

## **47th International ESTA Conference, Cremona (Italy) 2019**

My acquaintance with ESTA took place in 2017 at the 45th international conference ESTA in Kazan. That year the ESTA conference was full of events. There were a lot of lectures and master classes by famous teachers from different countries. This conference made a great impression on me and gave impetus to my creative and pedagogical activity. Since then I was dreaming to visit ESTA conference again. And in 2019 thanks to the ESTA Solidarity Fund it became possible.

It was my first trip to Italy. Cremona is an amazing town! Town where Stradivari, Amati, Guarneri worked, where magnificent instruments were born, where music lived for centuries. Italians say that Cremona is a real Italy, not one that is for tourists, but what it really is. Waking up from the sound of the bells of the medieval cathedral, hearing the chirping of birds outside the window, you feel yourself like a Juliet from the Shakespearean tale.

It's amazing when you walk down the street and hear musical terms in everyday speech)) The sounds of a violin are heard from everywhere. 150 violin makers work in the city!! Squares and streets are named after musicians: Stradivari Square, Monteverdi Street ... Squares and houses are decorated with violin images, or even fragments of them. Monuments of violin, violin masters and musicians. Everything talks about music. In such atmosphere you want to create, to play the music, to improve... The perfect place for a string teachers conference!

The conference was eventful. Many interesting lectures, presentations. Geza Szilvay introduced to the «Theory of multicolored strings» and his perspective developments in education of young children, Philip Aird represent new app «Part Play», that may be useful for students performing quartet music, but could not often rehearse together. Masha Lankovsky told about Yuri Yankelevich and Soviet violin school; Laura Patrizia Rossi represented very useful lecture about copyright in a modern word. Also, it was interesting lectures by Vittorio Ghielmi, Kateryna Zavalko, Maria Caterina Carlini, masterclasses by Ilya Grubert.

I would like to stop at the lecture of modern composer Maria Gabriella Zen. Her lecture told about the development of Folia, which is believed to be originally a Portuguese dance, and then traveled around Europe in various modifications, for example in the form of Passacaglia. Many composers used this theme and each one acquired the features of their style. Maria Gabriella Zen, being a Venetian composer, introduced the features of contemporary performance to Folia and used new string playing techniques in it. In her version, Folia sounded modern and fresh. It was very interesting to get acquainted with this piece at the lecture, and after a few hours to hear it in the beautiful performance of the ESTA string orchestra.

The ESTA string orchestra concert deserves special attention. Young musicians performed a complex program: Nino Rota Concerto for strings, Maria Zen «Variazioni e Corale sulla Follia», Antique Dances Respighi, String Quartet by Giuseppe Verdi arranged by Arturo Toscanini for string orchestra. The concert was without a conductor and was held at the highest level of skill, gave the great pleasure for all the listeners.

One more memorable event of the conference was the concert of Antonio Meneses (cello). Fantastic musician; brilliant mastery of the instrument and genuine sincerity of performance. It was the best performance of cello suites by J.S. Bach I have never listen in the concert.

Also, I would like to mention the performances of talented students of the «Centro di Musicologia Walter Stauffer». In a several concerts, all the instruments of the string group were represented: violin, viola, cello and double bass. All of them showed a very high level of performance, present a real pleasure from music.

A real celebration for me, as for a lover of baroque music, was the performance of the ensemble “Il Suonar Parlante”. The muffled and at the same time very expressive sounding of the gut strings, the professionalism of the magnificent musician Vittorio Ghielmi kept the attention of the listeners from the first to the last note. The performance of “Il Suonar Parlante” will remain in my memory for a long time.

After arrival to Petrozavodsk I had so big inspiration that started to play concerts, think about new projects and teach in a new way. It was like a breath of fresh air. It's so important that we are – string teachers have possibility to be together and to share our experience and new ideas. Thanks to ESTA, to Jill Comerford that gave me a chance to perform at the conference as a lecturer, to all people who organized Cremona Conference and to the ESTA Solidarity Fund for supporting my trip.

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