

General Report on the EVTA Vocal Pedagogy Session Helsinki:
Digital Resources Technology for Voice Teachers

Opening with a getting-to-know-you food and drink reception followed by a concert and ending with a boat ride on the maritime waters bordering the south side of Helsinki: these events were the perfect start and finish of an intensive three day workshop on digital resources in vocal pedagogy.

Having been a participant in two previous vocal pedagogy sessions in the EVTA first Leonardo da Vinci project, I appreciate this one as the winner of the three. Much has been gained in terms of planning, organization and logistics. Content-wise this is the one that will stay with me for a long time to come. These three intensive days of classes and workshops have given all participants plenty of depth and variation within the context of digital resources in the voice lesson. Moreover, I felt I was indulged with a smorgasbord of digital offerings, from which it was hard to pick and choose. How I wish I could have attended all sessions presented!

As already mentioned, I needed to make a choice, and the most pressing need in my own teaching and singing led me to attend all lectures and clinics available using visual and audio feedback, conducted by two very knowledgeable resource persons. Unfortunately this meant that I had to miss sessions on e-learning and developing internet content, in which I'm also very interested. Thanks to the fact that course materials are being provided online, both in advance of the 3-day session as well as after, I will be able to more easily research these topics back home. One resource person has even offered his help by way of setting up Skype sessions to get me up to speed!

What I particularly liked about my classes, was the fact that several newer software programs for voice visualization were presented. They could be seen in action, which is a tremendous advantage for private voice instructors investing their own money into teaching aids for their studios. Other favorite experiences include a live online long-distance teaching session with Finnish students of singing, using state-of-the art technology in one of the beautiful concert venues of Helsinki.

This brings me to another winning element of this event: selecting venues and locations for a happening like this, with people coming from all parts of Europe, having different levels of international travelling experience, is not an easy task. The local and EVTA organizers have done an excellent job of making sure locations were within walking distance, and that directions were well understood. Additionally, the scheduling of breaks and social events had been done carefully and successfully.

In conclusion, this last Vocal Pedagogy session has been, in my opinion, EVTA's best seminar yet. The extent and depth of the learning sessions were generous. On a social and cultural level this event was a resounding success as well. Congratulations to EVTA with the conclusion of the Leonardo II project. I hope there will be more to come- EVTA is ready for it!

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