

46th ESTA Conference Valletta, Malta 2018
REPORT

As far as I was present at the last Esta Conference held in Malta 2005, I was looking to feel the same relaxed and warm atmosphere. I was hoping – and I've got it!! In these days we are under a pressure of raising technique, high level skills, strong competitions – neglecting our main role: being the teachers. The music and instrumental skills should serve our goal which should be: raising complete, complex, rich, creative, sensitive, strong, tolerant, patient, curious, modest, proud personality. ESTA Conference where you are surrounded with the people with the same ideas, and approach to the teaching – gives you a wonderful feeling that you belong to the precious, noble but maybe real family... I was especially impressed (again) with a lecture (demonstration) of Silvay Geza: Introducing the Kodály philosophy based Colourstrings teaching method. We all know that the Colourstrings teaching method is brilliant, but Mr. Silvay's charismatic personality brings the method to even higher position. Very impressive was demonstration of duets with high professional playing of Mr. Sergei Emelyanov and Mrs. Irina Lapteva. They demonstrated Duets for violin and violoncello based on Tatar's composers and folk music.

In teaching the string instrument, very important moment is playing duets. Focus to duets means focus to the problem of communication. And communication is the basic necessity of human beings – especially in 21st century. Playing duets we teach the child to communicate with the teacher, the colleagues, the audience, the accompanist, the orchestra, the conductor, and the most important – to understand how to communicate to itself. As well the lecture of Erich Scheungraber: "Bartok's laboratory" a pedagogic approach to his 44 Duos goes in the same direction (at least in my pedagogical mind). I found very interesting the demonstration of Pierre-Henri Xuereb: Viola d'amore from Baroque to contemporary music. From this demonstration I have learned that historical instruments are not for the early music use, but even in contemporary music use. For my colleagues and me this fact is very important because we are just opening the "Early Music Department" and this will make the interest for studying the ancient music much wider. I have to mention Peter Schoening's: Cello Masterclass, which I found very professional. As well the performance of his young student (Paganini Moses) was very impressive. Presence of Thomastilk– Infeld and other guys presenting new strings, other equipment, music etc. have kept the friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere. I wish that it should be more of them.... It is a great pity that our colleague Ines Ana Badanjak could not present her books and her method for violin beginners.

Well, I hope that my book for cello beginners was decent replacement. Of course, the President of ESTA Malta, Antoine Frendo was trying his best on his friendly way, as always. At the end I have to say that I've missed our President Bruno Giuranna. Better to say that I've missed his positive energy, gathering people into a same stream.

After arrival to Zagreb, Croatia my colleague Ivana Lesić who was a delegate at the Conference reported about the conference – with a great deal of enthusiasm. It was her first ESTA Conference, and she was excited like a child... Reaction of the audience was more than satisfied... Once again, I thank you and to the Solidarity Fund for supporting my trip to Malta.

Sincerely

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ESTA Croatia