

century tenor

## A powerfully voiced homage to Caruso in Beuggen Castle



By Roswitha Frey

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Rheinfelden

**BZ-Plus** | 200 listeners enjoy the tenors' gala night at Beuggen Castle between palm and olive trees. The evening is dedicated to the legendary Enrico Caruso on the occasion of his 150th birthday.



With concentrated tenor voice power, the singers performed at the gala night of the tenors for Enrico Caruso's 150th birthday in the courtyard of Schloss Beuggen. Photo: Roswitha Frey

Five international singers met on the open-air stage in front of the palace backdrop in honor of the tenor of the century Enrico Caruso. On his 150th birthday, the most beautiful operatic arias and Neapolitan canzones, for which Caruso was once famous, were sung.

The audience of around 200 sat at tables between olive and palm trees, listened to the tenor voices over a glass of wine and felt like they were in Italy for the evening. There was a mood

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evening in the name of Italian bel canto.

## **At the beginning there is an old recording from 1908**

At the beginning, lord of the castle Alexander Schwabe played the original voice of Enrico Caruso on an old gramophone in the canzone "La Donna è mobile" in a recording from 1908. The tenors, some of whom had traveled from Rome, Parma and Milan to perform famous songs and Neapolitan hits at this open-air event, followed in the footsteps of this legendary opera singer.

They were accompanied sensitively and dynamically by the Virtuosi Brunenses under the dedicated and prudent direction of Hans-Friedrich Härle. The 20-strong ensemble of strings and wind instruments opened the two parts of the program purely instrumentally with the overture from "La Traviata" and the intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana".

## **Ambassador of the Caruso Museum is on site**


Michael Vaccaro, director of "Opera Classica Europa", charmingly moderated this concert homage to Caruso. He called it a great honor that tenor Andrea Cesare Coronella, ambassador of the Caruso Museum in Naples, was also among the performers. Coronella, herself a Neapolitan, sang the wistful "Lamento di Federico" with lyrical mellowness. Also in the song "Mattinata" dedicated to Caruso, Coronella brought much tenoral sentiment. The singer was in his element in the popular canzone "Torna a Surriento".

In addition to opera arias, the program also included canzones from Caruso's repertoire that were close to his heart: songs from Naples about love and longing for home. The Roman tenor Alessio Borraggine conveyed moving operatic feelings in the aria "E lucevan le stelle" from "Tosca". He sang this famous farewell aria full of passion and intensity. Also in the canzone "Core ngrato" Borraggine put all the tenoral power in his voice to express the pain of love.

## **Different colors in each voice**

Jeffrey Hartman from the Hamburg State Opera performed impressively in arias such as "Recondita Armonica" and "Mamma, quel vino" with a slim, clear tenor voice and a sure pitch. Gaston Efficace has a rather light, light voice and introduced himself with "Marechiare", a romantic song by Francesco Paolo Tosti about the moonlight over Naples and the waves of the sea, one of Caruso's favorite songs. The young Argentinian opera singer was also able to convince in "Una furtiva lacrima".

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Dong-Seok Im from the National Theater Mannheim impressed with a robust, powerful voice. He sang the easy-going duke's famous canzone "La Donna è mobile" from "Rigoletto" in a relaxed and lively manner. The young tenor also gave a fascinating performance in "Salut", a lyrical aria by Faust.

The enchanting soprano Katrina Taynara loosened up the program sequence with a graceful, light, graceful voice in the waltz of the musette from "La Bohème". She was also on stage with the tenors in "Brindisi", the swinging drinking song from "La Traviata", which carried the audience away. The audience experienced an entertaining foray through the opera literature of Verdi, Puccini, Donizetti and the world of southern Italian canzonas.

## Joint appearance as the highlight of the gala

Much applauded highlights of the tenor gala were the joint performances of the singers in "La Donna è mobile", with director and moderator Michael Vaccaro, himself a long-standing opera tenor, spontaneously supporting his tenor colleagues. The six of them threw themselves in a skillful pose and almost outdid each other with tenoral charm. Of course, the popular tenor hit "Funiculi, Funcila" could not be missing late at night, with the singers coming down from the stage and singing between the audience rows. As an encore, the tenors smashed "O Sole Mio" into the night sky over Beuggen.

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