

On the importance of Singing

Sir Yehudi Menuhin

This text wrote Sir Yehudi Menuhin as patron of Il canto del mondo.

Singing is the real mother tongue of all people:
Because it is the most natural and easiest way
in which we are undivided and can communicate wholly -
with all our experiences,
feelings and hopes.

Singing is the inner dance of the breathing soul,
and it can free our body from any solidification
into a dance and teach us the rhythm of life.

Singing evolves gently to the extent that
we listen more attentively.
Singing we can refine our ability to listen to
our fellow human beings and the world around.

The song of a human being always touches us directly and there
grows an understanding, sharing and of understanding
beyond all terms.

I think this is only possible
because in singing the human dual nature disclosed:
Singing is unquestionably of human nature,
so that there is no human culture without singing.

In a time in which the natural
intellectual and spiritual wealth of humanity
more and more seem to wither away,
so that maybe our future is ever threatened,
we need all possible sources of reflection,
which are open to us.

Singing carries
the still slumbering potential in itself,
to become really the universal language all peoples.

This unique potential must not be lost, although it has already started to happen.
It is therefore important not only to save singing,
but to promote it to the world.
Singing lets us, like nothing else,
communicate from the heart
across all cultural boundaries.



I could name hundreds of good reasons,
which suggest the evolution of
a new world culture of singing, from within,
as a vision for the future of mankind, as a tool
to live our daily lives with its tasks and pleasures,
efforts and needs, with satisfaction, vitality and confidence.

If we can experience ourselves through singing repeatedly
as sound bodies, as musical instruments
in the Symphony of Creation, we might not only
pacify ourselves and cure our own wounds,
but also the wounds of the planet.

We are able to inspire our world and our actions through song.
We can generate love, joy, hope and confidence,
but also find relief from the pain of the soul
and exhilarate our hearts through forgiveness:
we are the unifying song of the universe in praise of creation.

The ancient knowledge of the peoples as well
as the latest findings of science are encouragement to us and give
opportunity enough to establish a world culture of singing.

Singing as one voice out of the silence,
from the abundance of conscious interiority,
brings a new listening, hearing the other.

It acts in the world in the way of active listening,
of the receptive attunement and
as a claim to the highest vitality,
to a dancing, freely swinging encounter
with all that is alive.

So singing can move us into the innermost, it can even trigger
a gentle revolution of pacification,
and perhaps help us humans increasingly
to free ourselves from hostile personal and
social structures.

All our experience and all our knowledge are pointing,
that this may be so.

In this way we humans can develop
the power, to build and maintain new structures,
individually from the inside to the outside
and socially from the bottom to the top,
which grow and protect the living peace.

So I do not know one single fact, that speaks against it.

Why should we not try with all confidence,
with the artists in the world and all, who feel called to,
to try and create together such a world culture of singing,
supplied from all sources of peoples.
There is nothing to loose, just only to gain.

Each Start, even the smallest step into this direction
would be edifying.

In singing, we honor ourselves and the world,
nature and the people who are with us.
Georg Philipp Telemann has recognized this when he says:
"Singing is the foundation for music in all things."

When someone sings from the soul,
he also heals his inner world. If all
sing from their soul and are one in the music, they
at the same time heal the outer world.

It would make me happy,
if I could experience such a song of the world,
as I can hear it in my heart.

, Il canto del mondo '
Dusseldorf February 12, 1999