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Maestro Zubin Mehta
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Undiscovered work of Hymnus

(by Stefano Pellegrino Amato)

I am writing to tell you about a profound music – a new opera work called Hymnus composed by the Italian maestro Stefano Pellegrino Amato. I'm sure you will remember him as your assistant at the concert for peace at which you conducted in Sarajevo. I was fortunate to meet him when I was playing in the Slovenian opera orchestra.

Maestro Pellegrino Amato was the conductor in Maribor, where in 2001 he presented Hymnus putting him amongst opera's greatest geniuses. Unfortunately the work was never recorded because of an aneurysm and a stroke he suffered at the end of 2003. Although he wrote one of the greatest operas, his music is unknown. Because of his health he is alone and totally dependant on the help of other people and in particular his brother.

Knowing maestro Amato, his story, music, opera messages and situation, I launched the initiative "Helping music, helping world", which is an approach of performing opera with the aim of helping those in need. My initial motivation for the project was to raise the funds necessary for Stefano's rehabilitation and then to help him with his music. But in the same time I considered the potential of performing his music to help others. Helping others, humanity, and our civilization are also messages from opera Hymnus and putting Hymnus music on stage in such a manner would mean more than anything else for maestro Stefano and his recovery.

To achieve this I launched initiative on <http://www.hymnus.org>, where there is more information about the initiative and some recordings from the only performances in Maribor. I have written to nearly every major opera director, even contacting maestro Riccardo Mutti at special concert that he made for Carlos Kleiber in Ljubljana. Unfortunately the idea was not prepared at that point and letter did not reach him personally. Till now nobody has responded to me except for the Sydney national opera, who have a policy of only supporting Australian opera composers. I have also presented the idea to UNICEF Slovenia however they are constrained by their own international policies. I am aware that putting an opera on stage in this manner is a large project, however there remains the possibilities of doing it in a classical concert format, in synergies with other humanitarian concerts, initiatives etc...

Dear Maestro Mehta

Considering the story and Hymnus, I am kindly asking you to visit the site and listen to the Hymnus samples (there are two arias attached to this letter)¹. I would greatly appreciate any feedback and support you have to offer. I know that with your word and support things will really start to happen! Hopefully together it will be possible to increase awareness and interest for this project and in so doing also help make the world a better place.

Matej Mertik
trombone

1 Listening to Hymnus at <http://www.hymnus.org>