Music Conference in Italy

Art and Science Are One and the Same

On Nov. 30, Lyndon LaRouche was the guest of honor at a conference in Busseto, Italy, the hometown of composer Giuseppe Verdi, to present the book Canto e Diapason, the Italian edition of A Manual on Tuning and Registration, which was written under LaRouche’s direction. The conference was hosted by the world-famous tenor Carlo Bergonzi, himself a native of Busseto, and was attended by baritone Piero Cappuccilli.

The Busseto meeting was the third presentation of Canto e Diapason in Italy during 1996. Conferences were also held in Milan, at the Casa Verdi, and in Rome, at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, during the spring. The Busseto conference was a further step forward in the campaign to lower standard musical tuning from the current level of A=440 Hz and above, to the scientific tuning of A=432 (C=256), the tuning proposed by Verdi himself.

The conference was held in the historic Barezzi Room, in the house where Verdi lived when he was young. Still to be seen in the room, is the fortepiano on which Verdi composed the opera I Due Foscari. This fortepiano was used to accompany the musical examples sung by soprano Antonella Banaudi in a demonstration of the lower and higher tunings.

LaRouche told the audience of over one hundred singers, students, and other music specialists, that he had launched this initiative in order to save our civilization from a generalized cultural degeneration, which has its roots in the Romanticist separation of science and art. LaRouche said art and science are one and the same, and that, “classical music is a representation of how the mind works.”

Conference participants were also treated to a reconstruction of Mozart’s Ave Verum Corpus, sung in the church in which Verdi was married. LaRouche explained that the Ave Verum is an embodiment of this process of creative mentation, because of its dense development of musical ideas governed by a unifying concept, which becomes clear to the listener only at the end.

U.S. Supreme Court Accepts Amicus

An amicus curiae brief submitted by the Schiller Institute in the Washington State “assisted suicide” case, was accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court on Dec. 9, 1996. The Schiller Institute brief provided documentation for the following argument:

“The Supreme Court should reverse the Court of Appeals on grounds that there is no constitutionally protected right to suicide. To judicially accord a terminally ill, competent individual, a constitutional right to the assistance of a physician to commit suicide, will lead to punishable acts under future Nuremberg-type tribunals established to punish those who commit such crimes against humanity.”

Argument occurred on Jan. 8, 1997, before the U.S. Supreme Court on the cases of Washington v. Glucksberg and Vacco v. Quill (the appeals by Washington State and New York State, respectively, of Circuit Court of Appeals decisions in favor of assisted suicide). A ruling is not expected until summer.