

# “YOU HAVE TO GIVE WINGS TO FLY!”

INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL WELCOMING SPEECH, WE UNCONVENTIONALLY ASKED THE WORLD-RENOWNED FOUNDER OF THE COMPETITION TO GIVE US A PERSONAL INTERVIEW. WE ARE THANKFUL TO DR ANDRÁS BATTA FOR ACTING AS INTERVIEWER, AS HE IS PERHAPS THE VERY PERSON – AS THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LISZT ACADEMY AND RETURNING PATRON OF THE INTERNATIONAL ÉVA MARTON SINGING COMPETITION – WHO KNOWS ÉVA MARTON’S THOUGHTS THE BEST. HE ASKED THE GLOBALLY ACCLAIMED SOPRANO ABOUT THE INITIAL IDEA OF THE COMPETITION, ITS CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES, ITS JURY MEMBERS AND OF COURSE, ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCAL COMPETITIONS IN THE CAREERS OF YOUNG SINGERS.

**ANDRÁS BATTA:** *Do you remember, Éva, it was a good few years ago – at the time of the restoration of the beautiful building of the Budapest Liszt Academy – how we both dreamed that one day there would be an international singing competition under your artistic direction here?*

ÉVA MARTON: In fact, this was realized far faster than I had thought, since we were able to organize the I International Éva Marton Singing Competition barely a year after the opening of the renewed building. Thank you for your help in bringing it to life, and I am delighted that your successor, president Andrea Vigh, has also given her backing to the contest. Therefore, we move forward and I hope that in the future this singing competition will remain one of the finest projects of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music.

*Of course, let’s not forget that the competition reflects your personality, being a summation of the experiences of your artistic and teaching career.*

Without any hint of pathos I say: I am a Hungarian and even during the decades I spent abroad I always tried to give back to my homeland everything that, in an artistic sense, I acquired in the course of my career. The logical consequence of this desire was that on our return to Hungary I should accept the post of Head of the Singing Department of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, and the idea of setting up the singing competition was connected up with this. I am convinced that Hungarian artists, scientists, and athletes who in the course of their careers have served to enhance the reputation of Hungary through their talent and performances have a real opportunity – precisely because of their international renown – of attracting interest through themselves to the Hungary of today, showing young people an example and opening a doorway to the world for them via their contacts.

*Through you, it is not only the Liszt Academy as organizing institution which is involved in the singing competition.*

Thank you for mentioning this. I must emphasize first and foremost the harmonious work there has been with the president and management of the Liszt Academy in the course of preparations for the singing competition right from the very start, that is, from the first competition in 2014. The Hungarian State Opera (where I am active as senior consultant) also joined the project from the beginning and the Hungarian Academy of Arts has shown considerable interest in the competition: they have enhanced the status of the contest both in the intellectual and material sense with this year’s Éva Marton special prize and we have also received a supportive gesture from the Board of the Corvin Chain Award, too. As far as I am aware,

