szabóki (HUN) vocalist performed Franz Schubert's *Lob des Tokayers* with pianist Ferenc János Szabó (HUN) to celebrate the 950th anniversary of Tokaj, and saxophonist Julien-David Petit (FRA) played two movements (Nana and Jota) from Manuel De Falla's *Suite Populaire Espagnole*, with Dalia Sakenyte (LTU) on piano. György Posta, Mayor of Tokaj, also attended the opening ceremony and welcomed the participants. In 2023, more than 300 participants from almost 30 countries around the world took part in the classical music masterclass and festival.

In the morning of 24 July 2023, the professional work began under the leadership of 50 teachers. Strings, woodwinds, brass, voice and piano students were invited to participate in solo performance, chamber music, orchestral and jazz performances, and optional courses in intensive improvisation, baroque style performance, and youth and opera scenes.

Students had solo lessons at least every other day, as well as chamber music lessons and the opportunity to play in the orchestra, based on their teacher's recommendation. Their program included attending high-quality concerts, workshops and other performances, participating in small group discussions and spiritual programmes, as well as enjoying other organized leisure activities.

The presence of the baroque section / ensemble is a tradition at CSI. The baroque ensemble was led by Jan Katschke (GER), harpsichordist, and teacher of the Dresden College of Music. Among other pieces, the repertoire of the baroque ensemble included Georg Philipp Telemann's *Hamburger Ebb' und Fluth*. The baroque ensemble offered a special opportunity for instrumental and vocal students interested in early music.

Instrumental students could practice orchestral playing not only in the baroque ensemble, but also in the CSI Symphony Orchestra. This year, the

orchestra rehearsed and performed Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in c minor (Op. 68) under the direction of Delta David Gier (USA).

CSI also places particular emphasis on the musical education of the younger generation, and this year our youth course was again open to exceptionally talented young musicians aged between 14 and 16. Students in the youth section were also able to try their hand at solo and chamber music.

In addition to musicians, the Institute also involved various psychologists, theologians, arts and artists, and representatives of different denominations, which also contributed to its uniqueness.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

In addition to individual and group lessons, the CSI offered a series of concerts and performances for participants. These were free and open to the public as festival programmes, so residents of Tokaj and tourists could also attend the events without paying an entrance fee. Thanks to Tokaj's excellent facilities and magnificent concert venues, around 2,670 people attended our concerts in 2023.

A special feature of 2023 was a series of programs called Crescendo Loves Tokaj, organised by the Crescendo Summer Institute in honour of the 950-year-old Tokaj.

TIME FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PROGRAM SERIES

After the successful contemporary programs of 2021 and 2022, Crescendo Summer Institute again held the concert series "Time for Contemporary Music" in 2023.

Time for Contemporary Music I. – Ligeti 100

27 July, 2023, 5 p.m., Synagogue

It was of significant impact that students and teachers of the Crescendo Summer Institute gave a full programme of composers' recitals in Tokaj, composed exclusively of works by György Ligeti, to mark the Ligeti Centenary. The programme highlighted two main elements from the composer's exceptionally diverse oeuvre: works with Hungarian connection (some composed in Hungary and others with Hungarian titles), as well as compositions inspired by Romanian folk music. The programme was accompanied by a presentation in English and Hungarian.

Time for Contemporary Music II. - Máté Hollós

28 July, 2023, 5 p.m., Tokaji Ferenc High School

Máté Hollós, who has several links with the Crescendo Summer Institute, was able to visit Tokaj in person to attend a concert showcasing his work. The program was put together in consultation with him, and in part specifically tailored to the skills of the CSI students. In the panel discussion, Hollós spoke not only about himself, his sources of inspiration and his compositional style, but also about his relationship with the Crescendo Summer Institute and other composers.

The Crescendo Summer Institute considered it important that not only Hungarian, but also foreign participants could get acquainted with the art of the Hungarian poet on the occasion of the Petőfi Bicentenary, so the third programme of "Time for Contemporary Music" was combined with a programme in memory of Sándor Petőfi. The Petőfi200 concert featured songs composed to Petőfi texts

written in the 19th and 21st century, while contemporary music was represented by Bálint Horváth's only Petőfi setting and Zsigmond Kóta's Petőfi song cycle. An interesting addition to the concert was the recitation of Petőfi's poems by professional Hungarian and English performers. (For the programme, see Crescendo Loves Tokaj.)

Crescendo ♥ Tokaj

Saturday, 29 July, 2023

An evening programme of events to celebrate the 950th anniversary of Tokaj in the town centre. This involved faculty, Baroque, Flute, Piano, Petőfi200, and Jazz concerts alongside talks in the Tokaj Café.

19:00-19:30

Synagogue: CSI Faculty Concert

19:45-20:15

Catholic Church: Flute in Bloom 1

Greek Catholic Church: Petőfi200 1

Café in Tokaj: Vinyl Tasting 1

20:30-21:00

Catholic Church: Flute in Bloom 2

Café in Tokaj: Rare Occasions

Reformed Church: Rare Piano Pearls

21:15-21:45

Synagogue: Baroque Concert

Café in Tokaj: Vinyl Tasting 2

22:00-22:30

Greek Catholic Church: Petőfi200 2

Café in Tokaj: Music Postcards

Reformed Church: Romantic Piano Melodies

22:45-23:30

Rákóczi terrace: Jazz concert

MUSICAL SERVICE AT THE LOCAL CATHOLIC MASS AND AT THE REFORMED SERVICE

Crescendo students and faculty have been involved year after year in music ministry at the local church services, bringing the message of the Bible into the language of art.

Holy Mass

30 July 2023, 9 a.m.

Roman Catholic Church, Tokaj

Reformed service

20 July 2023, 10 a.m.

Reformed Church, Tokaj

CREATIVE CHURCH

30 July 2023, 8 p.m., Reformed Church

Creative Church is an ecumenical service created by the international Crescendo Movement and held regularly in more than 40 cities across Europe. It is a combination of the richness of God and the artists' own celebratory style, with the preaching of the Word, the Eucharist and the prayer walk that follows. This is a perfect opportunity for contemplation and reflecting on the important questions of life. Music was performed by students and teachers of the Crescendo Summer Institute.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

31 July 2023, 5 p.m., Synagogue

At the Crescendo Summer Institute, students were organized into chamber groups according to their level of proficiency. The ensembles that successfully learned their repertoire and worked with their teachers were given the opportunity to perform at the Crescendo Festival.

Violissimo!

1 August, 2023, 5 p.m., Tokaj High School

Perhaps the viola is the instrument with the most similar timbre to a human. Few people know that Mozart was not only a great violist, but that he actually preferred to play the viola rather than the violin. The concert was attended by members of the CSI faculty and students interested in the sound of the bass violin.

SECTIONAL CLOSING CONCERTS

In the final days of the Crescendo Summer Institute and Festival, the sectional concerts gave instrumentalists the opportunity to perform the pieces they studied in their private lessons and masterclasses. These performances reflected a wide variety of pieces. The most successful performers of the sectional closing concerts (SCC) were given a further opportunity to perform at the Gala Concert.

Song SCC: 1 August, 2023, 11 a.m. - II. Rákóczi Ferenc Elementary School

Violin SCC I: 1 August, 2023, 3 p.m. - Centre of Tokaj

Brass SCC: 1 August, 2023, 3 p.m. - Roman Catholic Church

Woodwinds SCC: 1 August, 2023, 4 p.m. - Synagogue

Piano SCC I: 2 August, 2023, 11.30 a.m. - Reformed Church

Piano SCC II: 2 August, 2023, 2 p.m. - Greek Catholic Church

Opera Scenes Workshop SCC: 2 August, 2023, 2 p.m. - Centre of Tokaj

Violin SCC II: 2 August, 2023, 3 p.m. - Centre of Tokaj

Cello SCC: 2 August, 2023, 3 p.m. - Synagogue

Flute SCC: 2 August, 2023, 4 p.m. - Hímesudvar cellar, Tokaj

Youth SCC: 2 August, 2023, 5 p.m. - Tokaj High School

OPERA SCENES

KILLING ME SOFTLY

2 August, 2023, 8 p.m., Ede Paulay Theatre

The singers were able to showcase their studies in a performance of opera scenes led by director Bence Varga (HUN). These opera scenes reflected the development of musical, acting and singing styles, and characterisation and role interpretation. A special feature of this year's Opera Scenes is that, in addition to the well-known opera parts, the director and the musical director, Erika Dallos (HUN), had also woven excerpts from Schubert's *Winterreise* into the performance staged at the Ede Paulay Theatre in Tokaj. This performance is very popular every year and is one of the most visited events of the Crescendo Summer Institute.

GALA CONCERT

3 August, 2023, 4 p.m., Synagogue

The Gala Concerts feature the most outstanding participants of the Crescendo Summer Institute, recommended by the faculty. There were student solo and chamber performances from previous masterclasses, performances by the viola and brass ensembles, and a final performance by the CSI Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Delta David Gier (USA). The concert was a fitting end to about a week and a half of intensive work and inspiring collaboration.

PROGRAMS FOR CSI PARTICIPANTS ONLY

In 2023, the Crescendo Summer Institute continued with a number of programmes that were not open to the general public, but which were also very popular and well attended by participants. The Summer Institute focuses not only on the musical, but also on the spiritual development of the participants in the various programmes it puts together, in the Sostenuto programs.

Each year, the Sostenuto programmes offer participants guidance on a particular theme and gives an opportunity for reflection in evening small group discussions, with the participation of teachers, psychologists and theologians leading the groups. This year's theme was "Renewal".

The morning Tune In (8:45-9:30 a.m.) is a day-starting event that covers a variety of topics that are of serious concern to musicians.

In addition to the morning Tune In sessions, the Summer Institute offers students various lectures and workshops that deepen their understanding of these spiritual topics (Body-Mind-Soul Workshop, Renewal in Teaching, Not good enough, Faculty interview).