



General Assembly

Madrid, 26-28 April 2002

Present

- Adriaan Reinink, coordinator
- Margo Briessinck, webmaster, Cherubino, Antwerp/Gent
- Lennaert Van Anken, Fidelio, Amsterdam
- Sabine Breuer, Intermezzo, Berlin & Rheingold, Düsseldorf
- Carlos, Jovès Amics del Liceu, Barcelona
- Daniel Dembinsky, Jovenes Amigos de la Opera de Madrid, Madrid
- Yago Castro-Rial, Jovenes Amigos de la Opera de Madrid, Madrid
- Marco Margheri, Milano per la Scala - Gruppo Giovani, Milan
- Ricciarda Belgiojoso, Milano per la Scala - Gruppo Giovani, Milan
- Audrey Jungers, La Monnaie, Brussels
- Katarina Synakova, Prague
- Florian Burnat, Arop Club Junior, Paris

Friday, 26 April 2002

OPENING SESSION

The meeting start at 16.30h with a welcome word from Adriaan Reinink and the approval of the agenda.

WORK SESSION 1 "Maintaining the network" chaired by Margo Briessinck

Margo took us step by step through the (too unused) possibilities offered by the website (<http://www.juvenilia.org/>). The active use of the website would enable more people to benefit from Juvenilia and the individual clubs' activities that are offered on it. Juvenilia members should realise that they are also responsible - and have the means - of keeping the website up to date via the restricted area (Juvenilia -> Logon).

The three main sections are:

1. **Account:** to update your account information
 - user info: to keep the account user's information up to date (name, email address)
 - change password
 - help: a pop-up window to guide you through in case of doubt
2. **Club:** to update information of your youth club and to add/update related opera houses and contacts; this corresponds with the "Members" information on the website
 - contact info: contact information about your youthclub (always use "http://" before the web site address)
 - opera house: your opera house(s) website; you can always add to the list
 - contacts: the people in your association who are willing to answer questions
3. **Communication:** to add/update activities, write articles for the newsletter and access a

mailing list tool

- newsletter articles: quite straightforward to use, your draft article can be edited and will not be published until you press the "finished" button
- send email: to 'all members' (youth clubs); to 'other contacts' of the youth clubs; to 'extra contacts' (not active in a youth club but interested in getting information)
- announcements: will appear on the homepage calendar. To announce a new event, you can enter the date it will take place, a description, a link to another website, and the priority (how much in advance you would like it to be on the calendar).
About past activities: you can either delete your activity once it has passed, you can just leave it the way it is, or you can change the description of the activity to a report which might inspire other youth clubs and tip them off what works and what doesn't. Sabine would like to see another presentation of the calendar on the website: one that shows more details of all youth club activities at the same time. Margo will have a look at it.

Further discussion of the website dealt with how the website - and thus also Juvenilia - is (or is not) found by search engines. Two solutions: adding keywords to the header of the home page and linking from as many websites as possible, starting with the opera houses websites, but also registering it in some directories like Yahoo!.

Lennaert raised the question whether it isn't possible to add an "attraction" to the website, perhaps an opera 'newspage' with inside information about singers, productions and operahouses. Finally, it was decided to see if we could add a sort of web-based discussion forum.

The meeting ends at 18.30h.

Saturday, 27 April 2002

WORK SESSION 2 "Expanding the network" chaired by Adriaan Reinink

The meeting starts at 11.00h.

A discussion around 'how to find new young opera friends all over Europe' (either in an association or not). Juvenilia might like to take the following responsibilities:

- support existing youthclubs
- encourage and help to found new youthclubs
- provide information and activities for individual young opera lovers

To do this, Juvenilia is now focusing on the following points:

1. Participation in projects

- organised by one or several youth clubs in the name of Juvenilia: one Juvenilia event a year (open to all youth audiences across Europe - announced through as many communication channels as possible) and one General Assembly
- organised by youth clubs (for their own members primarily, but open to any young opera lover travelling by - announced on the website calendar)
- organised by individuals (for a European youth audience)
- organised by opera houses or festivals (for young opera fans across Europe)

2. Communication towards opera companies

- to make the name "Juvenilia" wider known to support initiatives on youth audiences
- to provide them with information (basic guidelines) about youth clubs and departments in the other European opera

3. Distribution of free information

- about Juvenilia itself

- about the different clubs (general information & activities). [A Questionnaire was passed around for the participating clubs to fill in]
- as archives: on Juvenilia's history and on how Juvenilia works now, with a sort of memory bank and guidelines

On these points, several actions will be undertaken:

- Juvenilia's homepage will soon have a short, informative welcome text and an "about us" link in order to give new-comers a detailed information on who we are and how we got this far. Audrey will write the draft versions.
- Juvenilia members are asked to mention Juvenilia on their communication (website, letters, newsletters etc. to their members, to opera houses, to sponsors, ...). For instance by means of the Juvenilia logo and/or by referring to www.juvenilia.org.
- Juvenilia members should try to get their different partners (opera houses, sponsors, other institutions) to set up a link from their website to Juvenilia's homepage. This should make it easier for young people to find Juvenilia on the Web.
- Juvenilia's Information Centre will compose a general text about Juvenilia and youth clubs. This text shall be send it out as a letter or email to all Fedora and Reseo members in order to collect information about the youth policy status in the different opera houses across Europe. The information about who was contacted and what progress was made shall be published on the restricted area of the website. This "private working space" - that shall be open for all members to edit - will act as a database of information on opera houses and associations not yet linked to Juvenilia. This working space can also be used to follow-up other projects.
- Based on the questionnaire which was filled out by associations present in Madrid, Juvenilia will create a document of "Tips and guidelines" to creating a youthclub. In order to support initiatives across Europe and share our experience. Juvenilia will also propose "consultants" who will give advice to the "beginners" in youth policy matters.

The meeting ends at 13.30h

WORK SESSION 3 "Retrospective on past events to build future Juvenilia events" **chaired by Audrey Jungers**

The meeting start at 16.30h.

All present are asked to give their impresions about European Youth Events. The information can be used in the guidelines of the Information Center.

Positive experiences:

- fully organised activities and accomodations
- meeting others, making friends (social)
- meeting people from other countries (cultural)
- workshops
- meeting artists
- guided tours
- experience for future jobs in opera companies
- summertime is preferable; it is easier to find time to attend a meeting
- cheap tickets

Negative experiences:

- overloaded programme
- no choice within the programme

- no clear costs and programme

The session came to the following conclusions about the contents of a European Youth Event. It should:

- offer performances
- not be too packed with activities; leave some free time to participants to relax and get to know each other
- offer 'cultural' (operatic) activities: meeting artists, directors etc. (compulsory out of respect for the specialist we'll be meeting)
- be free of compulsory attendance of the tourist activities (museums, tour of the city etc.)
- present precise planning (time schedule) and price information to be given beforehand
- reflect the country's mentality in the organisation of activities (different interests to be discovered, different experiences to be made)
- have participants that are flexible in their time-schedule

Several European Youth Events have already been announced for next season:

- **October/November 2002**

Sabine announced that she has created a new youth club in Berlin, called *Intermezzo*. On the occasion of the foundation of *Intermezzo*, she would like to organize a big *Juvenilia* event in Berlin. The programme is to be announced at the beginning of June.

- **11-12 January 2003**

Japanese weekend in Amsterdam. With performances of *Madama Butterfly* and *Tea* (by Tan Dun), and the movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

- **21-23 March 2003**

Take a Note weekend in Brussels. *Oedipe sur la route* (world creation), contemporary concert directed by Kazushi Ono (with a work composed by Boesmans for a new instrument called the aulochrome), Africalia concert (percussions), and open doors at the Theatre (guided tours, meetings with artists, access to rehearsals...)

- **May 2003**

Juvenilia General Assembly in Milan.

The meeting ends at 18.30h.

Sunday, 28 April 2002

FINAL SESSION

The meeting starts at 13.00h.

After the guided tour through the Teatro Real, the General Assembly came together to talk about other matters important to members.

1. Youthclub survival

Juvenilia can unfortunately not do much about helping a youthclub to survive the threat of members moving on with their lives. The best *Juvenilia* can offer is to provide information on its website, which is always accessible to everybody. *Juvenilia* also keeps a memory of what once existed, in case people are motivated to start up again.

Marco Margheri from Milan asks if it is possible to put the email database of clubs that are terminated on a *Juvenilia*-mailinglist in order to keep them informed about European activities and in order to save the information if a new local club should be founded. This is considered to be too much work for *Juvenilia*. A little enthusiasm should be shown by (former) members by taking the little trouble of checking on the website. Of course individuals can be appointed as contacts for certain regions in Europe.

2. Operacamp!

Operacamp! is a project which a few of us started to talk about last year in Salzburg. The idea was basically to organise a summer camp (5 to 10 days) during which total amateurs could set up an opera (building the set, making costumes, learning to sing and perform). The idea seems quite ambitious and could be approached on different levels of professionalism and quality.

A first experience will be made, with Elfi's permission, this summer in Salzburg. We shall try to set up a one-day workshop during which we will stage a scene of a famous opera, supported by a CD-playback to avoid hurting ears. The result will be presented later in the evening. If this reveals to be a positive experience, Juvenilia can consider to let the initiative grow into a more complete programme for opera amateurs.

3. **Juvenilia versus the U.S.A.**

Juvenilia will try to make contact with different organisations in the US in order to enhance communication exchange, and consider trips to the other side of the Atlantic.

The Juvenilia General Assembly closed on a very positive feeling of common effort to make us grow further.

The meeting ends at 14.45h.