

Follow-up report on

## VI. Festival of the International Guitar Academy Berlin

November 13-15, 2015

This year's basic idea was to open the Guitar Festival with the **Young Guitar Academy** to educational events, that means towards children and families, maintaining the high quality of concerts and master classes the Festival guarantees from its very beginning on.

Basically, the Festival had two educational activities:

### Education I - Ensembles Maria Linnemann:

The internationally renowned composer for children's literature for guitar **Maria Linnemann** rehearsed during the weekend with two children's ensembles; with 31 participants altogether, kids from Berlin's and Brandenburg's music schools, the ensembles were slightly over-booked.



Rehearsal and concert with Maria Linnemann

### Education II - Education concert:

The second educational event was a Family concert by **Aniello Desiderio** in the **Musikinstrumenten - Museum Berlin**, presented by a German actress; Aniello played some pieces but also talked about how he became a guitarist etc. This concert was completely booked out.

The idea of these activities was to integrate children and families to the Festival and thus to bring them in contact with the world of guitar and music in

general. Very low fees made it possible for families with lower income to have their children participate; children from all over Berlin and the state of Brandenburg participated in the ensembles; the education concert with Aniello Desiderio was attended also by families searching for asylum in Germany, who just escaped the war in Syria or Afghanistan (please see below).

### Aniello Desiderio in the Musikinstrumenten-Museum



### The Festival:

Like last year's opening concert, Aniello Desiderio's concert took place in the **Renaissance Theater**, the only entirely originally preserved *Art Deco Theatre* in Europe. The final piece performed that night was Mauro Giuliani's Concerto op. 30 in an arrangement for guitar and guitar orchestra, performed together with the Ensemble of the **International Guitar Academy Berlin**. With 400 visitors the concert was almost sold out.



**Renaissance Theater**

All the other events took place at the historic **Rathaus Charlottenburg**, all concerts were very well visited, with no more free seats left at most of the concerts. All concerts and lectures at the Rathaus Charlottenburg were free of charge in order to attract more audience; only for the opening concert and the concert in the Musikinstrumenten-Museum Berlin a small entrance fee was required.



### Masterclasses:

- Aniello Desiderio,
- Marcin Dylla,
- Lorenzo Micheli,
- Takeo Sato,
- Jozsef Eötvös (Hungary, D'Addario artist),
- Paricio Zeoli (Berlin, LKMS)
- Thomas Offermann.



### Concerts:

- Aniello Desiderio (Italy, D'Addario artist),
- Marcin Dylla (Poland, D'Addario artist),
- Lorenzo Micheli (Italy, D'Addario artist),
- Takeo Sato (Germany), as a "new talent",
- Xavier Jara (USA), as winner of the Coria competition 2015 (Spain).

### Lectures:

- Jozsef Eötvös: *How to play Bach*,
- Lorenzo Micheli: "*Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, suspended between two worlds: from Florence to Los Angeles. Life, works, and cultural identity of a Jewish Italian composer before and after the racial laws*",
- Thomas Offermann: *D'Addario and Planet Waves Products; new products, history and development*,
- Thomas Offermann: *The Modern Guitar Technique*.







**Participants:**

Altogether 64 active participants from all over Europe and from Berlin:

Master classes: 32 participants at master classes.

Children's ensembles: 32 children participating at Maria Linnemann's ensembles.



Passive participants/visitors of both concerts and master classes were professional guitarists, guitar teachers, students, music school pupils and guitar enthusiasts of all ages coming from all over Berlin.



**Exhibition:**

24 exhibitors from all over Europe and China:

- Luthiers,
- Guitar case manufacturers,
- guitar accessory manufacturers,
- Trekel Music shop (Hamburg, Germany),
- D'Addario.



**Financial information:**

Revenues:

2.500 € from Leo Kestenberg Musikschule

2.800 € from exhibitors

3.860 € from participants

1.900 € of donations

1.309 € from D'Addario Foundation

1.500 € entrance Renaissance Theater (estimated)

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13.869 €

Expenses:

10.920 € for artist's fees, Hotel, taxes

600 € for various materials

1000 € Tax consultancy (estimated)

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12.520 €

Surplus (ca. 1000,-) will be used to part-finance the 2016 Festival.



### **Reactions, quotes:**

It was a specialty of this Festival not only to have professional concerts and master classes but also to have kids involved in the Festival.

#### **Education I:**

The final concert of Maria Linnemann's ensembles was very well visited by parents and family members. After the Festival, the organization received several enthusiastic letters and e-mails from parents of children that participated in the Linnemann ensembles, and also from the kids guitar teachers, saying that the preparation, as well as the rehearsals with Maria and the concert were an unforgettable event for the kids. Obviously, the Educational activities also brought visitors plus their children to the concerts and exhibition that otherwise would not have attended the Festival.

#### **Education II:**

The presented family concert by Aniello Desiderio took place in the Musikinstrumenten-Museum Berlin (Museum for musical instruments), which lead to the possibility that children who never saw a guitar before could see, touch and try a guitar or a similar instrument. (fotos of the family concert in the article on the cooperations with the museum).

A very touching letter talked about a young refugee from Afghanistan, coming from a very poor family there. He still has to live in a refugees residential accommodation – under very difficult circumstances. He tells that the first time in his life he had the possibility to attend a concert, while in Afghanistan the Taliban had made any concert or cultural event impossible. It had always been his dream to learn to play the guitar, and today he is absolutely excited and enthused; he will now have the possibility to get subsidized guitar lessons at the Leo-Kestenbergs music school and to get a rental guitar for free.

Lorenzo Micheli wrote after the Festival:

*"I want to thank you and Pia for a wonderful Festival; what you are doing for music and education is invaluable, especially in such hard times, when it becomes more and more clear that integration and the building of the common values of our society can be achieved through culture and art."*

**VII. Gitarrenfestival:  
7.-9. Oktober 2016  
Herzliche Einladung!**

**Prof. Thomas  
Offermann**

[www.guitar  
academyberlin.com](http://www.guitaracademyberlin.com)  
[www.lkms.de](http://www.lkms.de)

