

# AMERICAN *English Page* Hungarian Journal

english.amhir.com

## Blue Danube, Viennese Waltzes and Hungarian Performers on the Stage of Disney Hall in Attila Glatz's Gorgeous New Year's Concert

Article and Photos By Susan Jancso

Salute to Vienna premiered in Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall in 1995. By 2004 the show was presented in 33 major concert halls across the continent, including sold-out performances in Los Angeles (the Walt Disney Concert Hall) among other cities. Delightfully reminiscent of Vienna's famous and beloved Neujahrskonzert, the Salute to Vienna concert series has become a favorite holiday tradition throughout North America. It has grown into the largest live concert series of its kind in North America, under the leadership of Attila and Marion Glatz, Co-Presidents of Attila Glatz Concert Productions, and founders and producers of this unique project.

In the lobby of Disney Hall this first Sunday of January, before the performance, the first friends we met were Veronica Reinelt of the Austrian American Council President, Lilliana Popov-Alexander, Executive Vice-President and Yvonne Jurmann, widow of the great Austrian-American composer Walter Jurmann. Later we ran into other friends such as Dr. Susan Pekarovics and her husband Attila Beres, their son Adam and Susan's mother Borika, Ilona Linden who provides the community with the greatest glasses as head of Linden Optometry, and many others.

On the program were the best beloved Johann Strauss, Franz Lehar and Emerich Kalman melodies, interspersed with lively ballet performances by Europaballett St. Pölten (Austria) and the International Champion Ballroom Dancers (Hungary). The multi-talented soloists seemed to enjoy the performance just as much as the audience, singing and dancing including even some acrobatics.

Soprano Lilla Galambos is a graduate of the Vienna Conservatory and the Budapest School of Dance. She feels right at home in operetta roles such as Hanna in The Merry Widow, the title role in The Gypsy Princess, and Adele the chambermaid in Die Fledermaus, although she also sings operatic coloratura roles such as Olympian in The Tales of Hoffmann.

Tenor Eugene Amesmann grew up in Vienna. Engagements take him throughout Europe on a regular basis; one of his recent roles was that of Tassilo in Kálmán's Countess Mariza. Mr. Amesmann has also toured throughout Japan, singing the role of Cavaradossi, in Puccini's Tosca. Baritone Thomas Weinhappel started out at the age of 8 in the Vienna Boys Choir. He has performed opera and operetta roles in the theaters of Europe and throughout the world.

The surprise of the evening was 23-year-old Mihály Demeniv, winner of the Virtuoso Competition in Budapest last year, playing "Summer" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons on his harmonica with the Strauss Symphony of America orchestra. He is a third year student at Ferenc Liszt Music Academy.

Conductor Niels Muus held the performance together with a masterful hand, a lot of humor and energy. He was born in Pennsylvania and educated at the Royal Academy of Music in Denmark. He studied at Conservatorio San Martino in Bologna, Mozarteum Salzburg, and at California State University. He has also given master classes at various opera academies.

Mr. Muus made a special announcement from the stage regarding a Viennese composer who had to flee Europe during WW2. Walter Jurmann made a second successful career here in America, writing evergreen songs such as „Ninon” and „San Francisco”. His music transcends cultural and stylistic divides because it speaks to essential human emotions. The conductor pointed out that Jurmann's widow Yvonne was in the audience, and he meant to renew their friendship after the performance.

The program started and ended with The Fledermaus. After the numbers mentioned in the program booklet, of course there came the much expected encores. The Blue Danube was literally „flowing” through the stage with the help of a blue sheet maneuvered by two male dancers, while the girls were wearing dresses in every shade of blue. Finally, the evening ended with the lively tunes of the Radetzky March.

It was a heartwarming, uplifting, joyous experience full of good humor, great singing and dancing - sometimes bordering on acrobatics - , and music that made young and old sway, tap and applaud to the shiny notes - something to start the new year off on a positive note of art and beauty.



Conductor Niels Muus with Hirlap publisher Julius Jancso



Lilla Galambos with her bouquet after the performance



Julius Jancso with Yvonne Jurmann



Virtuoso Mihaly Demeniv

### The English Page

of the Hirlap can serve as a bridge between the non-Hungarian-speaking members of the family and the community. Use it to bring people together! Subscribe to the Hirlap! Advertise your business in the Hirlap!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call (323) 463-6376



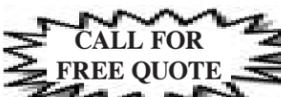
FARMERS

21st Century  
insurance customers

AUTO \* HOME \* LIFE  
Gets You Back Where You Belong

CALL & SAVE UP TO 18 %  
ON YOUR HOMEOWNERS

DIRECT \* NO BROKER FEE



818

981-8424



Sokol Insurance Agency \* Lic # 772323

Január 9, 2015



Magyar Hirlap