

# MASTER CLASSES: CREATING DRAMATIC OPERA CHARACTERS

1.8.-10.8.2024 Jelsa, Hvar, Croatia

The Creating a Dramatic Character Workshop aims to help young, beginning opera singers feel natural and relaxed on stage while mastering the basic craft techniques of this art.

The course will focus on technical and movement improvement, as well as superstructure, according to the individual needs and levels of development of the participants. The workshop will also emphasize teamwork on stage, including work related to props and costumes. Regarding character creation, our focus will be on articulation, sound colour, and facial expressions, as well as other relevant aspects to master our craft. It is crucial for young singers to gain confidence and a clear understanding of character and character development when performing each musical number. We will teach them how to approach the study of an operatic role and all its requirements.

The workshop is open to singers who wish to perform and interpret not only opera but also song literature or church music. Attendees will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge by performing in several concerts, including Songs, Church Music, and a final performance featuring fragments from operas. The workshop will take place in Jelsa, a picturesque seaside city on the island of Hvar in Croatia.



Workshop Hvar 2022

Slovak songs koncert

Sacred concert

Musical preparation

## pedagogical leadership

**doc. Mgr. Klaudia Račić Derner, ArtD.-** Singing - character on stage  
Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica

**Mgr. art. Peter Pažický, ArtD.** concert piano – study of opera parts  
Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica

**Mgr. art. Jana Juričková, ArtD.-** Singing - vocal preparation  
Music and art academy of Ján Albrecht Banská Štiavnica

**Mgr. art. Günther Strahlegger-** Singing- Lecturer for language  
University of Performing Arts and Music in Vienna

**Mgr.art. Peter Dekrét-** piano, musical preparation  
Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica

**Mgr.art Daniel Simandl, ArtD.-** conductor, music preparation, Academy of Arts Banská Bystrica



**Klaudia Račić Derner** The opera singer completed her studies at the Apsolvent Music Academy and earned her doctorate in Bratislava under the guidance of doc. Magdalena Blahušiaková. As a student, she was engaged by the Slovak National Theatre and made her debut in the opera La Boheme as Mimi. She has been a soloist at the Slovak National Theatre for 25 years, performing in numerous productions. Her leading roles have primarily focused on Slavic works, although her repertoire also encompasses pieces by other composers from around the world.

She has won numerous prizes in several international competitions. She was awarded the International Thália

Award and the Alfréd Radok Award for her performance in a leading female role in the Czech Republic. She has participated in numerous workshops and courses, primarily in Italy under the guidance of Maestro Carlo Bergonzi, as well as with Gabriela Beňačková and Margaret Honig. She has also collaborated with Miloslava Sopiřova and Zlatica Livorova. For several years, she lectured at the Academy of Music on creating the dramatic character. This experience led to her developing a deeper relationship with young people, which she continues to enjoy. She is an active professor and leads several educational programmes. At the request of a Japanese manager, she created a number of performances of opera and operetta (Carmen, Don Giovanni, La Traviata, Elisire d'amore, Die Csárdásfürstin...), which were successfully toured in Japan, where she herself tried to introduce young opera singers. She continued with the idea of providing opportunities for young artists and promoting their work by inviting them to various performances. Currently, she works as a professor at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica.

From the works



Elisire D'amore – Fukushima



Carmen- Osaka



after Performance Maritza and Zauberflöte Japan



Workshop Opera Operetta Fukushima



Workshop UNI Ostrava



Workshop Opera Operetta Fukushima- the Final concert



Die Csárdásfürstin - Japan

Don Giovanni – Japan



**Peter Pažický** He studied at the Conservatory in Žilina, at the Music Academy in Bratislava in the class of prof. Marián Lapšanský, with whom he also completed his doctoral studies. He took courses in interpretation with Halina-Czerna Stefanská, Eugen Indjic and Lazar Berman. He is a double laureate of the Slovak Conservatoire Prize, the Smetana Prize in Hradec Králové, and a triple laureate of the Chopin Prize in Mariánské Lázně. He won the prize for the best interpretation of the W. A. Mozart, at the II. Award of the Slovak Music Fund for the best Slovak participant of the international competition. As a soloist he has performed with the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the National Philharmonic Košice, the Žilina State Chamber Orchestra, the Austrian Jugend-Philharmonic, the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, the Prague Chamber Orchestra and the Bohdan Warchal Slovak Chamber Orchestra Also is a long-standing chamber partner, in recent years

cooperates mainly with singers (Peter Mikuláš, Tomáš Šelc, Sergej Tolstov, Ivan Choupenitch, Eva Šušková, Eva Garajová, etc.). He has been working for a long time with Ales Solárik in the Slovak Piano Duo.

He has performed at several prominent domestic festivals, including the Bratislava Music Festival, New Slavic Music, Albrechtina, and Viva Musica!. He has recorded for Slovak Radio, Unison Records, Chandos, Hudobnicke Centrum, Slovak Music Fund and Pavlik Records.

In addition to his concert activities, he is a highly respected and sought-after professor of piano and chamber music. Since 1997, he has been teaching at the Bratislava Conservatory and since 1998, he has been a faculty member at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. Currently, he serves as a vice-dean at the Academy of Performing Arts in Banská Bystrica.



**Jana Juríčková** The Slovak soprano-coloratura was a long-time soloist of the Slovak National Theater Opera. She studied singing at the Academy of Music in Bratislava under the guidance of doc. Magdalena Blahusiaková.

During her studies, she made her debut at the Slovak National Theater in Bratislava as Blonde in Mozart's opera Die Entführung aus dem Serail in 1999. Since then, she has appeared in several roles, including Norina in Donizetti's 'Don Pasquale'. Adina (L'Elisir d' amore) and Lucia di Lammermoor, Mozart's Zerlina Don Giovanni), Susanna (Le nozze di Figaro), Queen of the Night (Die Zauberflöte), Gilda (Verdi: Rigoletto), Oscar (Verdi: Ballo di Maschera), Zerbinetta (R. Strauss: Ariadne auf

Naxos) ... At the National Theatre in Brno she guest-starred in the roles of Terinka (Dvořák: Jakobin), Verdi's Gilda, Puccini with Musetta (La Boheme), Mozart's Queen of the Night - (she performed this role in the Czech Republic, Japan and Germany) 2010. It is performed at the Opera of the National Theatre in Prague as Olympia in Les Contes 'Hoffmann and as Armida in Handel's Rinaldo. Since 2016 she is teaching voice at the Conservatory in Bratislava. Currently, she is a professor at the Ján Albrecht Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Banská Štiavnica.



**Günther Strahlegger** Günther Strahlegger was born in Schwaz in Tyrol. He received his vocal training at the Tyrolean State Conservatory in Innsbruck, which he completed at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. This was followed by studies and masterclasses with Jessica Cash, Paul Esswood, Vicus Slabbert and Elena Gercheva. Günther Strahlegger gained his first stage experience in productions at the Neue Oper Wien under the direction of Walter Kobéra. Contemporary music continues to play an important role for the baritone. In collaboration with the sirene opera theatre, he has taken part in numerous world premieres. (2002 Hans Z. in "Der Kommissar" by Jury Everhartz, 2006/Vienna and 2009/Zagreb Clown Bruno in "Circus" by Jury Everhartz, 2009 Rudolf II in "Der entwendete Taler" by Oscar Aichinger, 2012/13 Dr Bock in "MarieLuise" by Gernot

Schedlberger). As part of international festival and tour productions, Günther Strahlegger has appeared as Escamillo in G. Bizet's "Carmen", as the father in E. Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel", as Figaro in Rossini's "Il barbiere di Seviglia", as Mozart's Don Giovanni and Donizetti's Bellcore in "L'elisir d'amore". In operetta, he performed Papacoda in "Eine Nacht in Venedig" by Johann Strauss and Leopold in Ralph Benatzky's singspiel "Im Weißen Rössl am Wolfgangsee". In 2018, Günther Strahlegger appeared on stage in Japan as Edwin in E. Kálmán's "Csárdásfürstin" and as Lorenzo in V. Bellini's "I Capuleti e i Montecchi" (Vorarlberger Musiktheater).

Günther Strahlegger lives and works as a singer, speaker, speech and voice coach in Vienna. Until 2015, was a regular presenter and programme designer on Radio Klassik Stephansdom and has been teaching at the Institute for Singing and Music Theatre at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna since 2018.



**Peter Dekrét** - a young pianist who graduated from the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica and is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the same institution. Additionally, he works at the University's Department of Piano Collaboration and as an accompanist at the Opera Studio. He already has several collaborations at the international level, for example Masterclasses on the topic of Creating a Dramatic Character Croatia-Hvar 2022, Slovakia-Banská Bystrica 2022, Hvar 2023 and Slovakia-Devín 2023... He is a well-known and highly sought-after partner for chamber and solo concerts in classical music circles. Additionally, he collaborates with the State Opera in Banská Bystrica to pursue his passion for opera.



**Daniel Simandl** graduate of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, under renowned Slovak conductors Ondrej Lenárd and Petr Feranc. He completed his studies with Jiří Bělohlávek in Prague and attended the Summer Academy at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg with the German conductor Bruno Weil as well as the Richard Wagner Foundation Scholarship in Bayreuth. At the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava he has staged operas as well as ballets (e.g. The Secret Key, La Bayadere). He has conducted the Slovak Radio Orchestra, the Slovak State Philharmonic Košice, the State Chamber Orchestra Žilina, the Metropolitan Orchestra Bratislava, Camerata Novisoliensis, Il Cuore Barocco and Cappella Istropolitana. He is a conductor of opera and musical studies at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica. As an accompanist and assistant conductor he has worked at the opera festival in Gars am Kamp in Austria, assisted at the Janáček Opera Theatre in Brno and the National Theatre in Prague. He collaborates with the Vienna Arnold Schönberg Chorus.

With Ško Žilina he performed Mozart's The Magic Flute, Bastien and Bastienne, Donizetti's The Love Potion and Don Pasquale, Smetana's The Bartered Bride for children, Humperdinck's The Gingerbread House and Ryba's The Czech Christmas Mass with the Children's Opera Harmónia. On the New Stage in Bratislava he performed the operetta Fr. Lehár's The Count of Luxembourg. He is the choirmaster and founder of the Danubius Octet Singers, with whom he made the CD recording "A Cappella Pur" (2014), the DVD for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ľudovít Štúr (2015) and the CD recording "Slovenská píseň" (2017). International Festival of Male Choirs in Pécs (2016), at the International Chamber Music Festival Konvergencie 2017 (Bratislava), at Smetana Litomyšl (2018) and at the representative event of the Slovak Institute and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Paris - in Meudon (2019). In 2017 he gave the Slovak premiere of Donizetti's opera "Rita" at the Bratislava Chamber Opera and also became conductor of the Children's Opera Prague. In 2018, the well-known English actress and singer Jane Birkin performed under his baton in Bratislava with the programme "Serge Gainsbourg: Le Symphonique". In the 2018/2019 season he served as assistant choirmaster of the Czech Philharmonic Choir Brno. Since 2021 he has been the choirmaster and assistant conductor of the Banská Bystrica Opera.

Worksho Devín





Workshop Hvar



Worksho Devín

