

Susanna Eken CV

Education

Susanna Eken has a comprehensive educational background. She obtained a Bachelor in Speech Therapy in 1966 and Rhetoric in 1973 from Copenhagen University. She qualified as a professional singer from the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen in 1971, and received a Master of Art in Communication Studies from Emerson College, Boston, USA in 1978.

Experience

Mrs. Eken has extensive experience teaching speech, singing and in rehabilitating the professional voice. From 1967 to 1981 she taught speech and oral interpretation at the University of Copenhagen. Since 1972 she has been teaching at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and at The Opera School in Copenhagen, where she has held a position as Assistant Professor specializing in speech and singing since 1982. During the last 25 years Mrs. Eken has taught numerous Scandinavian as well as international singers in her studio in Copenhagen. She has also been invited to give lectures, master-classes and seminars and is now considered one of the most influential and sought after European voice teachers. Since 1998 she has been lecturing and giving master-classes at the Opera Studio of La Monnaie in Brussels and is now a permanent voice teacher at La Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Waterloo, Belgium. Since 2008 Mrs. Eken has served as Head of Voice Instruction for the Mozart Academy of the Aix-en-Provence Summer Festival.

Method

Together with an extensive musical and artistic knowledge Mrs. Eken's method of teaching is rooted in contemporary psychological and physiological principles. Combining the results of modern voice-science with the demands of classical bel-canto singing the aim of her method is to develop the individual vocal/musical/artistic talent as far as possible, and to develop singers with a healthy and balanced technique that can endure a long performing career. Eken's technique has proved successful in training young singers on to a high level of professionalism and, equally important, in rehabilitating singers with problems due to a poor technique.

Students

Over the years Mrs. Eken has educated numerous professional singers of which many are experiencing prosperous international careers at the main opera houses of Europe and the United States. Among the many singers Mrs. Eken has taught are Poul Elming, Bo Skovhus, Eva Johansson, Marianne Rørholm, Randi Stene, Morten Frank Larsen, Irene Theorin, Johan Reuter, Johannes Weisser, Magnus Staveland, Kari Postma, Peter Lodahl, Ditte Højgård Andersen, Agnete Munk Rasmussen, Erika Roos, Lars Møller, Teodora Georghiu.

Publications

In 1998 her book 'Den Menneskelige Stemme' (*The Human Voice*) was published. The focus of the book is both analytical and pedagogical, and it describes the dynamic relationship between psyche and soma, between heredity, environment and the professional imprint (development, improvement, rehabilitation, re-education), which can be added to the natural instrument. The book will be published in English in 2010.

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