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Bergamo

Musical notices from Città e Provincie



The fire that consumed the Gran Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona on 31 January 1994 has probably

also put paid to a "prestigious production" of *Lucia* the cost of which (500 million pesetas) was to have been shared by that theatre, Madrid and Bergamo, where there were to be performances in the autumn of 1994.

A number of anniversaries have been celebrated recently - and plans announced for those not yet upon us. The Circolo Mayr has organised one national, and one international competition "*far nascere un vero e proprio interesse musicologico verso Mayr*" and they have a programme "che possa far conoscere in tutto il mondo la grande musica di Mayr" the 150th Anniversary of whose death falls on 2 December 1995. The 300th Anniversary of the birth of Locatelli, also in 1995, has already attracted significant financial support from the Comune di Bergamo - 150 million lire for the period 1993-1997 when the last volume of the critical edition of his "Opera Omnia" is expected. 1994 is the bi-centenary of the birth of the great tenor Rubini. His birth place, Romano (about 15 miles from the city) has arranged a series of concerts throughout the year; a commemorative medal has been struck and "*un atto di amore per il nostro concittadino*" describes two recently published volumes entitled *Rubini, l'uomo e l'artista*. Furthermore, there are conferences and exhibitions to honour Rubini who endowed many public works from the wealth he accumulated - today all administered by the *Opere Pie Riunite Giovanni Battista Rubini*. And what of our Donizetti? An interview with Egidio Saracino responsible for the recent publication *Tutti i libretti di Donizetti* was headlined "*Donizetti aspetta...Bergamo*". He expressed concern that 1997 was not that far away and Bergamo needed to control and coordinate current researches into the life and music of the maestro - still its most celebrated citizen. Despite the *Museo* and initiatives elsewhere around the world, there is concern that much more needs to be done. With other anniversaries commanding attention - and financial support - one hopes the authorities keep their eye on the ball. Two other anniversaries were noted; the 50th Anniversary of the death of Guido Gambarini was marked by two concerts and there were commemorative concerts for the 90th Anniversary of the death of another Bergamasc, Giovanni Bertuletti, including religious, vocal and instrumental music by his hand as well as three unpublished pieces for "banda". Bertuletti was one of three musicians asked to look at the score of *Le duc d'Albe* for possible performance at Bergamo in 1875 - there was unanimous advice not to proceed! And one more anniversary - the 90th of the *Oratorio dell'Immacolata in Città* should not pass unnoticed. Music has figured prominently in its activities with frequent concerts in the Sala Greffi, named after the local philanthropist Giuseppe Greffi, its prime mover. The Choir is highly regarded, often featuring in recordings and the musical scene and in churches in Bergamo.

The pigeon deterrant (see Newsletter 58) to protect audiences arriving at the Teatro Donizetti was, apparently, not installed completely around the building the residents - "*gli inquilini*" they call themselves - who overlook the rear of the theatre complain of the "*maleodorante strato di escurementi dell'altezza di alcuni centimetri*" compelling them to keep windows and shutters closed all the year! Perhaps some of the 100 million lire subsidy for the theatre from provincial authorities can be directed towards a remedy. A similar subsidy is also in the budget for the XXXI Piano Festival (dedicated this year to the City of Leipzig with music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Reger) and another 100 million for the Orchestra Stabile, and there will be similar sums for "*Andar per musica*" and "*Musica aperta*". The local authority also announced its financial budget which included monies to enable the *Museo Donzettiano* to be opened on Saturdays - prospective visitors nb - but also to beware, as a recent afficionado was very disappointed to find the *Casa Natale* closed on a day it was advertised as being open.

"*Musica aperta*", "*Società del Quartetto*" and "*Gioventù Musicale*" were represented (along with many others) at the launch of *Bergamo in Concerto*, a publication that will bring together details of their activities in the hope of leading eventually to a "*rassegna complessiva*". This development is pertinent to comments in Newsletter 61 and perhaps the *Festivo* will see an opportunity for a concerted effort with this new initiative for reciprocal benefits.

The sixth season of concerts by the *Ass. Amici della lirica "Giulietta Simionato"* included concert performances of *Ernani* (with the famous mezzo herself present). The Circolo Mayr/Donizetti - later in their season - offered *Imelda de' Lambertazzi* as a tribute to Guido Legramanti who died in 1985. Prominent in his native Bergamo as a teacher he also auditioned singers for the Teatro Donizetti. In 1934 he directed *Il campanello* (at the Teatro Nuovo) with Alessandro Dolci in the cast! The Circolo Mayr responded with *Lucia* and *Traviata*, which was also the annual operatic offering by the Rubini Amici (aided by the Circolo Mayr/Donizetti!). Other meetings at the Circolo Mayr included a video of Mayr's *Sisara*.

There was music by Donizetti at the annual Mass for late benefactors of MIA (see Newsletter 60) together with works by Mayr and Giuseppe Pedemonti whose request to MIA to be relieved of his duties after 43 years service was granted. Invitations for a replacement as Director of Music at Santa Maria Maggiore have been issued; the search for a musician of "*chiara fama*" is, bearing in mind the distinguished predecessors - well understood.

At an auction in Rome last December, the Comune di Bergamo successfully bid 15 million lire to acquire 22 pages of manuscript of *Il campanello*, being Enrico's monologue for the revival at the Teatro Nuovo in 1837. It is to be conserved in the *Museo Donizettiano*. The theme of the 1994 Ravenna Festival is "*Bellini e Wagner*" and will include on 8 July a performance, conducted by Gavazzeni, of Donizetti's *Requiem per Bellini*.

Brian Thornton



Diary...forthcoming events

Teatro Massimo, Palermo [Politeama Garibaldi]

Maria Stuarda Regina di Scozia - balletto su musiche di Donizetti

Beppe Menegatti/Derek Deane 7/8/9/10/11/12/14/15/17/18 June

(with Carla Fracci)

Bad Wildbad, Rossini Festival

Nozze di Teti e di Peleo 8/10/12 July

L'equivoco stravagante 19/21/23 July

Messa di Ravenna 22 July

Pesaro, Rossini Festival

Semiramide 20/23/25/28 August

(with Gaskia, Manca di Nissa, Blake, Pertusi)

L'inganno felice 24/26/27/29 August

Chris Merritt

25 April	Recital	Paris Salle Gaveau
20 May	Recital	Carnegie Hall
4 June	<i>Les Troyens</i>	Toulouse Concert
8/12 June	<i>Les Troyens</i>	Athens Concert
8/16/21/29 July	<i>Norma</i>	Arena di Verona
16/19/21/24/26/29 August	<i>La clemenza di Tito</i>	Salzburg
4/9/13/18/22/25/28 October	<i>Otello</i> (Rossini)	San Francisco Opera
5/10 November	<i>Le Cid</i> (Massenet)	St. Etienne
18 November	Concert	Oviedo Opera House
11/15/18/22 December	<i>Guillaume Tell</i>	São Carlos, Lisbon

et à l'affiche

Mayr *Adelasia ed Aleramo* at Fermo this summer?

Mayr *Fedra* at Montpellier next summer?

Cimarosa *L'Armida immaginaria* at Montpellier this summer (26 July)

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Editor or Committee of the Donizetti Society

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