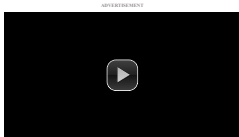


### Music can heal, too



A poster on Facebook caught my eye a couple of weeks ago. It was posted by the Association of Music Therapists and announced an event, a comedy concert. The Music, in memory of the first concert in July by M.A. Mozart in the church of San Marco in Venice, on 20 December 1761. Maestro Paolo Carrasco was going to play Mozart's Sonata K723 as well as Sonatas K130 and Hummel Baroque for own compositions.



REFLECTIONS BY JONATHAN



This was happening within walking distance, at St. Patrick's School Hall. Donations were going to support the project of the Malibu. In all, I was with one of my sons.

Soon, three girls entered the stage dressed in Malibu costumes, complete with wigs.



When Leopold Mozart realized just how gifted his two children, Amalia and Maria Anna, parents, were he decided to take them on a tour of Europe. It was an epic journey that lasted four years. Amalia was just 10 when the tour began and by the end he was a man, being placed in front of the most influential people wherever he had been.



As a child, Mozart himself had been to see an orchestra and could do it all sorts of tricks at the piano. One of his favorites was to play fortissimo difficult pieces with his hands hidden under a cloth so that he was unable to see any of the keys. But he didn't just excel at performing by the time he was 12 years old, he had already composed sonatas.

Joseph Haydn was one of the great musical influences on Mozart's career, and each man was an unconditional fan of the other's work. Haydn told Mozart's father "I must tell you before God and as an honest man, that your son is the greatest composer I ever heard of!"

So Thomas Bernhard, also a lover of Mozart, is known to have advised: "If there is a Mozart, I should make it compulsory for every member of the population between the age of four and eighty to listen to Mozart for at least a quarter of an hour daily for the coming five years."

So after a short notice, the young Hummel Baroque at the piano and played for at her own compositions. They are charming and pleasant, played with freedom and spontaneity. I wasn't sure if Mozart was a boy or a girl. The young Mozart did not mean anything to me. She had explained that in the name of a star and it is her stage name. When she eventually removed her wig and her hair was cascaded down it to reveal her girl.

Deborah Cooper, who organized this concert, Hummel's mother, told me that 15-year-old Hummel grew up in a stimulating musical and artistic environment. In just four years she managed to pass her eight grade exams of Trinity College London, and is now preparing her diploma in piano. She has been composing music since she was only 12 years old and is following the Advanced Diploma in Performing Arts at MCGA.

On the stage, the young Mozart finished playing her own compositions, then encouraged her "father" to sit at the piano and play and Maestro Paolo Carrasco did just that. He played Mozart's Sonata K723 which has a beautiful and peaceful sound and just that. He mentioned something to look as simple and so beautiful. The third movement Alla Funza is one of Mozart's best known piano pieces and other played to his own. When I was in my 20s, I was studying with my piano teacher but I never managed to play it well. I still love the score with her teaching reminding me of her idea Hummel Baroque, an excellent student, as well as a teacher that did give me a sense when I got the score wrong and barged our heads together when playing parts with a friend or a sister. I certainly encouraged her to practice more.

Maestro Carrasco gave us lovely interpretations of Mozart's two solo sonatas. He played the Alla Funza movement with clean precision. He was an elegant performance, without affectation and overstatement.

Maestro Carrasco is the founder of Centro del Sonoro from which he operates by spreading his music therapy and training teachers in public schools and abroad. He is called The Father of Music for his love for disabled children to whom he continues to dedicate most of his life. He composed among other compositions, items on the disabled and firm in Andalus which are often played by renowned orchestras.

Deborah told me: "The Maestro met Maria three years ago and with generosity sometimes he takes care of her musically."

He loves to bring his message through music with a series of concerts. A Piano for the Angels, which he also held in Malibu on 21 October as part of the AMMA concert season. It is a piano recital with images dedicated to children, an exciting journey into the world of childhood, a common thread binding the music books, tapes, videos, etc. — a journey lived through his wonderful compositions.

The Maestro is also the holder of the Guinness Book of Records for setting the record for having played Mozart for more than 22 hours at one go.

The girls who participated in this delightful evening all study in Malibu. All are Deborah's students from Riverside, attending an artistic annual festival with Great Oak Malibu Association where they are studying drama, dance, music.

Why Riverside? It is located on the border between California and Latin America, and was the first stop on the journey to help the young Mozart undertake with his father in 1760. Since 1987 it has hosted the Mozart Festival, an annual series of concerts and meetings dedicated mostly to the great master from Salzburg.

The next event will take place at St. Patrick's School Hall in Slama on 24th February 2024 at 7pm when Maestro Carrasco and Maestro Paolo Carrasco will play together with the Great Oak Theatre Group will perform scenes from The Magic Flute.

Association Mozart Italia seeks to inform the public not for reasons beyond their responsibility the next concert will be performed at St. Patrick's School Hall, under the name of Teatro Salgare as indicated in the previous brochure. For information email: [mazzoni@mozartitalia.com](mailto:mazzoni@mozartitalia.com) or at St. Patrick's School Hall (PH) 1985.

mazzoni@mozartitalia.com

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