

47th ESTA International Conference
26th of April to 1st of May 2019 Cremona Italy

THE MAGIC OF THE CITY OF VIOLINS

My first encounter with an ESTA Conference was in Bern 2008. Thanks to Werner Schmitt, my two colleagues from Kosovo and I were able to attend the conference there. It was very inspiring to me as a young teacher, to watch and to listen to lectures, masterclasses and concerts from great musicians. I had the most amazing time there and I came back to my students full of energy and also with a lot of ideas and tips that I got from the lectures in that Conference in Bern. Not long after that we had a big concert in Prishtina, with all the teachers from different music schools of Kosovo and announced the beginning of the ESTA Kosovo branch. It has been a bumpy road but worth the effort.

If you are a musician and especially if you play a string instrument, you have to visit Cremona at least once in a lifetime. There is a luthier in every corner and you see beautiful shops filled with violins, violas, cellos. You can even go inside and play them. It felt like I was living inside my own dream. I was Alice in Wonderland but my own version of it, and instead of seeing rabbits, cats and strange creatures, I saw string instruments and played with them, I saw luthiers who gave me a lot of advice and tips on how to maintain the instrument safe and how to get the best sound out of your instrument.

In his lecture 'IL SUONAR PARLANTE', Vittorio Ghielmi, talked about baroque music and the many ways of expressing yourself through the instrument you play. As players, through music and notes we try to give shape and meaning to the composers' work, to express what we feel or what we think the composer wanted to give to the public.

Another big reason why I wanted to be part of this conference is a project which includes ESTA Kosova teachers. ESTA International organizes a program exchange with the poorest countries and I want to make this project possible in Kosovo as well. This is a great way for our ESTA Kosovo teachers to have a closer look at how other ESTA teachers work in some of the best schools and universities in Europe.

I think that with the support of ESTA International and of course teachers from different countries who are ESTA members, we will be able to make this happen in the very near future.

I want to thank ESTA Solidarity Fund for helping me make it to this year's ESTA Conference. I had a great time seeing old friends and making new ones, all in the most beautiful city of Cremona.

Greetings from sunny Pristina, and I wish and hope to be able to make it to the next conference in Porto.

Mrika Hoxha
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