



ContemporaryOperaCompany

EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

WHO WE ARE

SoloCanto Cultural Association was founded in 2001 with the aim of promoting the approach of children to music through polyphonic singing.

Since 2014, thanks to the meeting between the choir and orchestra director **Pilar Bravo** and the stage director **Fred Santambrogio**, SoloCanto Association has developed “**OperaLab**” **project** with the aim of bringing children and young people closer to opera with a particular fondness for contemporary opera.

Along with the training project the SoloCanto Association started to produce Contemporary Opera as a living art form, able to deal with topics close to today's public and to present itself as a vehicle for communication and culture.

In 2016, the Contemporary Opera Company Op.64 was born

Today Op.64 company mission is to train in the field of contemporary opera and to popularizing it.

We have active collaborations with the **Centre for Contemporary Opera in New York**, the **Conservatory of Badalona** and the Municipality of Milan

We performed in Milan at **Teatro Studio Melato**, **Teatro Carcano**, Teatro Buzzati and Castello Sforzesco, in London at the **Tete à Tete Festival** and in New York at **Symphony Space**



SHOWREEL



FORMAT

OperaLab takes place every year for two or three weeks from the end of the school until the end of June.

It is an intensive workshop for children from 8 to 18 years old. Children are divided into choir/ drama, orchestra, set design / costumes and dance. We chose not to make selections in order to remove any barrier to young people approaching opera.

Since 2014 OperaLab has produced 6 unpublished works for children choir and youth orchestra, specially composed for us, and “The little Prince” by the Oscar winner Rachel Portman.

In 2021 we have produced our first feature film: Jesus Christ Superstar

From 2014 to 2016 the trilogy **Salis and the world balance**, by Matteo Manzitti, libretto by Daniela Morelli, an opera for children choir and youth orchestra, was staged at Teatro Studio Melato in Milan. The Salis project, which also includes an iBook and an iPad app, won the **Andersen award for the best multimedia product of 2016**.

In 2017 we won the third prize at **SIAE "Saranno Famosi" Competition** with the opera “The child of Ithaca”, music by Matteo Manzitti, libretto by Daniela Morelli.

In 2020 “The child of Ithaca” won the third audience prize at **YAMawards - Young Audiences Music Awards**.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA - June 18th, 2014

A contemporary opera for children and teens. Yet, not destined for them, but **acted, sang and played by young children** ranging from the ages of 7 to 15. And where can we experience such a wonderful show? Where does such a unusual performance occur? Answer: today, at 3 pm at **Teatro Studio Melato**. The name of the opera is “Salis escapes”, which is the result of a two-week long experimental opera workshop that includes children and teens from all over Europe.

“We believe that we can use music and theatre to bring together people of different ages and skills”, says stage director Fred Santambrogio, graduated at the Academy of Teatro alla Scala. **The musical score was composed keeping in consideration the diverse skills and abilities of the children.** “All that remains is to sit back, relax and enjoy this unique and innovative show (**if only there were more projects like this in Milan! It would surely be a more beautiful and cultured city**).

AMADEUS - July 18th, 2018 - Mara Lacché

The staging of the British composer's two-act opera [The little Prince by Rachel Portman], conceived by Fred Santambrogio, brought back the delightful simplicity and symbolism of the literary tale, but also **the contagious enthusiasm underlying the 'Opera Workshop', the international project** promoted by the director themselves, together with conductor Pilar Bravo, as part of the SoloCanto association, which **since 2014 has sought to involve budding young artists, aged 8 and upwards, in the production of opera performances.** [...]

The result is a performance with lively ensemble scenes, with **a strong visual and musical impact and at the same time delicate poetry.**

We can only hope that, in such difficult times as these, the message of hope and friendship launched by Little Prince and his dreamlike flight will soon be able to touch the hearts of the audience again.

SPETTACOLINEWS.IT - June 26th, 2019 - Valeria Prina

The show **Dido & Aeneas - Olympus Games**, staged in Milan at **Teatro Carcano** under the direction of Fred Santambrogio and produced by Op.64, defined as Milan's first contemporary opera company, is all about mixing. It juxtaposes the baroque music of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with the contemporary opera written by Daniela Morelli and composed by Matteo Manzitti, with a great use of percussion, which enhances the dramatic aspect. [...] the very young Pietro Bolognini, in the role of Cupid-Ascanio, **a boy soprano to applause**.

The mythical story told by Virgil in the Aeneid meets a more contemporary one, as directed by Fred Santambrogio, with migrants crossing the sea. And, another mix, the costumes of the protagonists, which can be traced back to Aeneas, are mixed with those of today, complete with runners and boys on scooters. If this may seem a little jarring to opera lovers, it may, however, **please younger audiences, who discover this kind of performance closer to them**. Certainly, Op.64, which staged the opera, deserves credit for **the great merit of educating and bringing young people between the ages of 8 and 18 closer to opera** as current and future opera protagonists. [...]

A demonstration of how much desire for opera there is among the audience, who applauded with satisfaction at the end.



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