

THE SCIENCE OF MUSIC



Fight Continues for Verdi's 'Scientific Tuning' of C=256Hz

Legislation to return to Verdi's scientific tuning of C=256Hz was proposed at a Schiller Institute conference on "Music and Classical Aesthetics" held April 9-10, 1988 in Milan, Italy. The conference was addressed by soprano Renata Tebaldi, baritone Piero Cappuccilli, and Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Institute.

Since that time, the Institute has circulated a petition in support of this legislation, which was introduced into the Italian Parliament in 1988.

Heavy pressure from the U.S. was brought to bear on the Italian Parliament to suppress the legislation, and upon individual signers of the petition to withdraw their support. As a result, the proposed law was temporarily defeated. However, the Schiller Institute continues the fight for scientific tuning. The names of some amongst the most prominent of the fine musicians who continue to support this effort are listed below. If you have not yet signed the petition, which appears on the following page, please do so and return it to the Schiller Institute.

Sherrill Milnes (baritone)
Dame Joan Sutherland (soprano)
Piero Cappuccilli (baritone)
Richard Bonyng (conductor)
Carlo Bergonzi (tenor)
Christa Ludwig (mezzosoprano)
Giuseppe di Stefano (tenor)
Elly Ameling (soprano)
Bidu Sayão (soprano)
Peter Schreier (tenor)
Birgit Nilsson (soprano)
Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (baritone)
Fedora Barbieri (mezzosoprano)
Grace Bumbry (soprano)
Fiorenza Cossotto (mezzosoprano)

Norman Shetler (pianist)
Luciano Pavarotti (tenor)
Leona Mitchell (soprano)
Mirella Freni (soprano)
Diane Kesling (mezzosoprano)
Gilda Cruz-Romo (soprano)
Louis Quilico (baritone)
Nikolai Ghiaurov (basso)
Joseph Rouleau (basso)
Ivo Vinco (basso)
Jascha Silberstein (cellist)
Renato Bruson (baritone)
Henry Pleasants (author)
Ruggero Raimondi (basso)
Mara Zampieri (soprano)

Kurt Moll (basso)
Maria Chiara (soprano)
Bruno Rigacci (conductor)
Elizabeth Mannion (mezzosoprano)
Gian Paolo Sanzogno (conductor)
Bodil Frolund (pianist)
Alberta Masiello (conductor)
Anthony Amato (director)
Jodi Laski-Mihova (soprano)
Anthony Morss (conductor)
Mrs. Gerd Schiotz (widow of Aksel Schiotz)
James Morris (basso)

Petition and Proposed Legislation For the Return to the Classical Pitch of $C=256\text{Hz}$

WHEREAS, The continual raising of pitch for orchestras provokes serious damage to singers, who are forced to adapt to different tunings from one concert hall or opera to the next, thus altering the original texture and even the key of the works they perform; and

WHEREAS, The high standard pitch is one of the main reasons for the crisis in singing, which has given rise to “hybrid” voices unable to perform the repertoire assigned to them; and

WHEREAS, In 1884, Giuseppe Verdi mobilized the Italian government to issue a decree establishing $A=432$ cycles (corresponding to middle $C=256$) as the “scientific standard pitch,” correctly stating in a letter to the government’s Music Commission, that it was absurd that “the note called A in Paris or Milan should become a $B\flat$ in Rome”; and

WHEREAS, Even for many instruments, among them the Cremona violins, ancient organs and even the piano, modern high tuning is deleterious, in that it does not take physical laws into account;

THEREFORE, the undersigned demand that the Ministries of Education, Arts and Culture, and Entertainment accept and adopt the normal standard pitch of $A=432$ for all Italian music institutions and opera houses, such that it become the official Italian standard pitch, and, very soon, the official standard pitch universally.

SIGNED: _____

Print Name: _____

Position: _____

Return signed petitions to:

Schiller Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 66082, Washington, D.C. 20035-6082
or call: (800) 543-1462.

