



General Assembly

Paris, 28 May 2005

Minutes

The General Assembly took place in the "Salon Florence Gould" at the Palais Garnier on Saturday, 28 May 2005. There were two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The General Assembly was chaired by Lennaert Van Anken.

Present

- Lennaert Van Anken, information center
- Margo Briessinck, webmaster Juvenilia
- Sabine Gabriele Breuer, Rheingold - Düsseldorf
- Els Vanvolsem, Orfeo - La Monnaie, Brussels
- Christelle Laviolette - La Monnaie, Brussels (morning session)
- Pierre-Jean Tribot - La Monnaie, Brussels (afternoon session)
- Florian Burnat - Arop Junior, Paris
- Michel Ginestous - Arop Junior, Paris
- Héloïse de Labarrière - Arop, Paris
- Christoph Gräfe - Dresden
- Carola Schwab - Dresden
- Isabel Ulitzsch - Dresden
- Alexander Käfer - Apollo, Berlin
- Florian Bartels - Apollo, Berlin
- Elfi Schweiger - Junde Freunde Salzburger Festspiele, Salzburg (morning session)
- Hubert Klinger - JOM, München
- Silke van Arum - Fidelio, Amsterdam
- Manuel Paláez Olmo - Jovenes Amigos de la Opera de Madrid, Madrid (afternoon session)
- Albert Garriga - Jovès Amics del Liceu, Barcelona (morning session)
- Edmund Townend - London
- Claire Owen - France/USA
- Marie Bernard - Fedora (morning session)

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2004 GA

Corrections:

- point V-7: "no members" should be "50 members"
- point VI-8: Orfeo had 260-270 members

Otherwise, there are no remarks regarding the minutes of the 2004 GA.

2. How are the Youth Clubs doing ?

2.1 Cherubino, Antwerp/Ghent

There are no changes since 2004. The Flemish Opera is still focusing on educational projects and not on the age group 15-30.

2.2 Rheingold, Düsseldorf

The opera house (Deutsche Oper am Rhein) doesn't work well together with the youth club on youth projects. However, they are offering very cheap tickets. Rheingold has started a cooperation with the "Freundenkreis" (older members) and is offering a double membership for the age group 30-35.

Activities:

- trip to Vienna, which was also open to other Juvenilia members
- Juvenilia Niklaus-weekend in December: 30 participants (of which about 10 from other clubs, mainly from Germany and Holland). The programme consisted of a concert at the Tonhalle and two operas (Tristan und Isolde, Yevgenij Onegin)

2.3 Orfeo, Brussels

Orfeo is doing well; with 366 members and 15 active board members the youth club is growing again. Orfeo has no connection with the "Friends" and since they are embedded in La Monnaie the collaboration with the opera house worked very well for all events.

Activities:

- New Year's Eve event: about 80 participants celebrated New Year's Eve at La Monnaie
- Take a Note in March: over 3000 people younger than 26 took part in this Youth Festival (with about 50 from abroad, half of which from Paris); two operas (Julie, Turn of the screw), interviews with artists, workshops (such as an "opera karaoke" together with the opera chorus)

2.4 Arop junior, Paris

Arop junior has 500-600 members, mostly because of a youth subscription. For the first time they managed to organise a trip abroad (to "Take a Note" in Brussels). They publish a three-monthly magazine "Place(s) aux jeunes" with interviews, articles and information about the operas.

2.5 Jovès Amics del Liceu, Barcelona

The youth club is part of the Friends with 100-120 members. They can get cheaper tickets through private sponsorship. Activities like meetings or workshops aren't of much interest to its members. They are now more focusing on working with young singers and educational projects (in poor neighbourhoods, prisons, ...).

2.6 SemperOper-Jugendclub, Dresden

The Dresden Youth Club was founded in February 2005 after a "Music Theater" project. This project was a collaboration between four cultural institutions in Dresden: the opera, the theater, a museum and a community school. The project consisted of different workshops: an interaction between a pianist, dancer and painter; a theater workshop on how to speak on a stage; visits to the the opera/theater workshops. This project was so succesful that the idea came to continue and found a youth club. Currently it's still a small group of about 10 members.

The main interest of the youth club lies in the production process, on how opera works, on

participating in active workshops. Claire remarks that organizing active workshops can make the difference for some people to get interested or involved in opera. This in contrast to the more "passive" introduction type of activities. Els mentions that Orfeo is also organizing 4-5 workshops a year (on dance, singing, painting, ...) but that they work best with small groups (10-15 persons maximum).

2.7 London

Both the Royal Opera House and English National Opera have a Friends scheme with reduced membership fees, but with no specific benefits or activities for young people. Mostly, people are a member in order to be able to get tickets (at the ROH).

Edmund might try to promote Juvenilia activities to the young members, even though there's no real youth club, for example via their newsletter. Other possibilities are working together with university, where there's an opera group which does an opera every year.

2.8 Apollo, Berlin

Apollo is part of the Friends (of the Staatsoper), which has a new enthusiastic director, who's interested in Apollo. Apollo counts around 40 members.

Activities:

- Juvenilia weekend in October; with a workshop by Rainer O. Brinkmann, a guided tour of the opera house, and opera performances (My way of life, Der ferne Klang, and (optional) La traviata, Die Zauberflöte)

2.9 Junge Freunde, Salzburg

The youth club is part of the senior club, which subsidizes young visitors from abroad to come to Salzburg during the Festival. They are also cooperating with other theaters in Salzburg.

Activities:

- Jedermann project, where they created the whole show, combined with workshops
- European Youth Cultural Meeting for Juvenilia members

2.10 JOM, München

The youth club has about 80 members and 6 board members. The opera house itself organizes already a lot for teenagers. The youth club organizes introductions and discussions before and after a performance. They have 1-2 activities every month.

Activities:

- Youth meeting in July 2004 with performances of Rodelinda, Tannhauser and Rape of Lucretia, and a concert with David Daniels

2.11 Fidelio, Amsterdam

Fidelio has about 180 members with 8 board members. Last year they changed their logo and adapted a new house style. They're organizing about 6 activities each year.

2.12 Nürnberg

Leander Krummrich organized a second Youth Meeting in April, which was the start for founding a Youth Club at the Nürnberg opera.

2.13 Jovenes Amigos de la Opera de Madrid, Madrid

The Madrid Youth club doesn't get much support from the opera house and aren't organizing any activities.

2.14 Fedora

Marie Bernard tells about the recent changes in Fedora:

- Federico Mayor Zaragoza is the new president (taking over from Gerard Mortier)
- Fedora will move from Paris to Brussels (La Monnaie)
- Fedora has redefined its goals, e.g. one of the main activities - the ticketing service - has almost become obsolete due to the ease with which tickets can be bought over the internet
- membership fee will be reduced
- Fedora will organize an Opera Forum in 2007 in Paris for the different Friends clubs (probably including Juvenilia), opera professionals, Reseo and "Opera Europa" members

At the last Fedora GA, it was decided that they wanted to get in closer contact with Juvenilia. They will invite a Juvenilia representative to their next GA's (travel and accommodation payed).

3. Future Juvenilia youth meetings

The following youth clubs are candidate to organize a meeting next season.

JOM (Munich) - 15-17 July 2005

- Pique Dame, Entführung aus dem Serail, Billy Budd
- cost: around 15 euro/performance

Salzburg - three events during the Summer Festival

- Salzburg Festival Opera Workshop (already full)
- New York project (already full)
- 9th EYCM in Salzburg - 21-26 August: Salzburg Passagen (dance), Così fan tutte, Mitridate, Lied recital by Sophie Koch, Das neue Babylon, concert by Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden

Fidelio (Amsterdam) - 10-17 September 2005

- Ring des Nibelungen
- cooperation with Gergiev Festival in Rotterdam
- introductions, dinners
- 40 available places (incl. places for Fidelio members)
- cost: ca. 75-100 euro (excl. accommodation)

Apollo (Berlin) - 21-23 October 2005

- Salome, Otello, Così fan tutte
- workshop
- 40 available places
- registration before the end of July
- cost: 160 euro (incl. accommodation)

Orfeo (Brussels) - 4-8 February 2006

- Take a Note: Così fan tutte, Il re pastore
- cost 10/20/40 euro (depending on the chosen ticket category)

Arop junior (Paris) - 6-7 May 2006 (probably)

- this weekend (with Simon Boccanegra, Platée) has still to be checked with the Opéra
- alternative weekends are 24-25 September (Cardillac, Rusalka), 19-20 November 2005 (Tristan und Isolde, Nos) and 25-26 February 2006 (Don Giovanni or Madama Butterfly, Rigoletto)

Nürnberg - will probably organize a weekend, but don't know yet when.

Rheingold (Düsseldorf) - the opera house won't organize a weekend, but maybe Sabine is going to organize a weekend, if there's enough interest. To get an idea of possible interest she asked everybody which clubs might be interested.

London - maybe

4. Juvenilia General Assembly 2006

There are no fixed candidates yet. Lennaert suggests to have a GA in Germany, since there never has been one in Germany. The following suggestions will be investigated:

- Christoph and Isabel will check with the Semperoper if they're already able and willing to host the GA, despite the fact that they're very new
- Lennaert will ask the same question to Leander in Nürnberg, in case they're going to organize their weekend again in Spring

If case neither youth clubs can host the GA, Orfeo (La Monnaie) is ready to organize a second weekend to host the GA.

5. Future of Juvenilia

Florian Burnat asks whether it wouldn't be a good idea if Juvenilia becomes a real association. This has been discussed before (especially during the GA's of 2000 in Barcelona and 2001 in Brussels).

Becoming a formal association hasn't much added value, except if:

- legal safety is needed in case of financial transactions
- some kind of "power" is wanted
- there's the need to get sponsorship for some projects

The drawbacks, compared to the current situation:

- we need to write and agree on a constitution
- we lose flexibility
- more administration, difficult to run Juvenilia by volunteers

After some discussion, everybody is in favour to keep the situation as it is.

6. Election new Information Center

Lennaert has held the Information Center for two years, so a new IC has to be elected. There are two candidates: Florian Burnat and Sabine Breuer.

The eight present youth clubs vote with the following results:

- Florian: 4 votes
- Sabine: 4 votes

The GA decides that Florian and Sabine will run the IC together for the next two years, starting end of August. They will be supported by:

- Lennaert
- Margo (website)
- Claire (contact with possible US youth clubs)

The following tasks for the IC will be a priority:

- releasing more newsletters (monthly, bi-monthly, ...) so that there's more regular news about what's happening in the different clubs
- contacting opera houses (members of Fedora, Opera Europa, ...) with the question if they have a youth club and if so, whether it's interested in joining Juvenilia

Minutes by Margo Briessinck