

SUMMARIES DECEMBER 2006

Opening Column

RAIVO PALTSER. Northern Border of Oriental Yearning

The follower of Chinese tradition tells about the plenitude of symbols of ancient Chinese culture, and about their meanings, which enchant Westerners and seem especially exotic. The article appears in connection with Antti-Jussi Annila's China-related feature film „Jade Warrior” (2006).

Replies

IRINA ZAHHARENKOVA. Pianist and harpsichord player Irina Zahharenkova was born in Kaliningrad in Russia. In 1989 the family moved to Estonia. She studied piano at the Estonian Academy of Music with Lilian Semper, and harpsichord with Maris Valk-Valk. She currently also plays the *Hammerklavier*. In addition to her studies at the Academy and the Sibelius Academy, she has participated in the master classes of Stephen Kovachevich, Pierre Hantaï, Angela Hewitt, András Schiff and others. She has won one competition after another, starting from the Čiurlionis pianists competition in Vilnius in 2003 (2nd and special award); victories in Épinal, France 2005 (2nd place), first places at „Premio Jaén” in Spain in 2004, at „Remember Enescu” in Bucharest in 2005, in Leipzig in 2006 at the J.S.Bach competition and the Alessandro Casagrande competition in Tern in Italy in 2006; additionally the 3rd award at the harpsichord competition „The Prague Spring” in 2005 and at „Festival van Vlaanderen” in Bruges in Belgium in 2004.

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THEATRE

LEA TORMIS. Via Different Paths to Estonian Theatre

December concluded the year of Estonian professional theatre that celebrated its 100th anniversary. Theatre critic Lea Tormis reflects on some alternative historical events that could have been theoretically possible, and that would have considerably changed our understanding of local theatre heritage. She also compares the different and occasionally even opposite developments of the two major theatres, Vanemuine and Estonia.

VEIKO MÄRKA. The Curse of the Werewolf, Boob's Plea

Veiko Märka compares two significant plays at different stages of Estonian professional theatre: August Kitzberg's „Werewolf” written in 1911, and Urmas Lennuk's play of 2004, „Boob Knows”, thus mapping the changes of mentality in Estonian theatre and in human consciousness in general.

Theatre Questionnaire 2005/2006

17 theatre critics who filled in the questionnaire elected the best production of the 2005/2006 season Elmo Nüganen's „Karin. Indrek. Truth and Justice. 4” at the

Tallinn City Theatre. The second was Anu Lamp's „The Endless Curve of Language Innovation” at theatre NO92.5. Third place is shared by Andres Noormets's „The God of Lucre” at Pärnu theatre Endla, Ingomar Vihmar's „The Short Life of Adolf Rühka” at the Estonian Drama Theatre and Ingo Normet's „Death of a Salesman ” at the Estonian Drama Theatre.

MUSIC

LEELO KÕLAR. What to Catch between the Lines. V International Pianists' Festival „Klaver '06” in Tallinn

An overview of the traditional international festival held in Tallinn, this time taking place between 20 and 27 October.

Performers included: Leslie Howard (Great Britain), Melvyn Tan (Singapore/Great Britain), Dejan Lazic (Croatia/Austria), Anthony and Joseph Paratore (USA/Italy), Kalle Randalu (Estonia/Germany), Sigurd Slåttembrekk (Norway), Hando Nahkur, Marko Martin, Kadri-Ann Sumera, Sten Lassmann, Kai Ratassepp, Marrit Gerretz-Traksmann (all Estonia) etc.

EERIK JÕKS. Brief Glance at Recent Interpreting of Gregorian Chant in Estonia

Eerik Jõks, singer, musicologist, composer and choir conductor, currently doing his PhD at York University, gives an overview of the musicians who have been involved with Gregorian chant in Estonia during the last decades.

MARIA ERSS. „Idemeneo” – Mozart's Rediscovered Pearl

The author explains the background of Mozart's opera „Idomeneo” and reviews its concert performance in Tallinn by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and soloists, conducted by the young charismatic conductor Olari Elts.

GERGARD LOCK. Music Theory Autumn 2006: Structure versus Expressiveness?

An overview of the 5th international music theory conference in Tallinn at the Estonian Academy of Music in 28–30 September 2006, and the congress of the Music Theory Society of German-speaking countries in Weimar in 6–8 October 2006.

One Hundred Metronomes in the Beyond. Life of György Ligeti

One of the most influential composers in the world, György Ligeti, died in June 2006. The article gives an overview of the composer's life and development as a composer, plus the reception of his works. The material was compiled by Anneli Remme.

CINEMA

MATI KAAL, URMAS TARTES. Matsalu Nature Film Festival

Overview of the 4th International Matsalu Festival, which took place in 21–24 September in Lihula, by two nature men and members of jury. The festival showed 41 films by people from 20 countries, and ten photographic exhibitions, by the best

Finnish and Estonian authors. Film and photo workshops were also organised, as was a practical photographic seminar outdoors. The initiators of the festival since its very start are Vaike Mesila, Tiit Mesila and Ago Ruus. The *grand prix* went to the English film „The Queen of Trees” (2005) by Mark Deeble and Victoria Stone shot in Kenya.

ENN SÄDE. Lihula Festival Should Promote Itself More Boldly

Impressions of the Matsalu festival of the experienced documentary film-maker and sound director Enn Säde. In the writer’s opinion this festival was technically brilliant. The team was pleasant, the building suitable, the county government supported the undertaking enthusiastically, and first of all of course Matsalu. Using the name Matsalu, the festival should be more vigorously promoted both in the wider world and in Estonia. We should also remember that festivals are not organised for the world, but for ourselves. The Lihula film fest is the only Estonian nature film of its kind and thus necessary and significant.

ILMAR RAAG. Warrior of Eternal Love

A review of the Finn Antti-Jussi Annila’s (1977) feature film „Jade Warrior” (2006), completed in Finnish, Dutch, Chinese and Estonian co-operation. The plot unravels in China and Finland thousands of years ago and today. Oriental mythology and topics of Finnish epic Kalevala meet here. Raag, head of television, publicist and film-maker, explains the background of making „Jade Warrior”, brings examples of *wuxia*-genre in China-related recent films, and says in sum that the current film is not exactly a classic, but certainly a milestone of history.

ASKO KÜNNAP. How the Expected Miracle Remained Elusive Six Times Running

2006 saw six short feature films were completed under the aegis of the Von Krahl Theatre, based on Eduard Vilde’s classical play „The Elusive Miracle”, directed by young film-makers Rainer Sarnet, Marianne Kõrver, Marko Raat, Arbo Tammiksaar, Jaak Kilmi and Andres Maimik. The protagonist Leo Saalep is played in all six films by Taavi Eelmaa, the rest of the cast is made up of Von Krahl actors, and various figures of public life and journalists can be seen in minor roles. The author, a poet working in advertising, claims it does not happen often that he is pleasantly thrilled watching Estonian films for three hours. „The Elusive Miracle” films offered just that. He proceeds to describe all six films, quotes their makers’ opinions about their aims and analyses how this finds expression in the observed films. In conclusion he pays compliments to Von Krahl Theatre that had become a significant and multifunctional centre of culture and variety for younger people.

ANDERS HÄRM. Genius and Hype

Another review of Von Krahl’s „The Elusive Miracle” project. The art historian first explains the time of writing the original play of Vilde in 1912, which was a period of the increasing cult of individual genius in European culture. Vilde does not doubt the concept of genius as such, but he ridicules vulgar upstarts and the idiotic hype. Today when the cheap and popular notion of genius occurs only as a sales strategy of pop-industry or a somewhat inept phrase, the main contact of this text with our time

is the topic of hype and nothing else, finds the critic. He also describes all six films and concludes that the cultural self-satisfying project „The Elusive Miracle” is yet another success in the remarkable „biography” of the Von Krahl Theatre.

REIN PAKK. The Art of Selling

The multitalented author’s interests include cultural business, acting, essay writing and TV promotion of pop culture. His current article tackles Andres Maimik (1970) and Jaak Kilmi’s (1973) hugely popular documentary „The Art of Selling” (Kuukulgur Film and Making Movies/ Finland, 2006). Pakk declares at the start that he does not intend to write a review about how the film succeeded, but what impact it had on him and what thought it evoked, as this is the true purpose of making films. „The Art of Selling” was definitely a success. It is one of the few Estonian films that are never boring and that is able to speak in a fascinating and clear way about socially sharp topics. This is a totally adequate film, which is a great event in local cinema culture. The author advises the directors to make the next film called „The Art of Selling 2” about marketing. In the end the reviewer says that if selling is indeed art, the protagonist of the film, the guru of selling Peep Vain, is an artist with a large audience.