

Joyce DiDonato, the Queen of Baroque

KAPOS

The brilliant American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato brought the spirit of the baroque to Bratislava with its queens and princesses in the award winning and internationally acclaimed program “Drama Queens” on November 7, 2013.

With the orchestra Il Complesso Barocco, Joyce DiDonato revealed the magic of well-known and forgotten baroque arias. The program of the concert was cleverly chosen so that both types of baroque arias were attributed to two basic mental states of the queens. On one side was a lyrical aria passing from idyllic to painful expressions; on the other side were arias of agitated elements.

For interpretation it meant to move between expressivity and virtuosity. The singer managed these transitions between different moods, often within a single aria, admirably. With a soft glide from one tone to another, sometimes her voice fumed and threatened, reproached, so that the listener did not need to read the text to understand what she had just expressed.

“It is difficult to determine which numbers were better and which were interpreted worse, but personally I like the most the aria from Hasse’s Antony and Cleopatra, that the composer wrote for his famous wife Faustina Bordonni,” said the critic Vladimír Blaho.

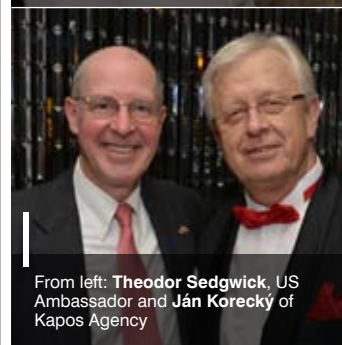
The orchestra also performed excellently and proved its quality in four separate demonstrations. The most successful was Vivaldi’s Violin Concerto in D minor with a brilliant interpretation by the first violinist Dmitry Sinkovsky, and the very spiritual sound of the orchestra in the ballet music from Gluck’s Armida.

Opera critic Pavol Unger wrote: “to express such sentiments through the color of voice, technique, and range of expression in two hours can only artists of the highest qualities. Joyce DiDonato confirmed her virtuoso mezzo-soprano of unlimited abilities; the perfect coloratura singing, remarkably wide range of soft and pleasant timbre, but also dynamic range and extremely clear articulation particularly in recitative were the essence of her unique expression.” At the reception after the concert the invited guests enjoyed the opportunity to meet the singer and exchange their emotions.

Bratislava has experienced one of these rare top-events thanks to Kapos Agency, which brings to the capital of Slovakia the highest-level opera singers.



From the left: Prof. Eva Blahová, Joyce DiDonato, publisher Mária Reháková



From left: Theodor Sedgwick, US Ambassador and Ján Korecký of Kapos Agency



Joyce DiDonato with the famous Slovak actress Zdena Studenková



From right: Djumantoro Purwokoputro Purbo, Ambassador of Indonesia, with his wife; and Lydia Korecká, Manager of Kapos Agency

