

Tugan Sokhiev as a „Dompteur“ in the Berlin Philharmonic Hall



DSO honors its founder Ferenc Fricsay in Concert

by Volker Blech

First of all the Philharmonic Hall was transformed into a cinema. A film from ancient times is presented, already evident from the fact that the conductor Ferenc Fricsay in the moment of leaving the aircraft is picked up and interviewed. In our days inconceivable: not by unapproachable stars but hedged airports.

The DSO Berlin commemorated the 100th anniversary of its first principal conductor with a gala concert. Ferenc Fricsay, born in Budapest, headed the orchestra, at that time named RIAS Symphony Orchestra, with intervals, from 1948 until his early death 1963, being just 48 years old.

Fricsay was among the first conductors who gave concerts, made recordings and conducted for radio plus television broadcastings. Later, his celebrity in Berlin was surpassed by the vanity of Herbert von Karajan. At the Philharmonic Concert Hall a TV clipping (1961) showed the way Fricsay rehearsed Paul Dukas' "The Sorcerer's Apprentice": the first steps of conveying music to the public by the actual mass media. The film shows an energetic conductor aware of his mission. In Scherzo of Dukas - to paraphrase Goethe - Fricsay demonstrates the way how the broom in the corner slackens "its rusty joints". The conductor summons musical ghosts who overact.

Likewise the "Sorcerer's Apprentice" opened the gala concert. But Tugan Sokhiev, the actual maestro of the orchestra, is less fascinated by Goethe. He's more of the romantic side and he tells Dukas' composition as swirling fairytale. In general the evening is living by harmony and of its vividness. In Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante in E flat major, the DSO presented their own four soloists full of sensibility: Thomas Hecker (oboe), Richard Obermayer (clarinet), Paolo Mendes (horn) and Joerg Petersen (bassoon) pleased by their intimacy and in the 3rd set in their musicaly cooperation. They were celebrated.



After the break Sokhiev becomes a "Dompteur" with Stravinsky's "Petrouchka" in the Philharmonic Hall Arena. Full-bodied the ballet scenes are presented distinctively. And Sokhiev manages casually to

Even during the reception for "Friends of the Orchestra" in the South Foyer Sokhiev spreaded cheerfulness. He unveiled a portrait of Fricsay which was painted by the star baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and donated to the DSO.