

LET'S SING

OPERA

- E-BOOK
- E-COURSE

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1.1. Description of the project

Let's Sing Opera is an international project **bridging** the gap between the audience and artists by creating active public participation in performances of Monteverdi's opera *L'Orfeo*.

Participants join in singing the choral part of opera accompanied by a professional orchestra and choir. Opera soloists will be the winners of the **International Competition** for young opera singers.

LSO offers not only the experience of **collaborating** with professional singers and orchestras, but also an unforgettable stage **experience** of singing an opera in a theatre in front of an audience.

Let's Sing Opera participants became parts of the Let's Sing App, a virtual space connecting people passionate about opera music where young talents and professionals meet to inspire, help each other, and also a stage of work opportunities. Let's Sing App offers to create a profile, a whole professional portfolio, sign up for castings, and participate in workshops or competitions.

1.1. Description of the project

Let's Sing Opera consists of:

- education for pupils and teachers (workshops in physical and distance form)
- trainings for young professionals (seminars and workshops and practice at performances both physical and distance forms)
- 10 opera performances (live)
- new technology projects in an online environment (e-book, e-course, app)

LSO main target groups:

- elementary and secondary school pupils
- teachers of music education in schools
- young talents – professional singers
- choirs, orchestras and conductors, directors – professionals
- e-courses and e-book users
- spectators of opera performances

1.2. Claudio Monteverdi

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) was an Italian composer, gambist, and singer who is considered a crucial transitional figure between the Renaissance and Baroque periods of music history. He was born in Cremona, Italy, and spent much of his career in Venice, where he became the maestro di cappella at St. Mark's Basilica.

Importance to Opera:

Monteverdi is often referred to as the "**father of opera**" due to his significant contributions to the development of the genre. His opera "**L'Orfeo**" (1607) is widely regarded as the first great opera in history. He helped establish many of the conventions that would define opera for centuries to come, including:

1. The use of recitative (speech-like singing) to advance the plot
2. The integration of instrumental music with vocal parts
3. The development of more complex and expressive musical forms

1.2. Claudio Monteverdi

Interesting facts about Claudio Monteverdi:

1. Monteverdi's "**L'Orfeo**" was one of the first operas to use a full orchestra, including brass instruments.
2. He composed his last opera, "**L'incoronazione di Poppea**," at the age of 75, proving that creativity doesn't necessarily diminish with age.
3. Monteverdi was one of the first composers to use the **tremolo technique** in string instruments, which was considered quite revolutionary at the time.
4. He had a longstanding rivalry with music theorist Giovanni Maria Artusi, who criticized Monteverdi's innovative compositional techniques. Monteverdi defended his work, coining the term "**seconda pratica**" (second practice) to describe his new style.
5. Despite his fame as a composer, Monteverdi was also an accomplished performer on the **viola da gamba**, a predecessor to the modern cello.
6. In a somewhat humorous twist, Monteverdi's opera "**Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria**" (The Return of Ulysses to his Homeland) was lost for centuries and only rediscovered in the 20th century.
7. Monteverdi was one of the first composers to specify **exact instrumentation** for his pieces, rather than leaving it up to the performers to decide which instruments to use.

These facts highlight Monteverdi's innovative spirit and his lasting impact on the world of music, particularly in the realm of opera.

1.3. L'Orfeo

"L'Orfeo" (1607) is considered Monteverdi's first opera and a landmark in the history of the genre. Here are some additional details about this important work:

1. **Full title:** The full title of the opera is "**L'Orfeo, favola in musica**" (Orpheus, a musical tale).
2. **Premiere:** It was first performed on February 24, 1607, at the Ducal Palace in Mantua, Italy.
3. **Subject matter:** The opera is based on the Greek myth of Orpheus, who attempts to rescue his dead wife Eurydice from the underworld.
4. **Innovative orchestration:** "L'Orfeo" features one of the largest orchestras used in an opera up to that time, with over 40 instruments specified in the score.
5. **Dramatic use of instruments:** Monteverdi used specific instruments to represent different characters and settings. For example, brass instruments often accompany scenes in the underworld.
6. **Prologue:** The opera begins with a prologue sung by the character of Music personified, setting the stage for the drama to follow.

1.3. L'Orfeo

7. **Blend of styles:** "L'Orfeo" combines elements of **Renaissance madrigals** with the emerging Baroque style, showcasing Monteverdi's ability to bridge these two eras.

8. **Surviving score:** Unlike many works from this period, a printed score of "L'Orfeo" from 1609 has survived, allowing modern performers to recreate the opera with a high degree of authenticity.

9. **Emotional depth:** The opera is noted for its ability to convey deep emotions, particularly in Orpheus's famous lament "Possente spirto" in Act III.

10. **Lasting influence:** "L'Orfeo" established many conventions of opera that would be followed for centuries, including the use of recitative, arias, and choruses to advance the story and express emotions.

This opera demonstrates Monteverdi's innovative approach to music and storytelling, solidifying his place as a pivotal figure in the development of opera as an art form.

2.1. Opera workshops for children

Opera workshops for school children are educational programs designed to introduce young students to the world of opera and help them develop an appreciation for this art form. These workshops typically combine elements of music, theater, and visual arts to create an engaging and interactive experience for children.

Key aspects of opera workshops for school children often include:

1. **Introduction to opera:** Students learn about the history of opera, its components, and famous operas and composers.
2. **Vocal techniques:** Basic singing exercises and vocal warm-ups are taught to help children understand the importance of proper vocal technique in opera.
3. **Acting and movement:** Children participate in simple acting exercises and learn about stage presence and movement.
4. **Storytelling:** Workshops focus on the narrative aspects of opera, helping children understand how stories are conveyed through music and performance.
5. **Costume and set design:** Students may learn about the visual elements of opera production, including costume and set design.

2.1. Opera workshops for children

6. **Hands-on activities:** Children might create simple props, design costumes, or participate in mini-performances.
7. **Exposure to live performances together with opera professionals:** Some workshops include watching excerpts from professional opera performances or inviting opera singers to perform for the students.
8. **Cultural context:** Students learn about the cultural significance of opera and its role in different societies throughout history.
9. **Interdisciplinary connections:** Workshops integrate other subjects like literature, history, and languages to provide a well-rounded educational experience.
10. **Culminating performance:** Workshops concluded with a large-scale performance by the students together with opera professionals, allowing them to apply what they've learned.

These workshops aim to make opera accessible and enjoyable for young audiences, potentially inspiring a lifelong interest in the art form. They also help develop important skills such as creativity, self-expression, teamwork, and public speaking. By introducing children to opera at a young age, these workshops contribute to the preservation and appreciation of this classical art form for future generations.

2.2. Workshop – Hukvaldy

Workshop in Hukvaldy

Pupils: ZŠ Leoše Janáčka
Teacher: Silvie Jati

Choreographer: Tamara Černá
Director: Luděk Golat

Foto: Tamara Černá SofiG



2.3. Workshop – Opava

Workshop in Opava

Pupils: ZŠ Vrchní

Teacher: Vendula Foltýnová

Choreographer: Tamara Černá

Director: Luděk Golat

Foto: Tamara Černá SofiG



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2.4. Workshop – Ostrava

Workshop in Ostrava

Pupils: choir Opera Studio of the
National Moravian-Silesian
Theatre

Choirmaster: Lenka Živocká

Choreographer: Tamara Černá

Director: Luděk Golat

Foto: Tamara Černá SofiG



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2.5. Rehearsing L'Orpheo

Children choirs rehearsing
in Hukvaldy...



in Opava...



in Ostrava...



Foto: Tamara Černá SofiG

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2.5. Rehearsing L'Orphee

Rehearsing all together...



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3.1. E-courses – didactic materials

We filmed the following videos as didactic material.

According to them, the children could learn their parts in advance, even before the workshops and rehearsing.

Thanks to them, the children could also identify better with the project.

Shooting took place in Hukvaldy Castle on autumn 2023.

Singers: Eugene Gunko, Bartosz Jankowski,

Children choir: Opera Studio of the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre

3.2. E-course #1



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3.3. E-course #2



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3.4. E-course #3



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3.5. E-course #4



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3.6. E-course #5



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3.7. E-course #6



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4.1. Performances within the project

10 public performances of Monteverdi's opera L'Orfeo with participation of school children and the winners of the competition were realised by 5 partners from 4 countries:

- 4 PERFS in the Czech Republic (by Eurofilmfest and Opera Lavra)
- 4 PERFS in Italy (3 by Ensemble San Felice, 1 by Bel Canto)
- 2 PERFS in Greece (by Hellenic Opera Corporation)

International Competition for young opera singers:

Competition was open to singers of all voice types between 18 and 38 years old.

The international jury chose the top 20 candidates to participate in the second round which took part during the Gala Concert in Italy in November 2023.

The 10 winners of the competition became soloists of Monteverdi's opera L'Orfeo.

4.2. Dates of L'Orpheo performances

Czech Republic

- 20 June 10:30 Primary School and Kindergarten Leoš Janáček Hukvaldy (performance for schools)
- 21 June 18:00 Hukvaldy Castle, Czech Republic
- 22 June 18:00 Theater "12", Czech Republic
- 23 June 18:00 Poruba Castle, Czech Republic

director: Luděk Golat, Ilja Racek Jr.

conductor: Oliver Dohnányi

soloists: winners of the international

Let's Sing Opera Competition

orchestra: Let's Sing Opera Chamber Orchestra

children's choirs: Choir of the NDM Opera Studio,
pupils of Leoš Janáček Hukvaldy Primary School
and Opava Primary School, Vrchní

Italy

- 21 August 21.00 Acquasparta
- 22 August 21.00 Montecastrilli
- 23 August 2024 21.00 Avigliano Umbro
- 24 August 21.00 Teatro Consortium Massa Martana

Greece

- 27 September Athens, the Convention Center of the Municipality of Metamorfosi
- 28 September Athens, the Cinema Theatre "Asteras" in Nea Ionia

stage director: Carla Zanin

artistic direction: Paolo Bellocchi

conductor: Federico Bardazzi

soloists: winners of the international Let's Sing Opera Competition

orchestra: ENSEMBLE SAN FELICE

choirs: Pueri Cantores Umbria Cantat, maestro del coro Luca Longhi
with the participation of Paolo Lorimer in the role of Dante

4.3. L'Orfeo – performances – Czechia

L'Orfeo performances in Czech Republic posters



4.4. L'Orfeo – performances – Italy

L'Orfeo performances in Italy

poster



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Umbria Cantat
Produzioni immersive tra musica, poesia e spiritualità attraverso i millenni

Dante, Orfeo e il viaggio khthónios
Claudio Monteverdi L'Orfeo

21 AGOSTO 2024
Palazzo Cesi Teatro all'aperto, Acquasparta

22 AGOSTO 2024
Piazza Santa Chiara, Montecastrilli

23 AGOSTO 2024
Teatro Comunale, Avigliano Umbro

24 AGOSTO 2024
Teatro Consortium, Massa Martana

ore 19 Workshop, Videoinstallazione, VR Experience
ore 21 Spettacolo

INGRESSO LIBERO

Regia e Video Carla Zanin
Direttore Federico Bardazzi
Video Alessio Bianciardi

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Direzione Artistica Umbria Cantat Federico Bardazzi
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produzione con il sostegno di in collaborazione con



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4.5. L'Orfeo – performances – Greece

L'Orfeo performances in Greece

poster



ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ,
27/09/2024, 20:00
ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ
ΔΗΜΟΥ ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΗΣ
ΛΗΤΟΥΣ & ΚΥΜΗΣ (ΟΠΙΣΘΕΝ ΚΟΛΥΜΒΗΤΗΡΙΟΥ)

Claudio Monteverdi
L'Orfeo

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ,
28/09/2024, 20:00
"ΑΣΤΕΡΑΣ" ΚΙΝΗΜΑΤΟΓΡΑΦΟΣ
ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΥ 4, Ν. ΙΩΝΙΑ

ΣΚΗΝΟΘΕΣΙΑ/BINTEO CARLA ZANIN
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ FEDERICO BARDAZZI
BINTEO ALESSIO BIANCIARDI

ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ OPERA NETWORK CARLA ZANIN
ΚΑΛΛΙΤΕΧΝΙΚΟΣ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΗΣ OPERA NETWORK
PAOLO BELLOCCI

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4.6. L'Orfeo – rehearsals and performances

Mood video from rehearsing L'Orfeo

Hukvaldy Castle

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4.6. L'Orfeo – rehearsals and performances

Mood video from rehearsing L'Orfeo

Well deserved rest after hard work,
Roubenka Hukvaldy

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4.6. L'Orfeo – rehearsals and performances

L'Orfeo performance

Hukvaldy Castle (mood video)



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4.6. L'Orfeo – rehearsals and performances

L'Orfeo performance

Hukvaldy Castle (bowing)



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4.7. L'Orpheo performance in Hukvaldy Castle



5.1. Interviews with children

During rehearsals, we asked primary and secondary school pupils who sang in choirs about their relationship to opera and their experience with the project.

The questions were:

- 1) How did you get into singing?
- 2) What is it like rehearsing the opera?
- 3) Tell us something about Orpheus.
- 4) Are you going to continue singing?
- 5) Do you play any musical instrument?

Interviews were shot during rest after work in Roubenka Hukvaldy.

5.2. Interviews with children

Q1: How did you get into singing?

Elementary and secondary school pupils involved in preparation of performances.

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5.3. Interviews with children

Q2: What is it like rehearsing the opera?

Elementary and secondary school pupils involved in preparation of performances.

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5.4. Interviews with children

Q3: Tell us something about Orpheus...

Elementary and secondary school pupils involved in preparation of performances.

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5.5. Interviews with children

Q4: Are you going to continue singing?

Elementary and secondary school pupils involved in preparation of performances.

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5.6. Interviews with children

Q5: Do you play any musical instrument?

Elementary and secondary school pupils
involved in preparation of performances.

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6.1. Partners of the project

- The project has been developed with the support of the European Executive Agency for Education and Culture (EACEA), Creative Europe programme.
- Other partners were the Ministry of Culture of Czech Republic and the Moravian-Silesian Region.
- Eurofilmfest, Czech Republic, provided the project.
- The project's foreign partners were:
 - Ensemble San Felice (ESF), Florence – Italy,
 - Associazione Musicale Bel Canto (Bel Canto), Lucera – Italy,
 - Etairia Lyrikou Theatrou Ellados Monoprosopi Idiotiki Kefalaiouchiki Etairia (Hellenic Opera) Thessaloniki – Greece,
 - Lavra Opera Llc (Lavra Opera), Kyiv – Ukraine.



Co-funded by
the European Union



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Moravian-Silesian
Region



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