

EVTA/LEO II-Project from 6.-10. June in Helsinki/Finland

Online-Session with Video-conference from Helsinki to Oulu in N. Finland

Throughout the meeting of the European singing-teachers in Helsinki we had to work on the idea of using the „new resources“ while we are teaching. (Spectrograms, EGG, Skype and others). So the participants of the congress got the chance to see a singing-lesson with two different students in Oulu and Prof. Norma Enns (Hannover) via Internet from (600 km away). The Sibelius Academy in Helsinki has very good equipment and so we could see both Prof. Enns and the students from about 600 km away on a big screen in front of us. Also the sound was quite good. Prof. Enns had contacted the two students and her teacher a few days before, so that she could prepare the lessons very well.

The first advanced student was a woman. She sang Richard Wagner's aria of Elsa from „Lohengrin“ -“Einsam in trüben Tagen“ for us. You could hear that she prepared herself very well and she worked hard on the German language. Prof. Enns worked first with her on her breath. She gave her the idea to hear the pianist play her phrases and she must „sing“ „S“ by breathing out the whole phrase. She felt immediately that her breath support became more intensive and precise. Then Prof. Enns corrected the colours of the German vowels, which helped to make the piece and the student more credible. The student's face (expressed more meaning) and youthfulness. It was interesting, that in spite of the Internet connection everything was clear to understand. The second student, a man, was less advanced. He was a bass and sang for us „The Vagabond“ by Ralph Vaughan Williams in English. At the beginning he coloured his voice so dark, that it was very difficult to understand the words. Here Prof. Enns worked on the rhythm and tempo to give the voice more lightness. Also this student could work on the tasks and he understood what to do.

After the one hour lesson we asked the students, how they felt with this kind of Internet lesson. Both of them liked it and decided to do it with their teachers, when all else fails.

The only thing, which was irritating them, was just to look into the camera and not to a person, but they became accustomed of it.

Also Prof. Enns told us, that this was at the beginning an irritating point, but once used to it, she forgot it while teaching. She also told us, that it was useful for her to prepare the lesson very well and to know something about the students. Also she could imagine to do work like this in the future with other students, but it would be helpful to know the students better. Via this kind of Internet connection it seems to be possible to have good results, but this is only possible, when there is a university with very good facilities.

For me, it is interesting to look for new resources, but the great possibilities which exist in universities are rare. The technical possibilities nowadays are limited, because our ears are more correct than any machine.

Bettina Kerth, 13.June 2012