

Prachatice- Summer School For Early Music

Every year, people of all ages who share the same interest come to Prachatice: They love to play recorder!

That is the reason why I felt comfortable there from the first moment on! I have already been there for the third time and I am sure that it will not be for the last time!

This year I was in the class of Jostein Gundersen- an excellent recorder player from Norway, who is specialised in historical improvisation.

Every morning his class met for 1 ½ hour in order to improvise. After that the single lessons took place- for each participant two.

The rest of the time the musicians could practise- either on their own or together with a hapsichordist or an ensemble. Furthermore they had got the possibility to listen to lessons of other teachers as for example Kerstin de Witt (Germany), Alan Davis (England), Julie Braná or Jan Kvapil (Czech Republic).

The thing I liked most was that I could choose what to do with my free time. For me it is always a kind of holiday with the recorder where I can learn many things in a charming atmosphere. But also the passiv participants had got the occasion of getting to know many things concerning Early (and also New) Music.

Regarding the organisation of the Summer School I can say that they try hardly to give variety to the students.

In the evening there were always concerts of the teachers, which were really amazing!

In Prachatice one meets a diversity of cultures: Czechs, Spaniards, Canadians, Germans, Belgians and Austrians.

After the concerts in the evening the participants ususally went to a pub in order to drink a “pivo” and to talk about several things as for instance the final concert. It is the highlight of the week! At this concert everyone could show what he or she learned within these 7 days. Not only recorder players listend, but also singers, baroque dancers and children of the children class.

The performances took place in a church up a hill. One could choose whether to walk there or to go by car, but because of the beautiful view of the environment it was the better choice to walk .

Before saying “goodbye“ there is always a party, at which one could see the musicians for the last time and exchange contact details. Most of them will return the following year- according to the motto: Once Prachatice- Always Prachatice

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