

NEWSLETTER 09  
AUTUMN | WINTER 2013

# GEORG Solti 10 ACCADEMIA

THE GEORG Solti ACCADEMIA  
CELEBRATES ITS  
TENTH ANNIVERSARY

## A Letter from our Founder and Chairman Lady Solti

This season we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Accademia with a host of exciting events. The first will take place in New York in October, where the GSA will collaborate with the Juilliard School in a series of Bel Canto masterclasses given by the celebrated conductor, accompanist and scholar Sir Richard Bonyngé, whom we are so very fortunate to have as one of our regular visiting Professors.

Georg Solti throughout his life, whether as a student, refugee, young conductor or Music Director in Munich, Frankfurt, London, Paris and Chicago, constantly acknowledged with deep gratitude the advice he had received from his mentors. He was always conscious of his duty to hand on to future generations the guidance, wisdom and technique he had gained from others, as well as his own experience of life, making music at the highest level and dealing with both success and failure. His best advice – applicable both to life and music – was ‘Never give up!’

My husband particularly enjoyed working with young musicians and singers at the start of their careers: these included Valery Gergiev, Bryn Terfel, Renée Fleming, Kiri Te Kanawa, Angela Gheorghiu, Frederica von Stade, Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti. He also loved working with youth orchestras, such as the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Liszt Academy and the Carnegie Hall Project, an orchestra he created from graduates of the leading US conservatoires. His rehearsals with the Juilliard School orchestra were a highlight of his visits to New York: it is therefore very appropriate that we should be continuing the Solti connection, with the Juilliard with this visit from the GSA and Sir Richard. We look forward to a continuing collaboration beyond this anniversary year.

A heartfelt thank you to all our supporters for their enthusiasm and invaluable help and advice.

**Lady Valerie Solti**

*Founder and Chairman of the Georg Solti Accademia*



## REPORT ON THE GSA'S SUMMER 2013 MASTER CLASSES FROM JONATHAN PAPP, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The 2013 edition of the GSA kicked off our 10th anniversary celebrations with a course studied with legendary teachers. Alongside our core staff, we welcomed back Dennis O'Neill and Richard Bonyngé, both of whom have become regulars on the programme. They in turn were joined by two great Italian soprano divas, Luciana Serra and Daniela Dessi. Both these artists brought very different qualities to their classes, but both were equal in demanding the highest of standards.

All of the visiting mentors were impressed by the talents of our group of young singers, who rose to the challenge of putting into practice all the ideas and technical difficulties presented to them. After the two summer concerts, at the end of the course, five of the singers and our two répétiteurs from last Easter's Solti Peretti Répétiteurs Master Classes in Barcelona, were invited to give a further concert at the Festival of Scansano, in a beautiful 19th century theatre high up in the hills above Grosseto in Tuscany.

This 10th Anniversary will continue with a major appearance by the GSA in New York. Unlike last October's wonderful concerts at Carnegie Hall and Orchestra Hall Chicago, this will not focus on showcasing our alumni, instead the GSA will bring Richard Bonyngé to New York to lead three days of master classes at the Julliard

School with myself and Italian language coach Corradina Caporello, demonstrating the work we do during the Easter and Summer programmes.

At the end of the course five of Juilliard's best singers will take part, in a public class on October 9th at 6pm in the Peter Jay Sharp Theater. During these classes, one or two of the participants will be invited to take part in the Accademia in Italy in the summer of 2014.

Maestro Bonyngé rarely appears in New York nowadays, and his classes are certain to attract a lot of attention. I do hope that some of you will be able to join us for this remarkable event.

### Jonathan Papp

*Founder and Artistic Director of the Georg Solti Accademia*



*GSA 2013, top to bottom:  
Daniela Dessi coaching  
Corradina Caporello and students  
Richard Bonyngé and students  
Adam Smith, student*

*Opposite page,  
left to right:  
Marlena Devoe  
Moses Mackay  
Anna Gillingham*



## STUDENTS TALK ABOUT THE 2013 ACCADEMIA

### ADAM SMITH

'The Accademia offers a unique opportunity to work with wonderful musicians on wonderful music. I enjoyed my time there greatly and learnt so much.'

### ANNA GILLINGHAM

'The tremendous amount of technical and linguistic detail to which I was exposed has benefited my understanding of bel canto significantly. A highlight I didn't anticipate was meeting a range of fascinating people active in the business. The teachers were all outstanding and I thoroughly enjoyed my sessions with them. Corradina was a particular highlight – I have never met anyone so passionate, knowledgeable, direct and yet kind in their teaching.'

### JOHN LONGMUIR

'I had a wonderful time in Castiglione and made some great contacts and friends. I also learned some new things about singing and interpretation. It was wonderful to talk with people like Mary-Lou Falcone, Lady Solti, Jack Mastroianni and Luciana Serra and to get the chance to work with Daniela, Jonathan and Maestro Bonyng (a personal mentor and idol). I also found Corradina to be excellent!'



### CLARE GHIGO

'The quality of teaching and coaching was of the highest standard. The singing classes were all very detailed and focused and, although I am quite fluent in the Italian, the coaches refined my vowels which helped my singing immensely. I would recommend the course to any aspiring young opera singers as it has proved one of the most memorable learning experiences of my life.'

### ROZANNA MADYLUS

'Fabulous location, great food and, most importantly, teaching of the highest standard. I also really appreciated meeting Mary-Lou Falcone and Jack Mastroianni who provided practical career guidance. Overall, a wonderful experience which I shall treasure for a long time.'

### LAURA MARGARET SMITH

'I especially liked the idea of public master classes so that each of the singers could benefit from listening to each other. The private coaching with the Italian specialists was world class. I loved the level of detail, and felt so encouraged and supported in each session.'

I think it is so important that the course is in Italy, so close to Solti's home! To be focused on our art alone, in such a beautiful place, was very inspiring.'

### SONIA GRANE

'Having just finished at the Royal Academy of Music and being about to start at the Berlin Staatsoper's opera studio, I needed some polishing (provided by Dennis O'Neill) and a better understanding of what I need to succeed in this world (provided by Mary Lou Falcone). I also learnt what good bel canto is, thanks to Luciana Serra; I was reminded of the important role of the words, thanks to Pepi Ferrari and Corradina Caporello and last, but definitely the most important, I was reminded why I chose to be a singer: to be transported and transport people through worlds of love, passion, rejection, hate and friendship.'

### MARLENA DEVOE

This was exactly the kind of program I needed after having just completed my Master's degree. I loved the intensity of the course and it was so inspiring to meet and work with so many great musicians in the operatic field. The administrative staff and tutors of the Accademia were so warm and welcoming - Castiglione della Pescaia instantly felt like home.

I thought it was wonderful working privately with Jonathan Papp, especially because he was the accompanist for the guest tutors. During these private sessions, we would continue experimenting and playing with new technical and musical ideas that the guest tutors had introduced and it was fun and exciting trying to figure out together what worked and what didn't.'

### MOSES MACKAY

'A fantastic opportunity for young singers like myself to experience Italy and Opera. For me it came at a perfect time, as I had just finished a year at Wales Academy of Voice and I loved every minute of it - a time of intensity, laughter, joy and passion.'

### ANTHONY REED

'A bel canto course in an idyllic setting, with a schedule that was neither too overwhelming nor lackadaisical.'

### ONAY KOSE

'The Accademia was awesome. Everyone was so kind, helpful and joyful. The course schedule was very well organized and the master classes were tremendous. Thank you very much for everything.'

### KATIE LOWE

'The three weeks of intensive training and singing lessons was exactly what I needed.. The Italian coaching was especially valuable, the visiting artists were inspiring and it was great to be able to sing for such famous bel canto experts.'





## GSA ALUMNI

### PAUL WINGFIELD, REPETITEUR (SPRM 2011)

I spent ten very happy days with the Solti Peretti Repetiteurs Master Classes. Having the opportunity to coach singers while being observed by an expert music staff was a huge boost to my confidence – the value of this sort of training cannot be underestimated, since young repetiteurs so rarely get the chance to receive feedback on their coaching. I now find myself in my second year as a conductor/repetiteur on the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House, London. Last year I conducted in the Linbury Studio Theatre with the Southbank Sinfonia and on the main stage with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, as well as joining the music staff for productions of *The Minotaur*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Gloriana*. This year will be similarly busy, culminating once again in a chance to conduct the orchestra in the Young Artists' Showcase. Who knows what next year will bring, but at least I can rest assured that I've had the best training possible to tackle whatever comes my way!

### NICO DARMANIN, TENOR (GSA 2011)

Shortly after I graduated from the Royal College of Music in 2011, I had the wonderful opportunity of participating in master classes at the GSA under the guidance of Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Sir Thomas Allen, an experience that I shall carry with me for the rest of my life. It was at the Accademia that I really learnt what dedication and study are required to reach the highest of levels in opera today. I left Castiglione with a mission to better my techni-



Photo: Clive Baroda



Photo: Robert Workman

que and develop further as a light lyric tenor. The following year I was accepted by the National Opera Studio. It is similar to the Accademia, but offers a nine-month course with a lot of the performance opportunities essential to build my confidence. Things took a dramatic turn last December when Peter Katona from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden offered me a working session with Sir Antonio Pappano. Soon after I was offered the role of Daniéli in *Les Vêpres Siciliennes*, conducted by Pappano himself, which I am currently rehearsing in collaboration with some of the best singers in the world. I've also recently been honoured to sing in the first International Opera Awards in London last May. Performing in front of 700 guests among whom were Pappano, Dame Janet Baker, Jonas Kaufmann and Joyce DiDonato made me very nervous, but all went well. That event has opened many doors. Soon after I was asked to participate in Joyce DiDonato's master class at the Royal Opera House's Linbury Studio Theatre. There I had the wonderful opportunity to speak to Joyce and



Photo: Agne Gintalaite

meet her agent Simon Goldstone. I plucked up the courage and asked him whether he had another place for a tenor on his books. He has now invited me to join him at Intermusica. I have never felt so well cared for! Over the next year, I shall be working with Richard Bonyngge for a recording entitled *Shore and Sea*. In November I debut with Vlaamse Opera in their new production of *Der Rosenkavalier*, in which I shall sing the Italian Tenor.

### LAURYN BENDZIUNAITE, SOPRANO (GSA 2009)

One of most memorable and life-changing moments for my career so far was participating in the GSA. At the moment I am singing *Musetta* in *La Bohème* in Sweden, followed by several engagements in Lithuania, including *Despina* in *Così fan tutte* and *Johanna* in *Sweeney Todd*. In autumn 2014, I will join the ensemble of Stuttgart Staatstheater for a year. I strongly believe that none of this would be possible without those three weeks which I spent in the Accademia. There I met and had singing lessons with Kiri Te Kanawa and Dennis O'Neil – a wonderful once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – along with fantastic Italian language coaching from Corradina Caparello, superb vocal coaching from Jonathan Papp. Whatever I am singing now is based on that incredible experience. I am using everything I learned at the Accademia every day, and all the advice I was given was helpful and correct and planted good seeds. I am so grateful.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 7 - 9 OCTOBER 2013 THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL NYC PETER JAY SHARPE THEATRE

*Georg Solti Accademia Bel Canto Masterclasses with Richard Bonyngge, opening the Accademia's 10th anniversary celebrations*

### 22 - 3 JANUARY 2014 ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC, LONDON

*Auditions for the 2014 Georg Solti Accademia at Castiglione della Pescaia*

### 22 - 9 APRIL 2014 FONDAZIONE GIORGIO CINI, VENICE Solti Peretti Repetiteurs Master Classes

## NEWS FLASHES

### BEL CANTO SUCCESS

Directly following her participation in the 2013 edition of the GSA Samoan soprano Marlana Devoe won second prize in the 3rd Richard Bonyngge-Joan Sutherland Bel Canto Award in Australia. We look forward to meeting the winner of the first prize, soprano Naomi Johns, who will attend GSA 2014 as part of her award.

### GSA GRADUATES AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Increasing numbers of our singers have been singing in this great opera house. Last year, Sofia Formina (GSA 2011) took over a major role in the production of Meyerbeer's *Robert Le Diable* and met with much critical acclaim. Another alumnus, Jung Soo Yun, covered the main tenor role. Meanwhile, Nico Darmanin (GSA 2011) is about to open in a new production of *Les Vêpres Siciliennes*, with Antonio Pappano conducting.

Two of our most recent alumni, Rachel Kelly (GSA 2011) and Luis Gomez (GSA 2012), who also participated in the SPRM in Barcelona in April, have been awarded places on the Royal Opera's prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme. Repetiteur Paul Wingfield, an alumnus wof SPRC 2011, was also awarded a place on this programme.

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