

## In memoriam Prof. Emeritus Primož Kuret, PhD (1935–2022)

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The academic monograph entitled *Music Societies in the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Between Amateur and Professional Culture* is dedicated to the memory of the founder of the Slovenian Music Days and the long-time director of the International Musicological Symposium, Prof. Emeritus Primož Kuret, PhD, who concluded his rich life in 2022.

In 1954 he passed the matura exam at the Classical Grammar School in Ljubljana, in 1959 he graduated from the Academy of Music (history of music) and the Faculty of Arts (art history), received his doctorate from the Faculty of Arts in 1965, and later became professor of world music history and the history of Slovenian music at the Ljubljana Academy of Music. He was head of the Music Pedagogy Department on a number of occasions, and from 1993 to 2001 was also the vice-dean of the Academy of Music. Kuret devoted a large portion of his life to his professorship, which he began in 1978 at the Academy of Music, staying there until his retirement in 2005. He trained many musicians who are now employed in almost all of Slovenia's musical institutions.

He was the initiator of symposia organised by the Academy of Music and instigated the foundation and development of the *Glasbeno-pedagoški zbornik* (*The Journal of Music Education*) published by Ljubljana's Academy of Music, with which he encouraged postgraduate master's and doctoral students, young academics and university professors active in different fields of music to write articles about important musical subjects, thereby leading to new findings. Kuret was active for four years as the president

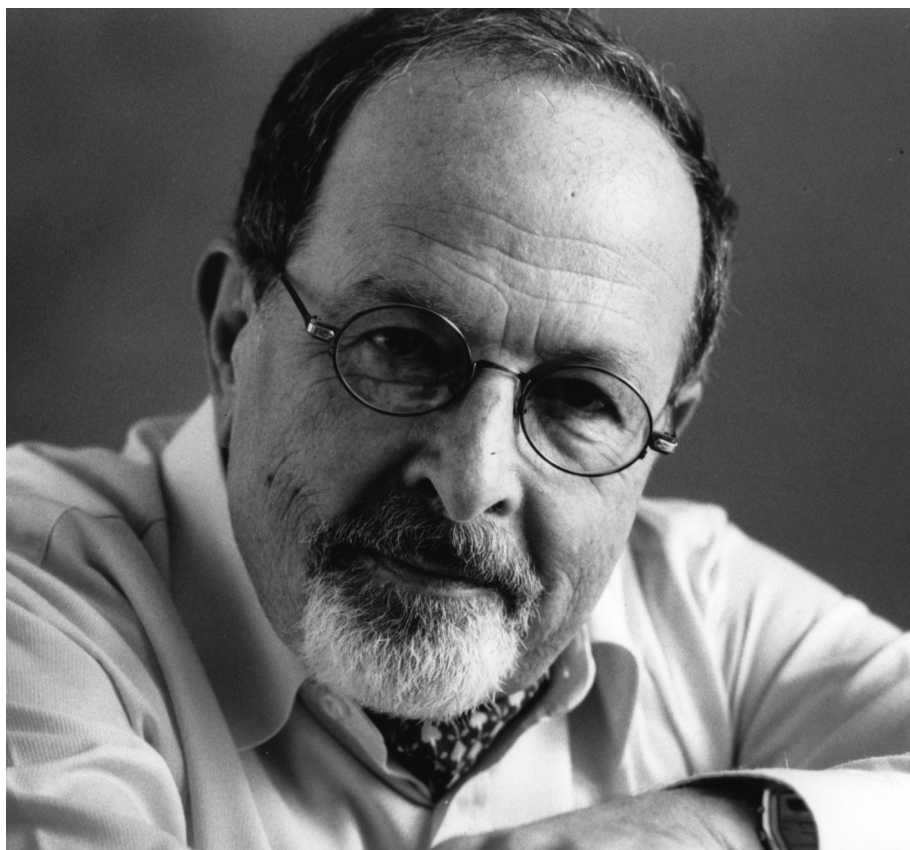


Photo: Tihomir Pinter

of the Slovenian Musicological Society, and for a number of years he edited the *Jeunesses Musicales Ljubljana* review. He was also head of Ljubljana's culture committee and of the national committee for the substantive overhauling of musical education. In addition, he has also worked as a critic, translator, editor, reviewer and author.

Operating as the *spiritus agens*, he founded and directed the Slovenian Music Days together with the composer Milan Stibilj in 1986, and remained a member of the programme committee until his passing. In the three decades that Kuret directed this celebration of Slovenian music, more than 220 new Slovenian works were premiered. As an attentive head of the international musicology symposium that is a part of the Slovenian Music Days, he ensured that the symposium became one of the main musicological events in this part of Europe. With his carefully chosen topics he not only encour-

aged Slovenian and foreign musicologists to conduct research and expand musicological horizons, but also showed how Slovenian music can find its place on an equal footing alongside that from other parts of Europe.

As one of the greatest connoisseurs of Ljubljana's musical history, he gave many insights into the functioning of Ljubljana's philharmonic societies and provided us with comprehensive knowledge of the young Gustav Mahler and many other great figures in Ljubljana's musical past. He was the author of numerous monographs and editor of more than forty scholarly publications. Among other things, he edited the publication of contributions to the International Musicological Symposium of the Slovenian Music Days for three decades, whereupon it was succeeded in 2017 by the present series of scholarly monographs (*Studia musicologica Labacensia*).

For his achievements, Prof. Kuret received some of the most prestigious awards and accolades, among them the Betetto Award (2002), honorary membership of the Accademia Filarmonica di Bologna (2002), the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Republic of Slovenia for Work in Education (2005), the Herder Prize (2005), the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art, First Class for Merit in the Field of Musicology (2005), the Mantuani Lifetime Achievement Award (2006), Honorary Membership of the Slovenian Philharmonic (2008), and the Order of Merit of the Republic of Slovenia (2012).

Particular mention should be made of his intensive international field of operation, which also led to many close contacts with colleagues from some of the most eminent foreign universities. Unfortunately, some of them have left us in recent years. He was particularly affected by the loss of his good friend Prof. Peter Andraschke, who, along with Prof. Hartmut Krones from the University of Vienna, and Prof. Helmut Loos from the University of Leipzig, was one of his closest confidants. With them, he participated at over 300 international symposia in Slovenia and abroad, and this was also one of the ways in which he spread awareness of the place Slovenia's music has in Europe.

He will undoubtedly be remembered as an outstanding colleague who pursued the achievements of the profession to the end, as far as his health permitted, and who contributed wherever necessary. Above all, he was someone whose merits were far from being limited to Slovenia. His path, then, seems to have been first and foremost that of a European musicologist. There is no doubt that our esteemed colleague Kuret, with his reputation and his far-reaching work, significantly enriched Slovenia's musicological community and musical culture in general. With his charisma and

scientific breadth he persuaded many younger colleagues to continue developing the musicological field of study.

Rest in peace, dear Primož.

Darko Brlek

Jernej Weiss

*Monographs by Prof. Emeritus Primož Kuret, PhD*

- 1973: *Glasbeni instrumenti na srednjeveških freskah na Slovenskem* (book edition);
- 1979: *Kurt Pahlen, Poslušam in razumem glasbo* (book translation edition);
- 1983: *Kurt Honolka, Svetovna zgodovina glasbe* (book translation edition);
- 1985: *Besede skladateljev: od Mozarta do Gershwin* (book translation edition);  
*Glasbena Ljubljana v letih 1899–1919* (book edition);
- 1988: *Umetnik in družba. Slovenska glasbena misel po prvi vojni* (book edition);
- 1990: *Günter Hausswald, Slog v glasbi* (book translation edition);
- 1992: *Karl H. Wörner, Zgodovina glasbe* (book translation edition);
- 1994: *Ipavci* (book edition);
- 1997: *Mahler in Ljubljana: 1881–1882* (book edition);  
*Od Academiae philharmonicorum do prve Slovenske filharmonije* (book edition);
- 2001: *Mahler in Laibach: Ljubljana 1881–1882* (book translation edition);  
*Slovenska filharmonija / Academia philharmonicorum: 1701–2001* (book edition);
- 2002: *Ulrich Michels, Glasbeni atlas* (book translation edition);
- 2004: *Zgodbe o glasbi in glasbenikih* (book edition);
- 2005: *Ljubljanska filharmonična družba 1794–1919: kronika ljubljanskega glasbenega življenja v stoletju meščanov in revolucij* (book edition);  
*Slovenski skladatelji v portretih Saše Šantla* (book edition);  
*Sto slovenskih opernih zvezd* (book edition);
- 2008: *100 let Slovenske filharmonije* (book edition);
- 2011: *Mahler in Ljubljana: 1881–1882* (reprint of a book edition);  
*Zanesenjaki in mojstri* (book edition);
- 2021: *Iz parterja: nekaj spomina* (memoirs, book edition);
- 2022: *Čarobne palice: veliki dirigenti Josef Zöhrer, Václav Talich in Fritz Reiner v Ljubljani v luči sodobne kritike* (book edition).