

The Let's Sing Opera presented Orfeo in the Moravian-Silesian Region

In Ostrava, June 24, 2024 – Last week, the audience at four remarkable places in the Moravian-Silesian region had the opportunity to see a performance of Claudio Monteverdi's early baroque opera L'ORFEO, with a libretto by Alessandro Striggio. Probably the first surviving opera in its entirety based on the Greek legend of Orpheus tells of his descent into Hades and his failed attempt to bring his dead bride, Eurydice, back to the world of the living. The fateful theme, accompanied by a chamber orchestra, was performed in solo roles by the winners of the Let's Sing Opera Competition, an international competition for young opera talents. Choral parts of Nymphs and Shepherds were sung by children from the Opera Studio of the Moravian-Silesian National Theatre, together with the pupils of Leoš Janáček's elementary school in Hukvaldy and Opava on Vrchní street. Conductor Oliver Dohnányi led the musical staging and orchestra, and Ilja Racek Jr. directed the performance. He replaced the recently suddenly deceased opera director Luďek Golat, who was the spirit and face of the project. Also, as the head of the NDM opera thirty years ago, he was at the birth of the children's Opera Studio and the International Music Festival of Janáčkovy Hukvaldy.

"Dad was an unforgettable and irreplaceable personality of the opera world. He has been working with children and young singers throughout his career. His enthusiasm for helping budding talent was contagious and led us to set up Let's Sing five years ago. It also includes the international Let's Sing Opera Competition, which in the fall of 2024 will give young opera singers another (already third) opportunity to gain visibility and collaborate with renowned professionals. In honour of its founder, Luďek Golat, it will also receive a new name, whose we will announce the final form later," says Barbora Golatová, director of the Let's Sing project.

The first of four performances of the opera Orpheus was hosted on **Thursday, June 20**, by Leoš Janáček Hukvaldy Primary School, which is equipped for this purpose with a **unique social hall**. The hall was built to support an essential cultural event in Northern Moravia, the Leoš Janáček International Music Festival, and is used for school and community events. The morning show here was dedicated mainly to the participating pupils and schools.

On **Friday**, the audience could enjoy a performance of a Greek fable in the awe-inspiring backdrop of the partially roofed amphitheatre of **Hukvaldy Castle**, the third largest castle ruin in the Czech Republic. A 2.5 km walk from the gate of the Hukvaldy deer park to the walls is richly rewarded by the fantastic view of the Beskydy mountains from the castle motte's walkway and the unique acoustics up and around the enclosed stone space under the open sky.

Saturday's reprise belonged to **Divadlo „12“**, a chamber theatre space of the Moravian-Silesian National Theatre, a place for the activities of all NDM ensembles and other experimental theatre projects on the border of genres. The stage is located on the grounds of the Jiří Myron Theatre buildings on Čs. legií street 12 and in a hall for 60 spectators, it offers a very intimate atmosphere and intense contact between actors, singers and the audience.

The final performance of Orfeo and his small tour of the Moravian-Silesian region took place on **Sunday, June 23**, in the courtyard of the **Poruba Castle**, the second-oldest building in Ostrava and the oldest structure in the Poruba area. This small castle with a simple baroque appearance, located on the northern slope of the Porubka river, is protected as a cultural monument. Although it was threatened with complete demolition in 1989, it is now flourishing in private hands.

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Let's Sing Opera is an international project organized by the Czech company Eurofilmfest, which is also behind the film festival Days of European Film. The foreign partners of the project are Ensemble San Felice (ESF) and Associazione Musicale Bel Canto (Bel Canto) from Italy, Etairia Lyrikou Theatro Ellados Monoprosopi Idiotiki Kefalaïouchiki Etairia (Hellenic Opera) from Greece and Lavra Opera Llc from Ukraine. The project, dedicated to working with the audience and breaking down the border between viewers and artists, is being created with the support of the Creative Europe program, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the Moravian-Silesian Region.

Conductor: Oliver Dohnányi

Director: Ilya Racek Jr

Cast (in alphabetical order):

Boyajiev Dennis	(baritone, Bulgaria)	Plutone, chorus bass parts
Busia Enrico	(tenor, Italy)	Orfeo
Gianni Giulia	(soprano, Italy)	Proserpina, La Ninfa
Graziani Lavinia	(soprano, Italy)	Proserpina, Euridice
Choe Hee Sun	(soprano, South Korea)	La Musica, La Ninfa
Jankowski Bartosz	(tenor, Poland)	Orfeo, Pastore
Otahara Yo	(soprano, Italy)	La Speranza, Messagera
Sozio Luca	(bass, Italy)	Charon
Spanou Ioulia	(mezzo-soprano, Greece)	La Speranza, Messagera
Sykioti Vivi	(soprano, Greece)	La Musica, Proserpina
Táborská Iva	(mezzo-soprano, Czechia)	Euridice, La Ninfa
Tejkal Jan	(tenor, Czechia)	Pastore 2, Apollo
Vardanov Davit	(countertenor, Austria)	Pastore 2

Orchestra:

Liberda Vladimír	1st violin, viola
Kitchen Hana	2nd violin
Blahutová Jana	2nd violin
Mariusz Danel	viola
Nosek Daniel	cello
Hájková Jana	harp

Links:

Web: www.letssingopera.eu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/letssingeu/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/letssingeu/

Youtube: www.youtube.com/@letssing-eu

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Media Contact:

Barbora Golatová

E: press@letssing.eu

W: <https://letssingopera.eu/press/>

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Claudio Monteverdi – L'Orfeo

Režie **Luděk Golat, Ilja Racek**

Dirigent **Oliver Dohnányi**

21.6. 2024 od 18 hodin **Hrad Hukvaldy**

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Claudio Monteverdi – L'Orfeo

Režie Luděk Golat, Ilja Racek

Dirigent Oliver Dohnányi

22.6. 2024 od 18 hodin Divadlo „12“

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Claudio Monteverdi - L'Orfeo

Režie Luděk Golat, Ilija Racek

Dirigent Oliver Dohnányi

23.6. 2024 od 17 hodin Zámek Poruba

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Claudio Monteverdi L'Orfeo

THEATRE - C.A.