

NEWSLETTER 11

WINTER 2014



AN AMAZING
ANNIVERSARY YEAR

THE GEORG SOLTI ACCADEMIA SPARKLES IN VERBIER, VENICE AND TUSCANY

This year has proved an unprecedented artistic success for the Georg Solti Accademia, with a host of new projects and relationships.

In April we initiated a new partnership with the Fondazione Giorgio Cini in Venice who hosted our Solti Peretti Repetiteurs Masterclasses on the beautiful island of San Giorgio Maggiore.

The concert sold out before we arrived, and was very warmly received. We're delighted to be returning there not once but twice in 2015, for the Repetiteurs' course and a gala concert in aid of the restoration of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini's open-air Teatro Verde.

There followed a packed summer programme, including masterclasses with Mariella Devia and Luciana Serra, concerts in the Piazza Solti and on the

beach in Castiglione, followed by a transfer to the Verbier Festival. Our 2014 students gave a stunning bel canto concert there in L'Eglise which received a standing ovation, while our alumni shone in Donizetti's L'Elisir d'Amore directed by Sir Thomas Allen and conducted by Jesus Lopes-Cobos with the Verbier Festival Academy.

Barbara Frittoli, Leo Nucci and Silvana Bartoli will be part of a wonderful teaching line-up in our 2015 edition, while we welcome pianist Jonathon Swinard to our core staff.

Heartfelt thanks must go to the Rolex Institute, the Nando Peretti Foundation, the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, the Andana and Approdo Hotels and their staff, and to all our supporters for their enthusiasm and invaluable help.

Candice Wood

Executive Director,

Fondation Georg Solti Accademia





REPORT FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JONATHAN PAPP

The Solti-Peretti Repetiteur's Course, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice April 2014

The Fondazione Giorgio Cini on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore made an ideal home for the Solti-Peretti course in Easter 2014. Along with its inspiring atmosphere, it had the practical advantage of having all the facilities in one place, which enabled us to focus totally on the work and to achieve a quite extraordinary final performance. We watched and listened with joy as not only the pianists, but also the singers, blossomed. It was a pleasure to hear not only their performances, culminating in a five-piano full-score arrangement of the Tannhauser Overture, but the huge appreciation of the audience.

The beautiful hall was hung with tapestries, and for the show we had lighting only on the performers and these tapestries, which made a real spectacle. It was packed, so there was a real sense of occasion for these five young artists to perform to a discerning public, which included guests from La Fenice.

A new and welcome addition to the course was James Vaughan, the Director of Music at La Scala, who inspired us all.

We're delighted to be returning to Venice in 2015. We also thank the staff of the Hotel Cipriani for their gracious post-concert hospitality.

The GSA Bel Canto Summer School, Castiglione Della Pescaia July 2014

After three weeks in Castiglione the students relocated to the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, so it was something of an epic course this summer. We were pleased to welcome three Juilliard students with whom I had worked in October 2013, Raquel Gonzalez, Hyesang Park and Takaoki Onishi. Even though it always seems impossible, the level of the participants continues to rise, while their ages do not. The course was humming with very intensive work, not least from the ever-exacting Luciana Serra, whom we were delighted to welcome back, and Mariella Devia, whom I

*Bottom left, the Solti-Peretti
Repetiteur's Course. Below and next
page, the Summer School with Mariella
Devia and Paolo Speca, students
Lancelot Nomura and Raquel Gonzalez.*



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have long hoped would be one of our guest artists. The final concerts were exceptional in their professionalism and quality, while the more relaxed beach concert entertained the Castiglione and the tourists alike.

Then, it was on up to Verbier where the pleasure of repeating the outdoor concerts was exceeded by the pleasure of doing one in a real, enclosed space, L'Eglise, before a discerning, and very appreciative, audience. After this, our four recent alumni, Ross Ramgobin, Christian Gansch, Marlena Devoe and Roberto Ortiz took the starring roles in Donizetti's L'Elisir d'Amore, directed by Sir Thomas Allen and conducted by Jesús Lopéz-Cobos. They worked extremely hard to make the opera such a success, and success it was, drawing a full standing ovation from the audience in the Verbier festival's main concert venue.

Jonathan Papp

Artistic Director of the Georg Solti Accademia



STUDENT FEEDBACK ON THE 2014 ACCADEMIA

HAOBIN WANG CHINA 25

I had an unforgettable time at the Georg Solti Accademia. It was really helpful to live with Italian people, join their life, try to understand the language. It was such a valuable opportunity for me to hear many great young singers from all over the world.

The teachers there really helped me to solve my singing problems. I felt that I had a much better understanding of dynamic contrasts and singing technique after the course.

THOMAS ELWIN UK 27

Having heard much about the Georg Solti Accademia from friends of mine I was extremely excited to attend. I wasn't disappointed at all... Being in the same place for three weeks and working with the same supportive team every day enabled me to get the most out of every session and also learn from my colleagues.

The disappointment of two visiting staff withdrawing through illness was balanced by being able to have more time with Jonathan Papp, who I feel is surely one of the best coaches in the world.

MARIE JAERMAN SWITZERLAND 25

I had an amazing time this summer at the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto. The quality of teaching was very impressive, and I particularly appreciated the Italian coaching with Pepi Ferrari and Corradina Caporello. They taught me so many important things, not only about Italian diction, but also about the bel canto style.

The masterclasses were very enriching experiences, too, and it was an honor to meet two amazing bel canto specialists. Everything was organized perfectly so that we could concentrate only on our studies, which helped a lot.

HYESANG PARK SOUTH KOREA 23

This summer was unforgettable. I've grown up listening to Mariella Devia's voice. There she was literally in front of me, teaching me! I not only listened to her advice about technique, but encountered her personality and character. She is still my dream singer...

Also, Luciana Serra was kind and generous, and really helpful in improving my understanding of my high note position. I also want to send my biggest appreciation to Jonathan Papp. He changed my singing life. I realized I needed to use my body while singing. I did so much hard work myself after the coaching with him. Every day I felt, I am growing. That experience is the biggest click point in my singing life.

LANCELOT NOMURA UK 27

I felt that I had a much better understanding of vocal technique after the course, particularly singing with more security at both ends of my vocal range and singing with a consistent tonal quality throughout the range. This was supported by a greater fluency with my sung (and spoken) Italian.

I felt there was the right balance of work and rest, and I never felt too tired or under any vocal pressure. I also think that three weeks was a good amount of time to get properly stuck into bel canto singing, though I would have happily stayed longer.

RAQUEL GONZALEZ USA 23

Participating in a course that is so masterclass-based was so helpful - stepping up in front of my colleagues on a daily basis and trying out new repertoire, improving old repertoire, and having the feedback of so many new ears is all as important to my development as a singer.



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TAKAOKI ONISHI JAPAN 24

My experience in Georg Solti Accademia was absolutely fantastic; every teacher gave me something new, and the schedule was very comfortable and well-organized.

The two Masterclasses with Luciana Serra and Mariella Devia were very special to me. It reminded me that bel canto is a lifelong study. I also loved the week we spent in Verbier. Working with two legendary singers was very precious for every one of us.



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NEWS OF OUR
GEORG SOLTI ACCADEMIA
ALUMNI



Marlena Devoe

MARLENA DEVOE (GSA 2013) won the 2014 Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngne Bel Canto Awards in Sydney.

SONIA GRANÉ (GSA 2013) was given a place at the International Opera Studio at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, where she has played Papagena, Barbarina, Tabaldo and Hirt in Tannhäuser and been conducted by Ivor Bolton and Daniel Barenboim. Forthcoming roles include Flora in The Turn of the Screw, Blumenmädchen in Parsifal, and Blonde in Entführung aus dem Serail.

CHRISTINA GANSCH (GSA 2012) won the 2014 Kathleen Ferrier Award. In the 2014/15 season she will sing Servilia in La clemenza di Tito at the Opera National de Montpellier and Barbarina in Le nozze di Figaro at Salzburg Festival.

LUIS GOMES (GSA 2012) sang the Chevalier in Les dialogues des Carmelites at the Royal Opera House, where he is now on the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme. He sang Gastone in La Traviata and Borsa in Rigoletto this September and has been signed to Askonas Holt. He will sing Albazar in Il Turco in Italia in April 2015 (ROH).

NICO DARMANIN (GSA 2011) made his debut at Scottish Opera with the prince in Rossini's Cenerentola, and was a great success in the role of Count Almaviva in Il barbiere di Siviglia at Opera Holland Park this summer.



Christina Gansch

RACHEL KELLY (GSA 2011) was Mirinda in Cavalli's L'Ormindo at the new Sam Wanamaker Theatre in London, and was Pisana in I due Foscari starring Placido Domingo at the Royal Opera House. She will be Prosperina in Orfeo in January and Zaida in Il Turco in Italia in Spring 2015 (both ROH)

GEORGE VON BERGEN (GSA 2005) sang Marcello in La Bohème, English National Opera.

IURI SAMOILOV (GSA 2010) is working at Frankfurt Opera, and has new management at Askonas Holt. This autumn he sang Marcello in La Bohème and in the spring he will sing Gralsritter in Parsifal.

JURGITA ADAMONYTE (GSA 2007) sang the title role in Salome at Naples's San Carlo Theatre.



Iurii Samoilov

2015 DATES FOR THE DIARY



www.georgsoltiaccademia.org

January 21st and 22nd
Auditions
Royal Academy of Music, London

April 2nd - 11th
Solti-Peretti Repetiteurs Course
Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice

June 28th - July 22nd
Bel Canto Masterclasses,
Castiglione della Pescaia

Concerts at L'Andana, Piazza Solti
and Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice

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