

Peter Csobadis memories in terms of the „Commemorial book of Fricsay 100“ , an interview by Márton Karczag (fragments)

(Prof. Peter Csobádis background: journalist in Hungary, music critic and broadcaster in Austria, director of the Philharmonia Hungarica, head of the music department "Deutsche Welle", 1961- 1962 last secretary of Ferenc Fricsay, 1967 – 1993 employee of Herbert von Karajan)

The spiritual portrait of FF is very difficult to describe: he was splited by dominant artistic ambitions, love of mankind and many years of disease. „Post equitem sedet atra cura“ („Behind a knight sits the oppressive trouble“) His life was full of musical capacity, accompanied by medical visits and surgeries: in very short time the strongly built man became a slim, skinny person

Someday the phone rang.

"Fricsay is speaking."

I almost dropped the receiver.

"I'm here in Vienna. - Can we meet? I'll wait for you at the Cafe of Hotel Sacher."

To my astonishment I hardly could utter a word, except:" "Of course, sir, immediately."

Just recently, at the request of the Director of the company Doblinger, I had sent the score of Haydn "Oratorio" (which was dedicated to Maria Theresa, the Queen of Hungary) to Ferenc Fricsay. The director felt the composition "should be performed by a prominent Hungarian conductor"

Shortly later - the phone call! During our meeting I focused all of my power of persuasion to emphasize the historical background of the Haydn Mass.-

Fricsay, after listening a while full of interest, interrupted me very politely. His intention was not the Mass. Pointing out his various musical tasks, he explained: "I need somebody I can rely on, someone who is able to read music further driving a car, speaking German, English and Italian and is willing to work 24 hours per day."

„How come you chose me?“

„Gottfried von Einem has recommended you.“

Fricsay: "Can you conceive to take over this work?"

Csobádi: "I have a long-term contract with the company Doblinger with a six months' notice.

Fricsay laughing: "Six months? - No, starting from tomorrow on - tomorrow ... ", and we went to my employer. Fricsay announced to the manager Wolff that his intention was to take me straight to Berlin.

The likeable director full of humor explained, that the "employee Csobadi" is irreplaceable by reason of the company projects, but Fricsay could take him as secretary, the manager,

The very next day Fricsay and I sat in the plane to Berlin