

Dear friends and colleagues,

ESTA Congress 2019 was a great opportunity to meet colleagues and members of ESTA outside our respective countries. It was concentrated, well organised, rich in events and held in an unforgettable atmosphere of the (for us string players in particular) unique city of Cremona.

Besides meeting our immediate colleagues we had the privilege to be able to spend quite a lot of time with our dear collaborators – luthiers.

There were other opportunities and they were diverse and numerous. For me, they included the possibility of meeting great musician Maestro Bruno Giurana again after many years and to listen to the concert given by Maestro Antonio Meneses with a serious and yet very amusing introduction by Lord Mayor of Cremona Mr. Gianluca Galimberti.

From the events I could attend, I would like to mention two very interesting presentations. One was given by Mr Geza Szilvay, who introduced us to an unusual and effective method of positioning of young violinists hands, arms and torso and another by Mr Philip Aird whose advice on how to organise and manage divers forms of musical education were highly useful.

The presence of legendary makers of strings “Thomastik” was as important as ever, as were the tips by luthiers on maintaining and “well being” of the instruments.

The delegates meeting was another opportunity to gain an insight in problems of other ESTA members, problems that are sometimes different from our own ones but more often common for many members of ESTA community.

Alexey Igudesman’s performance was as amusing as it always is.

The best of my short stay (I could stay for only 2 and a half days) at Cremona 2019 was the concert of the ESTA String Orchestra. I enjoyed the raw experience, energy and passion that these young musicians played with. Since among them was a student of mine of four years (1st cello S. Marjanovich) the musical and personal experience of that night will be for me one of the dearest impressions of ESTA Cremona 2019.

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