

PETITION

For a Verdi Opera In the Verdi Tuning in 2001

In the year 2001, the whole world will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Verdi (Jan. 30, 1901), in some cases by trying to recover his original operas.

Giuseppe Verdi himself, in the year 1884, proposed in a letter to the Music Commission of the Italian Government to adopt the Classical tuning of A=432 Hz (equal C=256 Hz, scientific pitch) in order to respect singing voices and Classical interpretation, asking the "whole music world" to adopt this tuning too, since "Music is an universal language, and why should an A in Paris be a B-flat in Rome?"

Giuseppe Verdi refused to conduct his own opera, *La Forza del Destino*, in Naples, because the orchestra was tuned as high as A=450 Hz, to which many opera theater orchestras, for example Berlin, Salzburg, and Florence, are tuned today.

Thousands of singers and musicians, among them the most famous opera stars from all over the world, endorsed in 1988 a petition of the Schiller Institute to go back to this "Verdi tuning," which was turned into a proposal for legislation in Italy the year after, but was

ignored by the music world until now.

Not only opera music, but the whole Classical repertoire can only be preserved by re-establishing the connection between science and music which is at the basis of scientific pitch, and reviving the *bel canto* tradition of singing also in instrumental music.

Historical orchestras with historically tuned instruments exist for the Renaissance and baroque music, but not for Eighteenth-century music (which includes not only opera, but also symphonic and chamber music, now systematically performed half a tone higher than the composer wrote it).

The undersigned would like to endorse, as an international honorary committee, the project of Maestro Arturo Sacchetti and tenor Carlo Bergonzi, to establish in Verdi's hometown of Busseto, Italy, a permanent orchestra and master-class for both instrumentalists and singers in the Verdi tuning, with the aim of performing for the first time in history Verdi's operas in the tuning, and color for which the composer wrote them, starting with the celebration year 2001.

SIGNED: _____

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Position: _____

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