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## **European Association of Young Opera Friends**

Minutes of the General Assembly meeting held in the Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, at 17-4-2010.

Present:

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

Arjan Stoop (Typist), Fidelio, Amsterdam.

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

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

Simone Oestreicher, Jugendclub Deutsche Oper Berlin e.V., Berlin.

Carlos Garcés, Joves Amics del Liceu, Barcelona.

Kristian Falke, Apollo, Berlin.

Nico Dmoch, Rheingold, Düsseldorf.

Anna Barbara Kistner, Junge Opernfreunde München e.V., Munich.

Patricia Weissensee, Junge Opernfreunde München e.V., Munich.

Moritz Maximilian Neumann, Junge Opernfreunde München e.V., Munich.

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

In Attendance:

Margo Briessinck, Brussels

Anja Frank, Leipzig

Zsuzsanna Balogh, Budapest

Veronika Hajdu, Budapest

1. Opening

Elisabetta opens the meeting at 10:30 and welcomes all.

2. Round of Welcome

Everyone attending introduces him or herself.

### 3. Letter by Florian Burnat

Elisabetta gives a summary of a letter by Florian. The two main points that are of great importance to Juvenilia, according to him, are more and better communication, and cooperation with Fedora and/or Opera Europa.

### 4. Topics of the meeting

Elisabetta announces that this meeting will focus on two topics: the website and the rules of Juvenilia (structure, existence, activities, aims).

### 5. Website

Margo is currently the webmaster and owner of the Juvenilia website. Unfortunately, he doesn't have enough time to do this much longer. He states that there are currently two problems we have to face: deciding how to divide communication between a website and Facebook, and to find replacement for him.

Margo tells that the website was originally intended to distribute ideas and reports of activities. Unfortunately, that didn't work out, because no one posted anything. Margo thinks that a website must exist in some form, otherwise Juvenilia will be virtually invisible. Facebook cannot replace the visibility-function of an independent website. Everyone agrees with that. In any case, if we won't do anything, the website will stay online in its present form till 2017.

Carlos thinks that it is more important first to decide what we want to do with Juvenilia. The outcome of that will affect our choice about what we want for our website, and what we want for a replacement. For instance, if Juvenilia would become a legally established organisation, we could pay for someone to make and maintain a website.

### 6. What is Juvenilia

Elisabetta, Carlos and Arjan think we must make some statement about what Juvenilia is. Carlos feels that Juvenilia will be surpassed by other initiatives. We have to be different. He also thinks that Juvenilia does not work anymore at the present time.

Elisabetta is much in favour of making some rules, since there are virtually none. The downside of making rules is inflexibility and moreover rules can pose problems on their own, says Margo.

After some discussion, even about the fact that travelling by young audiences to other opera houses is wanted by opera houses, everyone agrees that it is needed for Juvenilia to have a legal base or at least some kind of manifesto to fall back on. Arjan phrases the mission statement of Juvenilia as follows:

Juvenilia has two main targets:

- 1) To make it easy and attractive for young audiences to travel to other opera houses

2) To share information about how to run a youth club, with people who are trying to start a new youth club for opera fans.

At this point Arjan reads a letter of Stefan Burke of Orfeo, Brussels out loud. The main points of its content are: collaboration with Opera Europa/Fedora; collaboration between opera clubs; put one particular youth club in the spotlights per season; put the information about the own club activities on the website; be more present at the next European Opera Forum.

The attending members began to make some rules, but it proved to be quite difficult. For instance, should every member club organise something every year or every two years? For some clubs that is impossible. Also, is it required to send a newsletter every two months? Margo tells that this was the case in the past, but it stopped because there was too little input from the member clubs. This was the same case with a blog. A last problem is the age limit. Most clubs are in favour of 30 as a limit, but Nico is very against that, because his club is going to raise their age limit to 40.

Carlos proposes to keep a GA twice a year and Elisabetta agrees, as it is just like Opera Europa and other organizations. It gives more opportunities to get to know each other, and if all the members would do some homework before each GA, progress could be made more quickly. This motion is agreed with.

Task #1: The members from Barcelona and Berlin are going to send a proposal for the next autumn or spring GA and a decision will be taken as soon as possible concerning the place where the next GA meetings will take place. It will be communicated in a newsletter and published on the website.

The attending members are very curious about what the differences between the clubs are, how they work and how big they are. Every attending member tells a little bit about his or her club. Zsuzsanna finds this very interesting, since it can help her a lot establishing a youth club in Budapest.

Task #2: Zsuzsanna will make a loose questionnaire about what member clubs do. All the members have to answer that, and state for instance their problems and strong points.

For the rules, Elisabetta and Arjan think it is convenient to take the Who/What/How text from the website as a starting point.

Task #3: Elisabetta will make an update of this text, and will ask the member clubs for input about rules and regulations which have to be included in the text.

Task #4: Carlos will enquire about the costs of establishing and maintaining some kind of a legal base for Juvenilia in the various countries in which Juvenilia is active. Kristian advises to look also for

a more treaty-like establishment of Juvenilia, just like the EU.

Task #5: All member clubs have to think about a replacement for Margo.

With that said, Elisabetta ends the meeting at 14:20.