



# Milka Trnina

## MILKA TERNINA

Zlatnim slovima u knjigu hrvatskih odličnika sa svjetskom karizmom upisana je jedna od najvećih vagnerijanskih pjevačica svih vremena i umjetnica koja je promovirala Puccinijevu Toscu, blistava koloraturna sopranistica Milka Trnina.

**O**va se velika hrvatska opera umjetnica rodila 19. prosinca 1863. godine u malom moslavackom mjestu Vezišću pokraj Ivanić Grada. Budući da je rano ostala bez roditelja, posvojio ju je ujak Janko Jurković, hrvatski književnik, pripovjedač, kritičar i estetičar i njegova žena Laura. Odrastajući u maloj kulturnoj gradskoj zagrebačkoj sredini, marljivo je uza školu pohadala satove pjevanja u Hrvatskom glazbenom zavodu gdje su ljepotu njezina glasa i osobit pjevački dar primijetili njezini nastavnici.

Potaknuti nagovorom prijatelja i nastavnika, i svojom vlastitom proudbom, njezini su je skrbnici, koje je Milka neobično poštovala i voljela, ponukali da se prijavi na prijamni ispit iz pjevanja na konzervatoriju u Beču. Prijamni ispit Milka je, u ogromnoj konkurenciji, položila izvrsnom ocjenom. Studij je započela kod Josepha Gansbacher-a, tada najglasovitijeg pjevačkog pedagoga. Vrlo marljiva i nadarena djevojka zaplijenila je pozornost svojom inteligencijom pa je na kraju godine bila najbolji student u klasi profesora Gansbacher-a. Smiješila joj se sjajna pjevačka karijera.

Milka Trnina je, po povratku u Zagreb, ostvarila svoju prvu ulogu, što je ujedno bio i njen prvi nastup uopće. Naime, 1882. godine je nastupila kao Verdijeva Amelia u operi Krabuljni ples. Tada je imala nešto više od osamnaest godina, a publika ju je dočekala s oduševljenjem, zasipajući je cvijećem i nagradjući je gromoglasnim pljeskom i skandiranjem. Svima je bilo jasno da je zvijezda rođena i da joj predstoji velika pjevačka karijera.

Život Milke Trnine obilježila su česta putovanja i nastupanja u gradovima diljem Europe i Amerike. Njene nastupe bilježe kazališta grada-va kao što su Leipzig, Graz, Bremen i München gdje je dobila počasni naslov bavarske dvorske komorne pjevačice. Posebno je voljela nastupati u njemačkom gradu Bayreuthu kojega nazivaju i „Wagnerova Meka“, a neko je vrijeme predavala i solo pjevanje u New Yorku. Izvanredna interpretkinja, velike vokalne kulture, sjajna glumica koju su usporedivali s Eleonorom Duse, najveće je kreacije ostvarila kao Beethovenova Leonora u Fideliji ili kao prpošna Fiordiligi u Mozartovoj operi Cosi fan tutte, a sam je Puccini, nakon što je odgledao njenu izvedbu Tosce u newyorškom Metropolitanu, rekao da se nijedna Tosca ne može usporediti s Trninom. 17. srpnja 1883. u Leipzigu je doživjela briljantan uspjeh kao Elizabeta u Wagnerovu Tannhäuseru. Elizabeta je bila jedna od najljepših uloga u

The name of Milka Ternina, one of the greatest performers of Wagner's works of all times and the artist who promoted Puccini's Tosca, is written in gold in the book of Croatian dignitaries.

**T**his great Croatian opera singer was born on December 19, 1863 in a small Moslavina village Vezišće, near Ivanić Grad. Since she lost her parents early, she became a foster child of her uncle Janko Jurković, a Croatian writer and critic, and his wife Laura.

While growing up in a small environment influenced by Zagreb's culture, she diligently attended singing classes in the Croatian Music Institute, where her tutors noticed the beauty of her voice and her special talent. Convinced by their friends and Milka's teachers and guided by their own judgment, her foster parents persuaded Milka to apply for the qualifying exam at the Vienna conservatory.

In a huge competition, Milka passed the qualifying exam with the highest marks. She began her studies with Joseph Gansbacher, the most famous singing teacher of the time. A very diligent and talented girl proved to be very intelligent as well, and she finished the term as the best student of professor Gansbacher's class. She was looking at a brilliant career as a singer.

After returning to Zagreb, Milka Ternina played her first opera part, which was her first public performance. In 1882 she performed as Verdi's Amelia in "A Masked Ball" opera. She barely turned 18 at the time, but the audience was thrilled and rewarded her with flowers, deafening applause and cheering. It was obvious to everyone that the star has been born and that a great career awaits her.

Milka Ternina often traveled to perform in cities all over Europe and the United States. She performed in theaters in Leipzig, Graz, Bremen and München, where she attained the honorary title of the Bavarian Court Chamber Singer. She loved to perform in a German city of Bayreuth, which is referred to as "Wagner's Mecca". For a while, she

taught solo singing lessons in New York. She was an extraordinary interpreter with an excellent vocal sophistication, a great actress often compared to Eleonora Duse. She performed her best parts as Beethoven's Leonora in Fidelio and a frivolous Fioridilia in Mozart's opera Cosi fan tutte. Even Puccini himself, after seeing her performance in the New York's Metropolitan, said that Ternina's interpretation of Tosca cannot be matched.

On July 17th 1883 in Leipzig, she achieved great success as Elisabeth in Wagner's Tannhäuser. Her performances as Elisabeth were one of the most beautiful in her career. The most influential critics of her time believed that her interpretations of



# Portret umjetnika Portrait of an artist

Ove se godine obilježava stogodišnjica posljednjeg nastupa Milke Trnine na glasovitoj pozornici Covent Gardena u Londonu. Njezin trag ni danas ne bledi, a London je neizmjerno voli i toliko godina nakon što se prestala pojavljivati na sceni. Agencija Event iz Zagreba osmisnila je u okviru akcija kulturnog turizma aranžman "Priča o Milki Trnini u četiri čina" čije je odredište domovina najboljeg koloraturnog soprana svih vremena. Aranžman je inspiriran Shakespeareovom rečenicom: "Cijeli svijet je pozornica, a ljudi su samo glumci." Tako će goste iz Londona Milka Trmina "osobno" dočekati i provesti kroz fascinante znamenitosti Zagreba, glavnoga grada Hrvatske i mjesa gdje je započela svoju karijeru, pokazati im Plitvička jezera, spomenik prirode pod zaštitom UNESCO-a gdje je jedan slap nazvan po njoj i Vezišće, njezino rodno mjesto, gdje svi čuvaju uspomenu na svoju veliku primadonu. Gosti će odsjeti u hotelu The Regent Esplanade Zagreb.



London loves her enormously, and even after so many years after her last appearance at the Covent Garden, Ternina's fame does not fade away: this year marks the 100th anniversary of her last appearance on the famous stage. One of the leading travel agencies, Event agencies from Zagreb, organizing a journey to the homeland of the world's best coloratura soprano ever. Organized groups of opera fans are coming to Zagreb to pay respect to Milka Ternina, described by Puccini as "his best Tosca". The tourist package is marketed as "Milka Ternina in Four Acts". It is inspired by Shakespeare's saying: "The world is nothing but a stage and people are only actors". Guests from London will be welcomed by Milka Ternina "personally" and taken for a sightseeing tour of Zagreb, the capital of Croatia and the city where Milka started her career, then driven to the Plitvice Lakes, a park of nature under the protection of UNESCO, where a waterfall is named after her, and Vezišće, her birthplace, where the local inhabitants cherish the memory of their great prima donna. Guests will be staying in The Regent Esplanade Hotel Zagreb.

njezinoj karijeri, pjevala ju je i u Zagrebu. Najutjecajniji kritičari njezina doba smatrali su da je Wagnerove junakinje otpjevala onako kako je to sam Wagner zamišljašto joj, uz već navedeno Puccinijevo priznanje, svakako predstavlja vrhunac karijere. U Leipzigu je ostvarila uspjeh u još dvije uloge gdje je nastupila kao Elsa u Lohengrinu i Pamina u Čarobnoj fruli. Gostovala je i u Zagrebu gdje je u svibnju 1884. pjevala Leonoru u Verdihev Trubaduru i dva puta Aida. U srpnju 1889. prvi je put nastupila u Kraljevskom dvorskom kazalištu u Münchenu. Pjevala je Valentinu u Hugenotima, Ameliju u Krabuljnom plesu i Elizabetu u Tannhäuseru. Uspjeh je bio veličanstven. Velika umjetnica, velikim je korakom krenula u osvajanje svijeta. 1895. i 1898. zadivljuje englesku publiku i reda europske uspjehe među koje uspijeva uvrstiti i grad Zagreb kojega neobično i svesrdno ljubi.

Dana 6. siječnja 1896. Milka Trnina stupila je na američki kontinent gdje je počela osvajati jedinstvenošću svojega glazbenoga dara kao i iznimnom tjelesnom energijom iz koje je zračio šarm, sklad, ljubaznost i dobrota. Američki uspjesi velike umjetnice izgledali su kao da nikada neće prestati. No, kada je bila na vrhuncu, kada je bila jedna od najslavnijih i najcjenjenijih umjetnica svojega doba, počeli su udarci sudbine.

Milka Trnina se iz aktivnog bavljenja pjevanjem povlači na vrhuncu slave, u godinama kada operni umjetnici tek daju najbolja ostvarenja. Smatrajući da će joj upala ličnog živca (nervus facialis) poremetiti karijeru, odnosno vjerujući da neće moći održati stupanj kvalitete koji je imala do bolesti, Milka Trnina se nakon izvedbe Wagnerove Walküre u Münchenu, u dobi od 42 godine, neopozivo povlači rečenicom: „Danas sam nastupila zadnji put!“ Dalnjih će 35 godina putovati, podučavati, pomagati mladima, nastupiti će u dobrotvorne svrhe u Zagrebu, u gradu u kojem je skončala svoj osebujan umjetnički život 18. svibnja 1941. godine.

Zanimljivo je napomenuti da je u Zagrebu pjevala u korist Društva za poljoprivanje Plitvičkih jezera, a u znak zahvalnosti Društvo je jedan od najlepših plitvičkih slapova prozvalo Slapom Milke Trnine. Njeno ime nosi i nagrada Hrvatskog udruženja glazbenih umjetnika. Unatoč tome što je umjetnički život težak i mučan, umjetnica je izjavila: „Kada bih još jednom došla na svijet, ponovno bih odabrala isto zvanje.“

Wagner's heroes were just as Wagner imagined them. That, and the recognition from Puccini himself, are the greatest achievements of her career. In Leipzig she also successfully performed as Elsa in Lohengrin and Pamina in The Magic Flute.

She visited Zagreb as well, where she performed as Leonora in Verdi's Troubadour and appeared as Verdi's Aida on two occasions in May 1884. In July 1889, she performed in the Royal Court Theatre in Munich for the first time. She performed as Valentine in The Huguenots, Amelia in A Masked Ball and Elisabeth in Tannhäuser. The success was overwhelming. A great artist was making her way towards conquering the World. In 1895 and 1898 she amazes the British audience and continues to perform in numerous European cities, including Zagreb, her favorite city. On January 6, 1896, Milka Ternina set foot on the American continent where she continued to amaze the audiences with her unique singing talent and an extraordinary physical energy that radiated her charm, internal harmony and kindness. It seemed her success on the American continent will never end. However, at the pinnacle of her career, as one of the most famous and respected artists of her time, she started to suffer the twists of fate. She withdrew from active singing at the top of her career, when most opera artists give their best performances. Believing that the inflammation of a facial nerve will disturb her career, thinking she will not be able to perform as she used to before her illness, she decisively announces her withdrawal after the performance of Wagner's Walküre in Munich, at the age of 42, by saying: "Today was my last performance!"

She spent the next 35 years traveling, teaching and helping the children. She performed in a charitable event in Zagreb, where her extraordinary artistic life ended on May 18th, 1941. It is interesting to mention that she performed in Zagreb in favor of

the Society for the protection of the Plitvice lakes. As a sign of appreciation, the Society named one of the most beautiful Plitvice falls after her. The Croatian Association of Music Artists' award also bears her name. Regardless of the known fact that an artist's life is usually difficult, she stated: "If I could be reborn to this world, I would choose the same profession again."

## NAJPOZNATIJE ULOGE MILKA TERMINA'S MOST SIGNIFICANT PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:

- Venera u Wagnerovu Tannhauseru, München, 1892.
- Isolda u Wagnerovu Tristanu i Izoldi, München, 1900.
- Valentina u Meyerbeerovoj operi Hugenoti, Bremen, 1886.
- Margareta u Gounodovoj operi Faust, Bremen, 1887.
- Mignon u operi Mignon, Ambroisea Thomasa, Bremen, 1886.
- Leonora u Beethovenovoj operi Fidelio, München, 1900.
- Sieglinde u wagnerovoj Walkuri, München, 1894.
- Kundry u Wagnerovu Parsifalu, New York, 1901.
- Tosca u Puccinijevoj istoimenoj operi, London 1900.
- Brunnhilda u Wagnerovu Gotterdamerungu, München, 1891.

Napisao **MLADEN ČUTURA**