



European Association of Young Opera Friends

Minutes of the General Assembly meeting held in the Deutsche Oper, Berlin, at 26-2-2010.

Present:

Elisabetta Matranga-Ammirata (President), Fondazione Milano per la Scala - Gruppo Giovani, Milan

Arjan Stoop (Typist), Fidelio, Amsterdam

Valentino Tamburi, Fondazione Milano per la Scala - Gruppo Giovani, Milan

Julian-Alexander Schieke, Jugendclub Deutsche Oper Berlin e.V., Berlin

Christoph Brzezinski, Jugendclub Deutsche Oper Berlin e.V., Berlin

Maurice Wothe, Jugendclub Deutsche Oper Berlin e.V., Berlin

Matthias Otterbach, Junge Opernfreunde München e.V., Munich

Anne Gerber, SemperOper Jugendclub, Dresden

Stefan Nagora, SemperOper Jugendclub, Dresden

In Attendance:

Sabine Breuer, Hannover (till 11:45)

1. Opening

Elisabetta opens the meeting at 10:30.

2. Presentation of the Youth Clubs

Every representative explains about the structure of their youth club and the things they do.

Fidelio is a club for people up to 30 years. It's part of the friends of the Dutch National Opera and currently has approximately 200 members. Membership costs 20 euros a year. As a member, you can get all kinds of discounts. For example, for some performances you can book tickets in advance for 20 euros. Also, starting one day before a performance, you can buy the best tickets available for 20 euros. Furthermore, Fidelio offers free activities, such as

guided tours through the opera building and the décor centre, as well as speed courses about opera.

The Jugendclub Deutsche Oper is also for people up to 30 years and has 65 members. They were founded in 2009. Because it's very easy to get cheap tickets in Berlin through the classic card-system, there's no big need for another discount system. Nevertheless, members are offered cheap tickets in advance on selected dates. The club organises guided tours and "Opernstammtische": meetings with employees of the Deutsche Oper. They don't cooperate with the other opera houses in Berlin because of the competition between them at the top management level.

The club in Dresden has 25 members and was founded in 2005. They don't have a legal registration and membership is free. Members can book tickets for every performance for the fixed price of 10 euros. Since there are virtually no other ways to get cheap tickets for the Semperoper, it's a great deal. The club organises all kinds of activities such as workshops. The age limit is ± 27 years, and they don't feel the need to grow. It's more of a club for people who just like to be together.

The Junge Opernfreunde in Munich has 85 members. They can get cheap tickets for fixed dates. Guests are allowed, but they are charged a bit more for a ticket. Sometimes the club organizes introductions at those performances, and it offers guided tours.

The Scala opera house has in fact three youth clubs, each with their own pros and cons. Elisabetta represents the Fondazione Milano per la Scala - Gruppo Giovani and also the interests of the LaScalaUnder30 (the official club of the Scala). At the moment, they aren't offered any discounts, but there is an option on cheap seats in the highest ranks. Their main activities focus around rehearsals. Furthermore, they organise trips to other opera houses in Italy. They are a sponsor of the Accademia della Scala. There's a progressive membership fee: if you are under 20, you pay 25€ every year; between 20 and 25: 50€ between 25 and 30: 100€ and between 30 and 35: 250€. At the moment there are between 200 and 300 members.

After the introduction, Sabine tells something about her ideas about the Juvenilia Alumni program. She wants that juvenilia activities are open for people over 30 too, of course for a higher entrance fee. She thinks that it is possible that Alumni can support the 'normal', young Juvenilia members.

Two decisions have been made: at every Juvenilia event, the price for 30+ should be announced too, if possible. Furthermore, every youth club member who turns over 30 should be informed about Juvenilia Alumni.

Sabine will monitor the whole process, and will end the Alumni group if it turns out that there's no demand.

3. Rules and regulations

It seems that there are many clubs associated with Juvenilia. In reality though, few clubs stay in touch with Elisabetta. The existence of some of the clubs is even doubtful. It's time to clean up the list. Elisabetta will send an email to every club in the list, asking them if they still want to be a member of Juvenilia. If there's no reaction, the club will be removed from the list.

The following rules have been stated:

1. Every member of every member club must know about Juvenilia. To do so, every club must:
 - a. Mention Juvenilia on his website or flyers.
 - b. Inform its members at least twice a year about upcoming events.
2. Every club has to have a contact person for Juvenilia. Changes should be send as soon as possible to the president of Juvenilia.
3. Every club should be active in Juvenilia. To do so, every member club :
 - a. Has to be reachable by the president.
 - b. Has to send a delegate or email every GA.

Elisabetta will make a new list of contact persons and a mailing list to reach them.
Matthias will take over the website from Margo. He will send everyone their passwords for the site.

4. Creating an individual members list

Every youth club which organizes an event should decide for itself whether they allow people attending who aren't a member of a youth club. The following text has to be on the Juvenilia website: "You're no member of the participating youth clubs, but you want to attend an event? Just email the club who organises the event and ask them".
An individual members list is therefore not necessary.

5. Structure

For the time being, the current structure with one president, who is helped by the contact persons, is sufficient.

With this said, Elisabetta ends the meeting at 14:00.