



Newsletter June 2003

Introduction to the minutes

Dear all,

The short, concise meeting minutes of the General Assembly in Milan in April. I hope they can inform those that were not there well enough about what was discussed and that it refreshes the memories of those who were present.

My thanks are in the first place for Audrey who has kept score of our discussions. In the second place to all those that came and showed their wish to make a difference for young friends all over Europe. Keep up the good work!

For me, soon my task shall be over as coordinator of Juvenilia. A task I have liked and - rarely - hated. It can be time consuming and invisible. I hope to be able to let you know the tips and guidelines to the Information Centre before I vanish into the old man's life... Remember, there is still a long way to go!

Yours,
Adriaan Reinink

Adriaan Reinink

GA Meeting Minutes

Milan April 2003

Juvenilia General Assembly Milan 4 – 7 April 2003

FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2003 16.45 – Opening session of the G.A.

Present :

Joves Amics del Liceu (Roger Agramont, Rodrigo Diaz, Juan Morera),

Rheingold – Düsseldorf (Sabine Gabriele Breuer),

Cherubino - Antwerp (Margo Briessinck – webmaster),

Jovenes Amigos del Teatro Madrid – Madrid (Maria José Martin),

Muze - Brussels (Benny Verhelst),

Fidelio – Amsterdam (Lennaert Van Anken),

Junge Freunde der Salzburger Festspiele – Salzburg (Thomas Pintaric),

Apollo – Berlin (Stefan Haid),

Munich (Gunther Ofenmacher)

La Monnaie – Brussels (Audrey Jungers)

Milano per la Scala Gruppo Giovani – Milan (Elizabetta, Francesca, Melissa)

Juvenilia Information Centre – Adriaan Reinink, coördinator

Approval of the following agenda

Friday 4 April

16.00-18.00 welcome & update of club-related information (questionnaire)

Saturday 5 April

13.30 – 15.30 : Meeting 1: « YOUTH ACTIVITIES » & presentation of RESEO

Sunday 6 April

10.00 – 12.00 : Meeting 2 :« EUROPEAN CULTURAL NETWORKS »; presentation of FEDORA ; overview of Madrid's GA Minutes

13.00 – 15.00 : Meeting 3 : « WHAT'S NEXT? »; EYCM agenda, continuation of the Information Centre and website, membership fee

Monday 7 April

10.00 – 12.00 : training session on the use of the website

Overview of Madrid's GA Minutes

This year we miss the presence of Paris and Prague. But we feel confident we are progressing with the participation of Muze, Salzburg, Berlin & Munich.

It is decided to use the spare time of the welcome session to start discussing the GA meeting minutes of Madrid 2002.

« Worksession 1 : maintaining the network » GA Meeting Minutes 2002

The « forum » (discussion via e-mail) and the « chatroom » (discussion in real-time) were removed from the website because of an absence of activity. The question is raised: should we put them back online? Technically they can be put online very easily. If the chatroom is needed, it can be reinstated. The point of the forum was to attract visitors and to make the website seem alive and up-to-date. It was decided not to reinstate it. It was noticed that visitors of juvenilia.org were either active Juvenilia members or arrived there via a link from operahouse websites.

The idea of creating a mailing list outside of the restricted area to send information more widely was given. Thus the following question: who do we wish to provide with information about Juvenilia activities? Are EYCM open to all youngsters or are they reserved to members of youthclubs across Europe? This depends from one youthclub to another. Düsseldorf does not seem to want to open EYCM to random participants because of the important discount awarded to EYCM activities. It remains up to the individual clubs to decide who can get (discount-)tickets and who cannot.

SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2003

16.00 – MEETING 1

YOUTH ACTIVITIES & PRESENTATION OF RESEO

Present: Isabel Joly (RESEO), Adriaan, Benny, Lennaert, Sabine, Stefan, Maria-José, Margo, Marco, Gunther, Juan, Audrey.

Reseo, European Network of Educational Departments of Opera Houses?

Isabel Joly gives an introduction to RESEO. She works for RESEO as an assistant to Luke O'Shaunessy, who replaced - well-known to many of us - Ann Laenen.

Reseo now has 35 members who share the same aim : offering a broader access to opera. They each pay an annual membership fee of 750 Euro, and received funding from the European Commission for defined projects.

Reseo is run by a steering committee, which counts 7 members from different opera houses and who share the responsibility of taking the final decisions. There is no president.

Reseo holds two annual meetings, one in autumn and one in spring. All members are invited. Speakers are also often invited to present different themes. At the last meeting, the speaker spoke about "marketing in opera". But more important is that the members present an update of

what's going on in the workgroups that they are part of. This requires some explanation (below). These past three years a project was set up with the theme "why & how opera education today?". It is financially supported by the European Commission (EC). The results of the research will be presented to the EC in September. This research project is divided over 4 working groups, who each have a paid leader:

- Repertoire (in collaboration with the University of Oldenburg): the group is putting together all information about opera sung by or for children. The database will be accessible to Reseo members.
- Artists: the group have put together a group of artists from around Europe who are specialised in working with children, and who come together every year to share and improve their techniques.
- Teachers (in collaboration with Munster University): the group brought together a selection of teachers who receive training in methodology (3 ways of teaching) to work on opera with children.
- Research (in collaboration with the University of Leeds): the question was "what future for opera?".

The next project Reseo has presented is waiting for approval from the European Commission in May. The subject they hope to research next year is "artist development". In May Reseo has a meeting in Barcelona about communication between Educational Departments and Directors.

The following questions were asked during the meeting:

What can we do for Reseo? What can Reseo do for us?

Reseo will include a letter about Juvenilia in the dossier given out to participants at the Barcelona General Assembly in May. This letter will not only have as aim to make Educational Departments aware of the existence of youthclubs and Juvenilia, but will also aim to encourage a closer collaboration between each Educational Department and the youthclub operating within the same opera house.

There is a possibility for Juvenilia to use the Forum at Reseo's website (for instance: to get access to the Newsletter). The database remains for members only.

SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2003

10.15 – MEETING 2

« EUROPEAN CULTURAL NETWORKS »

presentation of FEDORA ; overview of Madrid's GA Minutes

Present: Marie Bernard (Fedora), Isabel, Marco, Margo, Adriaan, Rodrigo, Maria-José, Elizabetta, Lennaert, Benny, Sabine, Gunther, Stefan, Ricciarda, Filippo, Audrey

Fedora, European Network of Friends Association

Introduction by: Marie Bernard, coordinating administrator of FEDORA

Fedora is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, under the presidency of Gerard Mortier. Founded by Rolf Liebermann, the two priorities set for Fedora from the start are: disclosure and support of opera friends in Eastern European countries & activities for the youth.

The Fedora board has between 10 and 12 representatives. Marie Bernard is the only person paid by Fedora and in charge of the administrative work.

Fedora has one General Assembly every year where each Friends association is represented by one or two delegates. These delegates cannot be on the payroll of the association, they are members of the board of their association.

Fedora offers, amongst other, an international ticketing service. This is extremely time-consuming for Marie.

The number of members in Fedora has varied over the years. A reason for this is the change of presidents: Gerard Mortier recently replaced Rolf Liebermann, and as a political statement against Mortier's artistic views, some associations decided to leave Fedora.

The Fedora Board has recently decided to open Fedora to extra-European opera Friends in September.

The annual membership fee for joining Fedora is

- 2000 Euro for an association
- 40 Euro for each member of the association willing to participate in Fedora activities
- 80 Euro for each member if he wishes to use the International Ticketing Service

Fedora has about 500 individual members.

Marie expresses the wish to concentrate on other aims for Fedora: promoting contacts between countries to avoid the time-consuming ticketing service, encouraging exchange between associations and help and create new Friends associations.

She insists on the understanding that the opera house management strongly influences the way a friends association develops.

What could be the relation between Fedora and Juvenilia? Contrary to Reseo but like Juvenilia, people involved in Fedora are also volunteers, members of the Boards of friends associations. In this way, they are not necessarily aware of the youth activities in their opera house, and promoting Juvenilia in Fedora will certainly help this awareness.

Gerard Mortier has also offered that Juvenilia joins the Fedora activity which shall take place during the Ruhrtriennale in September 2003. This will be the last Fedora meeting with Gerard Mortier as president. The programme: on 13/9 St François d'Assise (Messiaen, directed by Sylvain Cambreling) and on 14/9 Die Zauberflöte (directed by Marc Minkowski, staging by La Fura dels Baus). The tickets will probably cost around 20 Euro for both performances, and inscriptions will have to be in by July 1st. Marie will put together a package including accommodation in a youth hostel and a bus for travelling to the different spots, as well as a few activities to allow us to understand the Ruhr and meet the Fedora participants. Fedora will be having a Board-meeting Friday morning and a General Assembly Friday afternoon.

Representation from Juvenilia shall be welcome.

Once Marie sends out the information, the youth clubs will be responsible for sending out the information to their members and gathering inscriptions to further them to Marie.

Estimation of tickets requested: Duesseldorf 20, Barcelona 10, Madrid 5, Brussels 30, Amsterdam 15-20, Milan 5-10, Berlin 5, Munich 5 (?).

overview of Madrid's GA Minutes, continued

« Worksession 2: Expanding the network » GA Meeting Minutes 2002

The aim of this worksession was to explore new ways to find young opera friends in Europe. Most of the actions were undertaken, or are in process of being undertaken. Everyone is reminded of the so called restricted area on the website. It has a "workspace" with a series of folders that contain information about the evolution of contacts.

Milano raised the question if the Juvenilia website could be used as their youth club's website. Since any youth club can publish their activities in the calendar and can update their club's page, it's not a technical problem. It's up to clubs to use the website this way.

A document "tips & guidelines to creating a youth club", written on basis of the questionnaire most clubs filled in, should also be available soon.

« Worksession 3: Retrospective on past events » GA Meeting Minutes 2002

The guidelines to organising a "good" EYCM are refreshed: performances rather than rehearsals ; not too packed with activities because time is needed to socialize and relax ; the inclusion of other cultural activities is interesting, but they should not be compulsory ; meeting artists is always interesting ; a precise planning should be given ahead, with a clear schedule and a – more or less - fixed price announced quite some time before.

Last year, the **Berlin** event (11 people) was announced at the end of April, but the programme was not released until mid-September.

The **Amsterdam** meeting (67 people) was well organised, but the rehearsal of Madama Butterfly fell through.

The **Paris** event (90 people) in March was very successful, but several points are mentioned: it had not been announced beforehand at the GA in Madrid, and no accomodation or common meals were organised. It is important to note that once an activity is announced as a EYCM, there is a certain responsibility for offering a solid organisation. Consulting and communicating about the event with the Information Centre is considered a tactful gesture.

The **Brussels** event did not attract an international crowd, but this wasn't a big problem, since it was an event for Belgium youth and wasn't conceived especially for Juvenilia.

The GA in **Milan** was open to non-GA representatives, but this appears to have been less clear to potential participants.

Adriaan would have liked to organise a workshop as we experienced them in Salzburg in 1997.

They not only provided a better understanding of opera, but also helped social bonds grow stronger. It triggered the founding of Juvenilia and many youthclubs, like Fidelio.

SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2003

MEETING 3

14.00 WHAT'S NEXT?

EYCM agenda

Youth events for next season.

Mid-July 2003 – **Munich** Opera Festival includes: Falstaff, Elektra, Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria.

13 – 14 September 2003 – **Ruhrtriennale**: Die Zauberflöte & St François d'Assise

December 2003 – **Düsseldorf**: no program known

7 – 8 Februari 2004 – La Monnaie, **Brussels** : TAKE A NOTE festival, Alceste, Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria, L'Ile de Tulipatan, concert directed by Ivor Bolton

April 2004 – **Berlin** : no program known

June 2004 – **Amsterdam** : "Spanish week-end", Don Carlo & Marco Polo

General Assembly

Dusseldorf and Amsterdam offered to hold the General Assembly. Out of 11 votes, 9 went to Amsterdam and 2 to Dusseldorf.

Adriaan has a few remarks in regards to his responsibility towards Juvenilia as coordinator of the Information Centre. One of them is the question of financing. The Information Centre is not subsidised in any way since it is independant to a club (some representatives of clubs are sponsored by their clubs to come to the GA). To participate in the GA has inevitably financial consequences. Adriaan would like to have the issue resolved. After long discussions (a concert was cancelled because of this), it was decided that the organiser of the GA must offer free accommodation for the Information Centre (and if possible for other participants), knowing that the Information Centre must approve on the location of the GA to avoid too important travelling costs.

Continuation of the Information Centre and website, membership fee

Margo remains responsible for the collection of the membership fee. None is needed now, the website is already paid for this year.

It was decided two years ago that the Information Centre shall change person every 2 years.

Adriaan's term is coming to an end, and a new coordinator must be elected. The two candidates are Lennaert and Ricciarda. Out of 11 votes, Lennaert obtained 7 and Ricciarda 4. Lennaert will be taking over from Adriaan over the summer.

End of the Milan General Assembly.

(07/04 – meeting cancelled)

