

The World of Singing

A Singing Conference, August 3-7, 2012
at the Goetheanum Dornach

It is impossible to do justice to this conference in a short review, so I will give as many key points as possible here.

Michael Kurtz opened the conference with introductions and then a brief history of the development of singing, starting with the early Bel Canto singing and then early students of Rudolf Steiner and Valborg Werbeck-Svardstrom. This 2012 is the 100 year anniversary of Valborg's meeting of Rudolf Steiner and of the beginning of their work together in regards to the development of the School for Uncovering the Voice. Thus it was important to have this conference this year.

Mr. Kurtz also spoke of music itself. He asked "What is music? It is not acoustic. Beethoven composed when he was deaf. Music is banned from the earthly realm. It comes from another realm. Composers and musicians draw music down from higher realms." He said that music brings up-building forces. Many of us can relate to his statement that "Today music is exiled." Lastly, he said that with (playing) music/singing all of our muscles are involved, and that (as many of us know) it is a long process of practicing and work to develop this singing, if one is serious about music.

The next speaker was Dr. Michaela Glockler, and to summarize her content is impossible in this short space. Come to our conference in February and I will offer content from her talk. It was a fabulous talk. One important point she made is that "We are ensouling the etheric world with our singing, and the etheric world needs ensouling."

On the different mornings Thomas Adam, Christa Valchjen, and Christiaan Boele led the group in singing exercises. During the day we each went to the singing workshop that we had chosen. In the afternoons there was the large chorus rehearsal and a concert each day of the soloists and small groups that had signed up to sing. In the evenings there were concerts of various choruses working out of this impulse. Several included Bleffert's metal instruments in their singing presentations. The large conference chorus worked on Frau Werbeck's Therapeutic work for chorus. It sounded wonderful, full of healing when presented in the Great Hall on the closing evening.

The most marvelous aspect of this endeavor is that over 300 "Werbeck" singers from 17 countries came together and shared their voices and sang together. What a wonderful gathering and in such a Holy place, where the walls, as well as the attending spiritual beings are truly listening. Thank you to all who helped this to come about.

Respectfully,
Diane Barnes