

Introduction of Harmonia Consort

Harmonia Consort has been operating since December 2002, took up the association form officially in November 2003. On one hand, the aim of our foundation was to be a new colorful spot in the life of Szeged, on the other hand, we would like if with our art activities we could make even wider layers to love classic chamber music in our city.

The line-up of the consort is not ordinary, as besides the conventional string-quartet form, the organ-harpsichord continuo and the two soloists (soprano, alto) can be found as constant performers. This rare formation also makes it possible to compile our concerts with more colorful and varied program.

In our repertoire mainly we have compositions from baroque composers, but we gladly wander in other periods, too. We had several appearances in 2003. Part of these were organized by the members of the consort, chiefly connected to bigger holidays, to which more and more people came and listened to, on the other hand we fulfilled more requests. (Közéleti Kávéház, Zenei Album sequence, Musical Sunday Masses - Dóm, Minorita Templomudvari Musical Nights, Music Nights- Kiskunmajsa, Easter-, Christmas- concert) Also, we had several concerts in 2004. Since we all are conservatoire teachers, our everyday work is to teach the young generation to the love and enjoyment of music. With our concerts we would like to form their musical taste, as well as set an example for the musicians of the future. We believe that we can only raise a good new generation if we ourselves with our concerts make it authentic what we teach.

Members of the orchestra:

- Bernadett Szél - soprano
- Judit Katona - alto
- Bernadett T. Szegszárdy - violin
- Mária Aradi - violin
- Zsuzsanna Behán - viola
- Éva Iglódi - organ, harpsichord
- Zsuzsanna Ondrik – cello
- Gábor Kovács – artistic director

Bernadett Szél (soprano singer)

I'm the soloist of the Harmonia Consort Chamber Orchestra. I was born in Szeged, I'm the middle from the three daughters of musician parents (my father is a violin-teacher, my mother is a solo singing-master) My elder sister became a pianist, my younger sister is a kindergarten teacher, and I, after 7 years cello, then six years piano learning, made a little evasion and finished the kindergarten training technical high school. Afterwards I started to learn singing at my mother (Pálné Szél, Mária Szőke). In 1985 I applied to the Department of Musical Art at the University of Szeged, where György Sinkó taught me. I graduated in 1988, then in this year my son was born and 1 year later my daughter. From 1982 I was a member of the Canticum Chamber Choir lead by Sándor Gyüdi, from where my oratorio soloist carrier started. I sang and do sing up until today several baroque cantata, ecclesiastical compositions, soprano solo of classical- and romantic oratorio. I regularly give concerts at home and in abroad. Several times I had concert in Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Great Britain, Andorra. The baroque chamber music is very near to me, I feel as if I can really sing loosely and gladly in this genre. I hope I can give pleasure to the audience with my work.

Judit Katona (alto singer)

I was born in 1970 in Szeged. I started to sing during the high school encouraged by the teachers. After the high school graduation I successfully applied to the Hungarian literature and grammar-music department of the Juhász Gyula Teacher Training College, where first I learned the basics of singing from Sándor Bárdi. In the summers I participated in the National Musical Camp of Balassagyarmat, as a student of Boldizsár Keöncsh. On his recommendation I applied to the Dutch Hogeschool Maastricht Conservatoire-, where I finished one semester successfully. After getting my first diploma I continued my studies in the solo-singing department of the Academy of Music at the University of Szeged, where first György Sinkó taught me, then in 1996 I got my diploma as a student of Edit D. Szécsi. Between 1989 and 1998 I was a member of the Canticum Chamber Choir lead by Sándor Gyüdi. Between 1994 and 1998 I could not only sing the choir phrase in the choir of the National Theatre of Szeged, but also got several smaller operatic roles. Since 1998 I teach solfege and solo-singing in the Király-König Péter Conservatoire. Since 1998 I regularly give concerts not only in Hungary, but also in abroad. (Spain, French, Italy, Germany, Portugal) On my repertoire primarily I have compositions from baroque composers, but I like to sing from the gems of the romantic song literature. Just to mention a few without the demand of completeness:

Purcell: Come children of art, J. S. Bach: Magnificat, Jánospassion, cantatas, Handel: Messiah, Vivaldi: Stabat Mater, - ecclesiastical- and worldly cantatas, Pergolesi: Stabat Mater, A. Scarlatti: Infirmata vulnerata motetta, Stabat Mater, Mozart: Requiem, Enthronement Mass, Schumann, Schubert, Brahms, Strauss, Wolf songs

Bernadett T. Szegszárdy (violin)

I started to play the violin at the age of 5 at the State Conservatoire of Kecskemét, but I continued my secondary and higher education in the Conservatoire in Szeged, then I finished at the Academy of Music at the University of Szeged with a prominent violin teacher-chamber artist diploma. My artist teachers were: Mihály Szűcs, Ferenc Szecsődi, Lajos Várnagy. My chamber music teachers were: Lajos Huszár, Richárd Weninger. As well I can thank a lot to István Vántus. Since 1984 I'm member and leader of the Weiner Chamber Orchestra. We attend several domestic and foreign concerts. We regularly give concerts in Switzerland and French. As an orchestra- and instrumental soloist I attended philharmonic concerts several times. I took part in the recording of many cd, audio and video cassettes. I had the honour to concert together with several internationally prestigious soloists such as: Péter Frankl, Fischer Annie, Ruggero Ricci, Miklós Szenthelyi, Ruha István, Ildikó Iván, István Matúz, Bartók String-quartet. Parallel with my orchestra work, since 1988 I'm a full-time violin teacher at the Király- König Péter Conservatoire. With my colleague and also chamber partner, Krisztina T. Borsós, we have been playing together since the college years. The motive power of my life is chambering and fiddling. I like all kinds of musical genres and I'm open towards them. My motto is: "Music should not be performed, it has to be SERVED."

Mária Aradi (violin)

I was born in 1965 in Szeged, I finished my studies here, I got my diploma as a student of Lajos Várnagy at the Academy of Music at the University of Szeged. As a fiddler I work in the Symphony Orchestra of Szeged, but besides this in my spare time I play in more chamber orchestras on different instruments: from 2002: Harmonia Consort from 2000: Grand Gilé string-quartet Suzuki String Orchestra, Újszeged Church Musical Club, choir and orchestra of the St. Rókus church. From this colorful musical palette it can be seen that I like to play all kinds of styles from old music through the romantics and the music of the XX. century until today's classic and light music. Readings about the history of music, other fields of literature and culture, as well Spanish language and culture all belong to my field of interest.

Zsuzsanna Behán (viola)

I was born in 1976 at Orosháza, where I started to play the violin at the age of 6 at Mrs. Laszloné Újhazy's practice, then, I continued my studies at Mrs. Katalin Románné Papp at predecessor institute of the recently formed preparatory curriculum of SZTE Music Department. I have also spent my college years here. I first played viola at the last year of my college studies, the sound of the instrument fascinated me so much, that I immediately registered myself to Pál Behán. When I continued my studies at the college I chose viola and I got admitted. At the same time I joined the Musica Parlante Chamber Orchestra under the guidance of László Meszlényi. I am thankful for Pál Behán and László Meszlényi for what I have learned and achieved, I closely observed their chamber music skills and tricks of Baroque music. We have presented several successful concerts in Hungary and many European countries as well. The most remarkable ones were held in Spain and in Norway. However, what I always considered the most important is the conversation-like jam of the orchestra that could be felt during the concerts. At the college I also studied to play the viola da gamba and was member of an ensemble playing ancient music, named Massiano Consort. I graduated in 1997. I regularly travel to Germany as I am member of Kammerorchester der Uni Regensburg, a chamber orchestra consisting of mostly young musicians. Our leader is Graham Buckland.

Zsuzsanna Ondrik (cello)

I was born in 1965 October 6th. at Békéscsaba. I have learned my primary and basic musical skills at Orosháza, then, in 1978 I moved to Szeged and registered to the preparatory curriculum of cello, at Ferenc Liszt Music College. I have graduated from István Tömörkény High School and Artistic School in 1984 and got admitted to the then called Ferenc Liszt Music College, as a student of cello instructor, where I graduated as a student of Katalin Sín in 1987. During my college years I was member of Leó Weiner Chamber Orchestra, led by Richárd Weninger. Between 1986 and 1991 I participated at several music camps in Hungary and abroad as well in Vienna, Bayreuth, Fermo and Nyírbátor. After graduating from college, between 1987 and 2000, I instructed cello at Béla Bartók Music School at Békéscsaba. Meanwhile, I was member of the Symphony Orchestra of Békéscsaba and held numerous concerts in Hungary and abroad as well with artists such as Dénes Kovács, Sándor Falvai, Endre Hegedűs, János Bálint, Károly Ádám. During my practice, many of my students were admitted to music colleges and other higher educational institutes and have recently graduated. For me, besides teaching it was always an important goal to remain a good

musician. I entered the competition held for cello teachers at Miskolc, in 1993 and gained the first prize. After moving back to Szeged, more and more I started to play ancient music. Earlier I played in the Al Fresco Orchestra, recently I have joined Harmonia Consort and got acquainted with the pearls of Baroque chamber music.

Éva Iglódi (organ, harpsichord)

I finished at the Academy of Music at the University of Szeged as a student of Péter Bódás. With my new piano teacher diploma I started to teach at Kecskemét, then after 10 years I continued my work at the conservatoire of Szentendre. Now I'm a teacher at the Király-König Péter Conservatoire at Szeged. I learned piping in a self-educated way and I was a founder member of the Renaissance Consort in Kecskemét as a block flute and percussionist. Later, moving to Budapest, I was a member of the Camerata Hungarica orchestra lead by László Czidra. I participated in their concerts, TV – and radio recordings, on flute and on percussion instrument. We moved to Szeged in 1992 and it seems that "old music" cannot stay out of my life. Now I serve the musical period closest to my heart in the Harmonia Consort founded in 2002 as a harpsichordist, continuo performer.

Gábor Kovács (artistic director)

I was born in 1966. I have graduated from high school at the Music School of Pécs and obtained my diploma at the Budapest Music University, as choir-leader. Afterwards, I taught at the Music School of Pécs then at the Dániel Berzsenyi Teacher Training College at Szombathely. Between 1992 and 1993 I have studied in London, where in 1993 I received the diploma of Guildhall School's Music&Drama in historic dance as performing artist and instructor. I came to Szeged in 1995, where I hold choir-master courses at the SZTE Gyula Juhász Teacher Training College and I also lead the College's choir. As a guest teacher I also hold courses at the Music College of Szeged where I teach flute and try to broaden the view of students towards ancient music. Meanwhile, my PhD studies slowly come to the finishing staged at Queen's University in Belfast. With my ensembles, the Al Fresco Ancient Music Ensemble and the Canticum Novum Chamber Choir we regularly hold concerts. In our program we mostly feature music from the XVI-XVIIth. Century. The latest challenge in my musical career is the work carried out with Harmonia Consort.

Our guests were:

- László Lőrincz - flute
- László Meszlényi - conductor
- Gábor Blumenschein - trumpet
- Benedek Fülep - flute

László Lőrincz (flute)

I was born in 1953 in Budapest. After the Bartók Béla Technical High School in Budapest I finished on the clarinet department of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music.. From 1975 I taught in the VI. District State Conservatoire and performed in the Symphonic Orchestra of Miskolc. From 1978 I became a member of the BM Chamber Orchestra of Tinód, where I was a soloist leader and played the contemporary woodwind instruments; the flute, chalumeaux, pommer, krummhorn. I worked here for 6 years and meanwhile I became member of the Camerata Hungarica and the Musica Antiqua Hungarica orchestras. Besides Hungary I gave concerts in several countries of the world; Columbia, Nicaragua, Mexico, Algeria, India, Japan, Russia and almost all countries of Europe. I participated in 12 audio records and on many radio-, tv-records. In 1983 I founded my own orchestra, the Instrumenta Historica, with which we had appearances in the Vigadó, Academy of Music and foreign ones, too. In 1987 I was asked to establish the Talentum Old Music Studio and subsequently I became a co-worker of the Contemporary Art Forum. In 1988 I started to teach in the Conservatoire of Szentendre. I organized the Old Musical Days and I kept courses. I teach in the Conservatoire of Szeged since 1991. During the years in Szeged I put the main emphasis on pedagogic work, research, musical activities, also I work on ensuring the conditions of learning and to sound the old music. So for example I taught flute faculty at the Teacher Training College in Budapest. I work for the Edicio Musica Budapest Composition Publisher, I write pedagogic issues, about flute schools. The reprinting of the Flute ABC is now in progress, the second volume is under editing.

László Meszlényi (conductor)

László Meszlényi, the senior lecturer of the Academy of Music at the University of Szeged, was born in Kaposvár, graduated from high school in Pécs, lives in Szeged since 1952. He got his certificate as an oboe teacher in 1962. Besides the oboe he also studied singing and conducting. He has been a member of the National Theatre of Szeged and the Symphonic Orchestra of Szeged as

an oboe-, and English horn artist for 25 years. Since 1968 he also teaches (oboe, methodology, history of music, style-knowledge, and stringorchestra practice). He is interested in practicing the period performance of old music since centuries and he attended 13 international courses in this topic. In 1985 he founded the Musica Parlante from college students, which consists of 14 musicians and it's purpose is to sound the music of the 18th century – though with modern instruments, but with the widest usage of the research results of musical history. The orchestra won Cum Laude first prize in Belgium and since its foundation it had 10 successful concerts in different countries of Europe. Of course it takes part in the musical life of Szeged, thus it performs in the programs of the National Philharmonics, too. It tries to familiarize the less known composers of elder days (e.g. Carissimi, Telemann, Locatelli), but besides this it also wanders to the fields of romance and the 20th century, even it played a Hungarian performance and a premiere. The beloved field of Meszlényi László is the musical education, but he is engaged in musical publishing (app. in 10 daily papers and periodicals), in educational and professional lectures, and also in translating skilled works. Published works: Gamut practices for oboe, Oboe-ABC – with Szilveszter Szélpál coauthor. For his work he got several honors, the most important are: Bartók-Pásztory award, Weiner Leó award, Medallion for Szeged, a Advisory Board Award of the Foundation for Szeged

Gábor Blumenschein (trumpet)

I started to trumpet in my birth-city, Szekszárd. I continued my studies at Pécs in the Art Technical High School, then from 1990 I was a student at the Art Department of the Academy of Music of the University of Pécs, where in 1994 I got a trumpet teacherchamber artist diploma. During my college years I regularly performed as a soloist with the Railroad Concert-wind orchestra of Pécs, which was lead by my teacher, Károly Neumayer. With this orchestra I performed on several international contests with reaching nice results. (1993. Riva del Garda (Italy)-I. prize, Erkelenz (Germany-1st prize) On several occasions I performed at the International Castle Festival of Siklós on kornett and as a soloist, too. From 1996 I'm the leader of the Wind Orchestra of the Király-König Péter Conservatoire, which inspired me to finish the Advanced Wind Orchestra Conductor Training College in Budapest, then get a conductor diploma at the Art Department of the Academy of Music of the University of Pécs. I'm proud of having been an art scholar of Szeged. Since 2000 I'm the conductor of the Fricsay Ferenc City Concert Wind Orchestra, besides I lead the Wind Orchestra of the Király-König Péter Conservatoire, and I teach

trumpet. I'm happy to fulfill the request of Harmonia Consort to perform, at which occasions I can play the most beautiful trumpet concertos of the baroque period.

Benedek Fülep (flute)

I was born on the 8th of July in 1983, in Miskolc. I started my musical studies at the Egressy Béni Conservatoire in Miskolc, where I learned the basics of playing flute and playing on the piano. I entered the Bartók Béla Musical Technical High School of Miskolc in 1997, where I studied on flute and ecclesiastical music department. I got my high school degree in 2001. At my conservatoire age several times I attended flute contests of the county, where I won 1st prize or got a standard award. In 2000 I was in the final of the HUNGAROTON Nationwide Talent Scout Contest in Budapest. From the high school I performed on many concerts, programs. I gave several concerts in Miskolc, Szeged, Eger, Tokaj, Budapest. I was in Greece and I took part in two tours in Italy, first as the soloist of the symphonic orchestra of my conservatoire, then as a member of an old-music consort in Budapest. I'm an active attendee of professional courses and I was at the performance of Anneke Boeke and Peter Holtslag. Now I'm a graduate at the Art Department of the Academy of Music of the University of Szeged. On the old music – flute course my teacher is László Lőrincz. Since 2003 I'm a teacher in the Király-König Péter Conservatoire in Szeged, and a collaborator of the Harmonia Consort.

Repertoire

Most of our repertoire is from the early baroque till the classical period. Most gladly we play Italian baroque chamber music, concertos, cantatas, madrigals, mainly Vivaldi and Scarlatti compositions. Though sometimes we make interesting, exciting trips to the XX. Century, and rarely we play compositions of Latino (Spanish, Brazilian) composers. Usually this surprises the audience, but they always accept this kind of performer variegation gratefully. At the performance of old music we aspire to period performance, we try to get to know the newest research results and learn from the performers who are the most experienced in this area. The assignment below contains the most played compositions.

- Albinoni: C- major sonata
- J.S. Bach: cantata BWV 51
- J.S. Bach: cantata BWV 54
- Carulli: A- major guitar concerto

- G.F. Handel: F- major sonata on violin and continuo
- Manfredini: D-major concerto grosso
- Marini: Synfonia Grave "La Zorzi"
- Marini: Aria "La Soranza"
- da Nola Madrigals
- Pachelbel: Canon and gigue
- Picchi: Ballo ongaro
- H. Purcell: Chacony
- H. Purcell: Come, ye sons of art
- A. Ramirez: Navidad nuestra
- A. Scarlatti: Infirmata vulnerata
- G. P. Telemann: a- moll suite
- A. Vivaldi: All' ombra di sospetto RV. - soprano cantata
- A. Vivaldi: Nulla in mundo pax sincera - soprano cantata
- A. Vivaldi: In furore iustissimae irae RV 626 - soprano cantata
- A. Vivaldi: Cessate, omai cessate RV. - alto cantata
- A. Vivaldi: Filiae maestae Jerusalem - introduzione al miserere RV 638
- A. Vivaldi: Vestro Principi divino RV 633 - alto cantata
- A. Vivaldi: Gloria
- A. Vivaldi: Stabat Mater
- A. Vivaldi: G-major violin concerto

The aims of establishing the Harmonia Consort Chamber Music Association

The Harmonia Consort operates in the association form since November 2003. At the beginning primarily our aim was to play "pleasure-music" on our instruments. Of course we are not playing just for our pleasure, but we would like if everybody who listens to us would step out from the noisy whirl of life for a moment and indulge in the listening of music. Firstly, we would like to reach to make known a musical culture that is without borders and age limits. Our further aim is to form the musical taste of young people effectively, but not mightily. Since we also all work as music teachers, our task is to set an example with our work and art. Then at the same time we try to give our knowledge and experience to the future musicians. We not only give separate concerts, but we also perform as part of a cultural program. We would like to introduce ourselves on

prestigious musical festivals, music contests. Last but not least we plan the organization of musical meetings, professional days.

Data

Harmonia Consort Chamber Music Association Registry date: 13/11/2003

Registered by: Court of Csongrád County

Bank: OTP Bank Rt.

Bank account: 11735005-20512510 Tax number: 18471997-1-06

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