

MÁRIA TEMESI, Prof. Dr.

Operasinger, master teacher of voice, opera ambassador

2020

Opera singer, opera ambassador and master teacher of the Hungarian State Opera, university professor and head of voice department at University of Szeged Faculty of Music. Founder and competition director of the 'József Simándy' International Singing Competition.



Graduated as singing and piano teacher in her hometown, Szeged. In 1981 received Master's degree with honour from 'Franz Liszt' University of Music in Budapest as an opera singer.

Debuted as Elsa in Lohengrin by Wagner in the Hungarian State Opera in 1981. Production was conducted by Giuseppe Patané and following critique was published:

"... is a sensation! Her beautiful voice, her sophisticated singing, her self-confident, yet feminine essence raise her the ideal designer of this great role. Ms. Temesi never abused the vast penetration of her voice, so she also preserved the beautiful singing in the Wagnerian starring. She is an extraordinary promise – or already more than that." (1982)

In the very same year her international career also started in Dresden, Berlin, Milano, New York and Nice, and appeared in leading opera and concert stages all over the world (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, England, Ireland, Scotland, Austria, Switzerland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Turkey, USA, Egypt, Brazil, Uruguay, China). Winner of two major singing competition: SBRAC Singing Competition Rio de Janeiro 1981 (under name of Mária Tóth) and Pavarotti Singing Competition Philadelphia 1985. Through her successful operatic career, she sang several major roles in the Hungarian State Opera and opera houses all over the world.

Early in her career she sang several Mozart – roles, among them forming Donna Anna and Vitellia are the most outstanding. Afterwards she sang almost all of the leading soprano roles of Verdi, Puccini and Wagner, Mascagni, Cilèa, Tchaikovsky, Erkel and Richard Strauss giving exceptional dramatic performances in Hungary and abroad. For outstanding interpretation of roles in operas of contemporary composers she was awarded with Bartók-Pásztory and Artisjus Prize. In 2008 at the 25th anniversary of her membership in the Hungarian State Opera House, opera enthusiasts have celebrated her in role of Sieglinde in The Walkür by Wagner and at the 30th anniversary as Elisabeth in Wagner's Tannhäuser. The 35th anniversary of her operatic career was celebrated at the National Theater of Szeged with a great Gala Concert conducted by renowned Hungarian conductor Tamás Pál and recorded by Szeged TV.

On stage Professor Temesi worked with the greatest opera singers, conductors and directors: Peter Schreier, Theo Adam, Fiorenza Cossotto, László Polgár, György Melis, Luciano Pavarotti, Giacomo Aragall, Samuel Ramey, Dmitri Hvorostovsky; Giuseppe Patané, Lovro von Matacic, Sir John Pritchard, Rico Saccani, Ferencsik János, Doráti Antal, Jurij, Szimonow, Lamberto Gardelli, Piergiorgio Morandi, Wolfgang Gönnenwein, Medveczky Ádám, János Kovács, Zoltán Kocsis, Gergely Kesselyák, Balázs Kocsár, Kobayashi Ken Ichiro, Ondrej Lénard, Oliver Dohnanyi, Iván Fischer, Ádám Fischer, Christine Mielitz, Katherina Wagner.

Her opera, oratorio and concert recordings with noted conductors, artists and orchestras often broadcasted by Bartók Radio the Hungarian classical music channel. Her solo aria album Wagner Heroines was released by HUNGAROTON in 2004. Due to her TV and radio appearances her name is well-known by the classical music lover audience. Her name is noted in the Hungarian and International „Who is who?” and in several Hungarian, German and English opera encyclopedias.

Since 1997 as professor and head of voice department at University of Szeged Béla Bartók Faculty of Art she has educated numerous young artists and helped them to achieve high level in their career as opera singers or as teachers. Professor Temesi has received her academic qualifications at Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest: Habilitation in 2001 and DLA degree in 2003.

Since 2013 as master teacher of the Hungarian State Opera she helps the technical and interpretational development of soloists, and singers in the choir as well. Since 2014 the Hungarian State Opera count on her professional knowledge also as opera ambassador. Her scientific and informative lectures about the opera are very popular in Hungary and often followed by local media.

Often invited guest professor at master classes in Europe, in the USA and in China and jury member or chairman in singing competitions in Hungary and abroad. Thanks to her dedicated teaching activity her students regularly appear on national and international opera stages.

In 1998 Professor Temesi has founded the ‘József Simándy’ Singing Competition and she works as artistic and managing director of the competition. In the past 20 years the singing competition has discovered many talented singers and for this achievement became cultural heritage of The Hungarian National Depository in 2018.

AWARDS

For artistic work

- Knight’s Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit given by the President of Hungary (2016) *„for shaping the deep expressive dramatic soprano roles, especially Wagne heroines, and also for appretiation of the excellent and extremly successful art of singing oratorio and lied repertoire.”*
- ‘György Melis’ Award (2013) *„for beautiful Hungarian language cultivation”*
- Franz Liszt Award (2000) *„for exceptional achievements in Wagner leading roles”*
- Artisjus Award (2003) *„for excellent role playing in contemporary Hungarian operas”*
- Juventus Award (1996)
- ‘Mihály Székely’ Plaque (1995)
- ‘Bartók-Pásztory’ Award (1992)

For educational and pedagogical work

- Jubilee Medallion for *„Outstanding Teaching and Artistic Achievement”* (2010)
- Award for *„Excellent School Founding Activity”* (2015)
- Award for *„International Artistic and Teaching Activity”* (2016)