

## **The busy days of the Crescendo Summer Institute**

The program of the Summer Institute began with a teacher-student meeting then a huge variety of courses started: solo lessons, chamber music, orchestra rehearsals, choir, conducting, opera scenes, rehearsals with piano accompaniment, classical and jazz improvisations kept the participants busy.

Dr. Marcel S. Zwitzer, Dutch musicologist, made a lecture on “Biblical allusions in Monteverdi’s Orfeo” on the 25th of July. Dr. Andrzej Turkanik, director of the Quo Vadis Institute in Salzburg, invited the public to think together about “Why bother with Classical Music” on two occasions on the 26th of July, both in the morning and in the afternoon.

The final concert of Balázs Fülei’s Bartók piano course took place in the Synagogue on the 27th of July. At the concert, we could hear several interesting pieces of information about the composer and the pieces played. The most successful participants of the course played at the concert: Áron Demeter, Erzsébet Kozma-Páll, Edith Pál and Ádám Zsolt Szokolay. Balázs Fülei himself performed masterpieces, too, and the event ended with a short commemoration in connection with the Kodály Anniversary Year.

At the meeting point of belief and art, several workshops enrich the program: Play and pray, Lectio Divina and Benedictus. Leaders: Emma-Marie Kabanova (violin), Tina Bailey (dance, visual arts).

Topics of the Tune In:

iCreative - lecturer: Beat Rink

iUnique - lecturer: Andrzej Turkanik

iExam - lecturer: Dániel Hamar

In the Small Group Discussions, in the evenings, we discuss the topics above. On the 26th of July a “Candel lit worship” and on the 27th of July “About you” closed the day. This was an inspirational event with music and biblical texts.

The last three days of the Crescendo Summer Institute were the days of hard work, refreshment and shaping community. The results of quality, creative-performing activities and the diverse experiences are already visible and audible. New friendships are being born and the older ones are getting stronger. Again, the familiar atmosphere of the Crescendo uplifts the participants to higher regions.

## **A weekend together at the Crescendo Summer Institute**

The solo and group lessons and rehearsals have continued. The elaboration of the old and new repertoire has been a joyful task for everybody. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, at 5 p.m. dr. Zsolt Körmendy gave a lecture on Kodály's music pedagogy which spread the message of the always existing actuality of music education. In the evening, Beat Rink led a panel discussion about the huge variety of topics with the help of some teachers and lecturers: Constance Fee, dr. Marcel S. Zwister, Steuart Pincombe, dr. Andrzej Turkanik, Voicu Burca and Tina Bailey. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of July in the afternoon, three concerts took place: solo and chamber pieces were played on the street in front of the Town Hall, then, our symphonic orchestra - conducted by Delta David Gier - performed Antonín Dvořák's d minor Serenade (op. 44) on the Main Square of Tokaj. The jazz improvisation concert closed the concert series, the performance was led by Andy Vance - Australian jazz pianist, - in the Paulay Ede theatre. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of July in the morning, our participants contributed to the religious ceremonies both in the Catholic and Reformed Churches.

The Tune Ins have also continued. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July in course of the "iName" the lecturer, Krisztina Tarjányi, presented several questions. During our life we get and give names. Why is it so important? The participants found the answers together for this question at the Small Group Discussions in the evening. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, at the "Crescendo Windows" workshop, the activities within the Crescendo International were introduced, these interim activities are conducted in the following countries: Austria, Greece, Hungary and Switzerland. They invited the participants to join the activities of next year. During CSI, several future cooperation of faith and art are emerging. The Crescendo Summer Institute in the Republic of South Africa was originated on basis of a similar initiation in 2016. There is a huge demand in other continents as well for the full education and active service of the future artists within CSI. In the last 14 years, we could reap the fruits and achievements of the work carried out so far.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July the Creative Church took place in the Reformed Church, which is one of the most prominent events of the Summer Institute. The founder of the Crescendo International, Beat Rink preached and the teachers and students of the Summer Institute also contributed to the event. The main subject of the evening was "iRoots". The message was about our roots through which we are connected to our family, nuclear communities (school, musical community, cultural life), and larger communities (city, country). All these have an influence on us and form our identity. The question "Who are you?" often leads to the question "Where are you from?" The people present had to opportunity to walk along the uniquely influential and interactive stops in the latter part of the Creative Church focusing on the main theme of the evening and the personal deepening of the message.

The eventful weekend was closed by an excursion, pleasant rest and a party with live musical barn dance thanks to the good weather.

## **Week 2 of the Crescendo Summer Institute**

The second week of the festival saw many new participants join both from Hungary and abroad. Group work started again, rehearsals continued, and there were several excellent concerts and lectures to attend.

We had two excursion concerts: one in Erdőbénye and one in Bodrogkeresztúr. On 31 July, the Synagogue hosted works of Zoltán Kodály, while on 1 August, our faculty treated us to an unforgettable musical experience at their concert. Musicologist Dr. Marcel S. Zwitser shed light on the life and selected works of Tchaikovsky in his new lecture, with pianist Polina Kulikova's exquisite performance helping the audience in their learning process. On 2 August, the "Russian Impressions" concert served as a special experience - it was led by pianist Svetlana Meerman-Muret, and it saw works of Shostakovich, Rachmaninoff, and Borodin performed. The early music section held their concert on 3 August, led by Paolo Paroni and with strong ties to the Monteverdi memorial year.

The Tune In morning sessions featured a list of new, exciting topics and speakers:

31 July - iProdigalSon / iGod, speaker: Timothy Bentch

1 August - iWorld, speaker: Hermann Rohde

2 August - iGrows - I, speaker: John McNeill

3 August - iCall, speaker: Gergely Márton Kis

In the evenings, there were more conversations to bring some calm into the everyday busyness. The series of community events culminated in the Candlelit worship night.

There is great anticipation surrounding the closing events of the Crescendo Festival - all the work and the special atmosphere have served as the foundation of a great final weekend. The audiences will be treated to a series of sectional concerts and major events.

## **Successful Closing Concerts at the 14th Crescendo Summer Institute**

Friday, 4 August saw a number of sectional concerts for the brass, woodwinds, and strings sections, whereas 5 August featured pianists and flutists presenting the

result of their work over the past two weeks. Students of the youth section had two separate concerts to play for an audience: they played solo and chamber music, while also performing 13 Baroque movements - oratory and chamber music pieces - at the first Gala Concert, conducted by Attila Füzesséry. The opera scenes, presented as the second half of the first Gala Concert, were a great success again: directing them were Shawn Mlynek, Diána Eszter Mátrai and Krisztina Tarjányi, with Erika Dallos as musical director. At the second Gala Concert on 6 August, all sections were represented by quality performances, before handing over to Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 5 in E minor, conducted by Delta David Gier.

"Sostenuto" events also came to an end, and at the Tune In session on Friday, 4 August, Delta David Gier presented his message entitled "I-Artist". The orchestra rehearsals included several occasions to share words of encouragement, which provided long-term guidance to many. The last small-group meetings combined the discussion of the day's topic with goodbyes. On 6 August, representatives of several nations presented their work as members of Crescendo International: we heard from Novosibirsk, Paris, and Thessaloniki. Then, on 7 August, performances by the participants of the Crescendo Summer Institute added colour to the church services at the local Catholic Church and Reformed Church once again.

As the final act of the festival, the Gala Party and a jam session provided a true celebratory atmosphere to participants, in the hopes of meeting again next year.