

*Thematic Article***The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Music Teacher Training in Debrecen**

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**Abstract**

The study is a concrete example of the history of music teacher training education in Hungary. Debrecen was always famous for teacher training programs in several fields, including music teacher training, too. The study introduces 50 years from the point of view of an existing institution, which demonstrates the development. The research of the history was very special: from this half century, the writer himself was responsible leader of the school for 25 years. So the research was easy and hard in the same time.

Hard, because there are too much personal memories of different events, and tournaments, which does not help to remain objective. It was a special research, reading important documents again, to read the books and articles about the subject of the study. The result of the research is a global picture about a sensitive segment of the higher education, tendencies, local specialities together. The reader can follow the changes of the institutional development, but in the same time, can follow the education's changes during the years. The story shows a kind of culture historical connection, too, how a school can be a part of a region's cultural life.

**Keywords:** music teaching, teacher training, UD Faculty of Music, Debrecen 50 years history

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### **The history of the Faculty of Music**

The Faculty of Music at the University of Debrecen celebrated multiple anniversaries in the academic year of 2016/2017: the first opening ceremony took place at the Debrecen Section of Franz Liszt Academy of Music 50 years ago, in 1966. This was a new institution for music higher education, like the ones in Miskolc, Győr, Pécs, Szeged as well as in Budapest. The other anniversary marks the date of the first successful accreditation of the institution 20 years ago, along with the institutions mentioned above. The Debrecen Conservatory won the right to be the Faculty of the University of Debrecen 10 years ago in 2006. The successful accreditation of the Bologna system happened in 2006, as well. Therefore, these dates are the milestones in the development of the institute, parallel with other institutions of music higher education in Hungary. The accreditation in 2006 was important, because the Music Faculty won the right to continue its BA and MA courses for performing artists.

The music teacher training program was going on like a special program of the secondary music schools in Hungary before 1966. Fifty years ago, music education went through important changes. The new courses became three years long. (Straky 1987) As already mentioned, Kodály Zoltan Secondary Music School in Debrecen was responsible for teacher training. The length of the courses was three years, the number of the students was around 40-50. It was harmonizing with the necessary music teachers' number in Hungary at that time, because the system of the elementary music educating system was not so developed as later. The certificate of this teacher training program showed that the graduates had the necessary teaching skills, but the diploma was not an ending document of college- or university level. The leaders of the education, the government made the decision to establish a new system for music teacher training with six institutions in Budapest, Debrecen, Szeged, Pécs, Győr and Miskolc. These cities were the traditional centres of music education, so it is understandable, that the conditions and the traditions of the new education were the strongest. The first director of the new school in Debrecen was György Gulyás. This school started to play an important role in the cultural life in Debrecen and in the region, too, just like the partner institutions in the other big cities.

The number of the elementary music schools began to grow, more and more music schools were established, so the labour market needed more and more new music teachers. This fact was reason of the growing number of students. As the secondary music school and the new higher education institution in Debrecen were in the same building, the two institutions did not have enough classrooms, instruments, etc., so the leadership of Debrecen and the Ministry of Education planned to build a new building for the new music teacher training programme to solve the problem.

The new building was completed in 1974. The opening ceremony of the new building at Egyetem tér took place in October, 1974. The new building offered excellent conditions for music education with a dormitory for 100 students in the same building. The new

concert hall had 300 seats, an organ and two pianos. A modern audio studio helped the recordings near the concert hall. The sound-proof classes were ideal for music teaching. The dream of the first head teacher was to be a part of University of Debrecen in the future... He had the opportunity to organize a new community of professors, to increase the number of teachers and students, as well (Fulep – Zelinka 1988).

The year of 1990 marks another important turning point: the length of the teacher training education became four years. At the same time, another important event happened: the Ministry of Education decided to establish two conservatories in Debrecen and Szeged. These two institutions continuously belonged to the organization of Franz Liszt Academy of Music. There were discussions about the name „conservatory”, because this term referred to secondary music education before the second world war. This new structured institution had the whole range of music education: a preparatory level for the pupils under the age of 18, a college level and a university level, too. The preparatory level was an alternative possibility for young, very talented musicians to study besides the secondary music school (in Szeged the secondary music school was integrated into the new conservatory, so it was the preparatory school). This new system was an exceptional possibility for the individual talent developing program.

1998 was an important year in the life of the institution: all of the sections of the Academy of Music separated from the Academy and joined the local federations of the integrated universities in their cities. The Debrecen Conservatory became the independent member of the Federation of the Universities in Debrecen for two years, keeping the original education system. Somehow the dream of the first head teacher came true... The Conservatory, as a small institution, financially belonged to Kossuth Lajos University, but the leader was the member of the Presidency of Federation of Debrecen universities, which had eight members and organized the new integrated university, which consisted of all of the state universities and colleges in Debrecen, Hajduboszormeny and Nyiregyhaza. The duration of the talks of the Conservatory's integration was less than 15 minutes, the agreement was clear and pragmatic. Professor Gyorgy Bazsa, the rector of Kossuth Lajos University was a very important and great partner.

The year of 2000 marks the birth of a new integrated university in Debrecen. The new structure made it possible for the university to offer courses in a wide range of sciences. The Conservatory was the only place where performing art was taught in a „rector-directed” institution, which did not belong to any faculties of the university.

The university had a special structure,: two centres began to work, the Centre of Medical Studies (including the clinics, too), and the Centre of Agriculture. The traditional faculties of Kossuth Lajos University, formed the third centre, called „*The Independent Faculties*”. The Conservatory belonged to this organization The next change in the life of the Conservatory's position happened on 29th November, 2006: the University of

Debrecen established the Faculty of Music. By this step, the music education won independency, like other faculties. It was not only a local success, but the music higher education of Hungary also benefited a lot owing to the new faculty. The second faculty of music – after the Szeged Conservatory – expressed that Hungary had one more strong region in music education, so the whole system became stronger. At the same time, the Bologna system was accredited successfully as a 3+2-year- long education.

The centrum-system of the new University of Debrecen was stopped by the new law for higher education in 2015, so this time the Faculty of Music is one of the University's 15 faculties.



*Opening ceremony of the new faculty in Liszt Hall (2006)*

This schematic history above is only a surface of a continuous evolution, changing of the general conditions. The most important questions, how the education has changed in its content, structure a financial background. This is more colourful process with exciting tournaments, risks, and successes.

### **Changing, developing education**

The name of teachers who started to teach can be seen below:

- first head teacher: Gyorgy Gulyas (choir conductor)
- Dr. Erno Szabo (violinist)
- Kalman Illes (pianist)
- Ilona P. Nagy (pianist)
- Jozsef Kanyasi (oboe player)
- Rezsone Bognar (pianist)
- Antal Zsardon (solfeggio, music theory)
- Laszlone Bencze (folk music, music history)
- Kalman Molnar (philosophy)

After the establishment, these professors worked for a long period of time in the new school. Since that time, this list of professors has become longer. The diploma of a new music teacher was a „multifunctional” document between 1966 and 1990. The students got a document, which gave them the right to teach their major instrument in elementary music schools, to teach solfeggio and singing in regular elementary schools. If we look at the three-year- long education, this content was rich, but this time was short to offer high-quality education (?). This is the reason why the entrance selection was hard, the talent and the well prepared level was very important at the entrance exams. We keep this system now, too, but the education is not the same as nowadays. One of the main problems was that the young, new teachers did not have the opportunity to study real live music pedagogy in practice. This was like a laboratory: every student had one child from the elementary music school for teaching for only six weeks in a semester. The selection of the children was very sensitive for giving good level children to our teacher training student. By this way it was impossible to see the real, complete, every day life of a music school. We could see that this system is different from other teacher training programmes (eg. Mathematics, Physics, etc.), where the students went out to a real school to teach continuously for a longer period.

1974 is an important date, as the independent solfeggio-music theory and choir conductor section was established, so the balance of the instrumental and vocal education became better. The students, who continued their music studies there, became teachers for solfeggio, music theory and singing in elementary schools, and they could be a choir conductor, too.

The next important year is 1980. The leadership of Franz Liszt Academy of Music decided to change the structure of the music higher educational programmes: they established a two-step system. This means that a new possibility was opened for the young teachers: the students who were eminent and talented in music teaching could take an entrance examination for beginning the university level studies to be a secondary music school teacher, too. This was an additional education level after successfully completing college level studies. This opportunity was good for beginning of the new university level education on oboe, percussions, viola, violoncello, double bass, flute, horn, trumpet, trombone majors.

As every education, the music teaching is not independent from the personalities either, whose talent and knowledge are the guarantee of the level of the education. This was the main point of view, when the Academy of Music gave the possibility for a professor to teach in that university level education. The entrance exams were organized in Budapest, and after these exams a committee decided where to send the students for studies. Like the entrance exam system, all of the examinations at the end of each semester were organized in Budapest, and the finishing diploma concert was also organized in Budapest, at the Academy of Music. After the 1980s the centralized system has changed, and every teacher training institution in the country got the right to organize all these events in the original school, where the students continued their

studies in general. One of the professors from Budapest, personally controlled the level of the examinations. The diploma was signed by the head teacher of the institution and the rector of the Academy of Music.

The training programs for working teachers was also a valuable education in Debrecen, and in other cities. There were several music school teachers were taking part in that further training educations from the counties round Hajdu-Bihar and Debrecen, and so much from Budapest, from other counties, cities of Hungary.

Contemporary music became more and more important in education, as it happened in the curriculum of the music schools, too. Debrecen became an important base of the introduction of the young composers and new pieces. There were several composers, who wrote vocal and instrumental pieces directly dedicated to our professors, or one of our choirs and orchestras.

The next turning point is the year 1990. The political system changed, which was a very good reason to introduce innovations in music education, too. That is the reason why the status and the position of the college has changed. The new name of the school became Debrecen Conservatory of Franz Liszt Academy of Music. The teacher training college level education was changed into a four-year- long programme, which was wished for a long time before. This new structure gave excellent possibilities to search new content and forms of education, beginning of the innovations. The education of organ began in 1991., new major was the classical guitar, and by the permission of the Academy of Music, the Conservatory could begin the religious music education as an independent major in 1996. In this year the Conservatory could also continue full time and additional university level education on every majors. This was a serious strategic step of the development. The new system had another new element: the preparatory education for pupils between the age of 10 and 18. This was offered for the most talented young children to prepare them in an individual way, with intensive developing work. So, as we can see, the whole vertical education was continued in the Conservatory (This was similar in Szeged, too.) At the first accreditation procedure of the higher education in Hungary, the report about the Debrecen Conservatory has told, that to organize this system is a „resultable experiment” of the domestic music higher education. The report of the accreditation mentioned that the institution is suitable for leading regional position, but the practicing teacher training school, where the students could continue real teaching practice is missing yet.

1997 brought a dangerous economical situation for the whole Hungarian music higher education: the financial support for the education was reduced, so it was a real danger for the whole system. This is the reason why the Colleges in Miskolc and Győr separated from the Academy of Music and joined the local university in their cities. This happened one year later in Szeged, Pécs and Debrecen.

This was an exciting story, because the schools, devorced in 1998, joined to the federations of the universities like half independent institutions, and they were integrated to the new, big universities in 2000, as special institutions, directly led by the rector of the universities. The most sensitive question was in Debrecen and Szeged, to keep the system of the education in original form with special regard of the university level education. After dangerous and hard talks, a compromise was born: the conservatories could keep their educational system, but the owner of the university level is the Academy of Music, the locale of the education was Debrecen and Szeged, but the financial support came directly to our university. So, it was a special co-operation, which was very important for the whole integrated university, and the Conseravatory, too. This co-operation brought a half-repetition of an earlier examination system by inviting the professors of the Academy of Music to the final, diploma concerts. The university diplomas were signed also by the rector of the Academy of Music and the headmaster of the Conservatory.

2002 and 2003. were dangerous years: the Academy of Music wanted to stop the university level education in the conservatories, but the universities saved this, so this plan did not become true. The new century – the new millennium gave new innovation: the credit system was introduced to the Hungarian higher education, so, in the music education, too. It happened after fierce debates, as a strange system for the art education. Finally, this system gave a clearer structure of the education, but was not good for controlling the quality. Long time was needed to understand, that the credit system is not for quality control, it is quantity indicator. Parallelly, Hungary has joined to the European Union, so the situation of the competition has changed: the „*racetrack*” became wider: the whole continent.

The next improtant turning points were the years of 2005, 2006. Hungary has joined to the Bologna Agreement before, which changed almaost the whole higher education until the deadline 2006, except some schools (medical education, law training). A hard decision was needed for the music higher education: to change the successful education into Bologna system, or not. There were also very hard talks, because the story was not only about the training system. This turnament brought new positions for the whole music educating conservatories, faculties, institutions, so it was a sensitive change for „*every actors on the stage*”... Of course, a new, general accreditation was needed. It was very hard to keep the former university level aducation, because the imagination was, that only one university, the F. Liszt Academy of Music is able to continue high level artistic education in Hungary, the aother institutions in the country has the task of the BA level education and the teacher training MA degree education. After a stong fight the result was, that in Debrecen the performing MA degree was accredited on 13 majors (later new majors came). The Bologna System seemed to be compatible with the whole European higher education. There was the hope, that this system will be good for the mobility of the students, to receive foreign students. But there was a great mistake: the most of the leaders of the education thought, that the conversion of the former college-

university system is very simple: the BA is the college, the MA is the university level. This great misunderstanding in the music higher education was very bad, because the former college level education was four years long, but the bachelor was only three years long. There was another heavy problem: the BA consisted of disciplinary studies (instrument major and complementary subjects), the teacher training MA was full of pedagogical theory, so the original, musical studies were only the second after pedagogy. It was absolutely not useful for the quality.

In this changing system, the integrated universities gave the pedagogical module of the education, but these were not fully competent to teach the pedagogy of music teaching, the pedagogy of individual teaching in music school. But at the same time a new, positive change happened: the music teacher training program enriched with an important element for the students: the continuous school practicing in real music schools, teaching like the other teachers. The one semester long new element was the most useful result of the whole Bologna procedure.

The structure of this new education was:

- Preparatory level (under the age of 18)
- Bachelor degree
- Teachers Master degree (on every majors)
- Performers master degree (+ pedagogic module) on 13 majors

The new teacher training education brought several, hard conflicts on the different universities between the pedagogic and disciplinary territories, and the education itself was not resultable and high quality in practice. Parallely in the society on the labour market, the respect of the teaching jobs were falling down quickly because of the low salaries. The strong conflicts and the problems inclined the government of Hungary to change this system, and they transformed the teacher training programs back to continuous education with five years long program (4 years inside education, 1 year outside education, which is called „continuous teaching practice“.) This system began to work in 2013.

From this positive turnament, another hard situation came: the performing art education has kept the Bologna system with BA and MA. That was a real hard task to make these two systems transferable between each-other, if the students must get a personalized training... Nowadays this two systems are working in every institutions, faculties and in the Academy of Music, too. Only the solfeggio, music theory, the religious music and the folk music education could get the right to construct 5+1 years long continuous education.



The offensive development of the education was the main trait of the education in the present time Faculty of Music:

- there is a preparatory education for young talents
- there is bachelor degree for every instrument players of the symphonic orchestra (except harp)
- there is a bachelor degree for piano, organ, guitar, classical saxophone, recorder, singing, music theory, choir conducting
- there is continuous elementary music teacher training degree (master) for all the instrumental and vocal majors taught in BA
- there is performing master degree for guitar, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, percussions, piano, organ, opera singing, wind band conducting, choir conducting
- there is continuous 4+1, 5+1 master degree education for religious music and solfeggio-music theory, conducting

At present time, there is an active co-operation with the Pedagogical Doctoral Program of the Faculty of Arts.

The students, taking part in teacher training programs can have the possibility to continue their permanent teaching practice (one year long!) in the partner schools of the University of Debrecen in Debrecen and Nyiregyhaza. The system is flexible: if there is a music school, where the music pedagogy is on high level, the student can also go to continue the permanent teaching practice.

The students, who are over all of their studies, can teach in elementary and/or secondary music schools, they can be the members of symphonic orchestras, professional choirs, theatres, they can find their job in the great churches, or in the media, too. Near 100% of the finished students can find their job during half a year after their graduation. (The year-books of University of Debrecen)

### **Domestic and international meetings, conferences, competitions**

The former director, Mr. Tamas Kedves started to force the organization of meetings for different sections of the education. The original target was to give the possibility for the students to compare their abilities, knowledge with others from other cities, other countries. This is a very important element of the music education for getting high quality. The first meetings were the international events of the double bass section, organized by Karoly Saru. In the new building, the Bardos Symposium was the next important meeting for teachers of solfeggio, music theory, music scientists and practicing choir conductors. The symposium became more, than saving the testament of the great master, Lajos Bardos, the event became a very important conference of this discipline. The symposium was an exceptional possibility for giving the newest results of music science researches, or introduce new choir pieces, new choirs, teachers, etc.

The meeting and competition of the brass and percussion players is a high respected event in Hungary for the players and teachers of these instruments. Some competitions were organized as an international competitions (trumpet and percussion). The establisher of this competition was Mr. Andras Kammerer, professor of trumpet in co-operation of Mr. Jozsef Vrana, percussionist.

In the last decade of the 20. century the piano memorial competitions were organized yearly by Dr. Mihaly Duffek, pianist, the head of Piano Department. These competitions were good possibilities for comparing, but the other function was to bring more pieces of a composer to the teaching repertoire. The participants were the students of the other music faculties and institutions of the country.

Since a long time a new competition was planned to organize, the chamber music meeting and competition. In the beginning of the first decade of this century Mr. Zsolt Molnar organized the first domestic chamber music competition, later named after Ernest von Dohnanyi. The participants are also the students of the Academy of Music and the other faculties and institutions of music higher education. The co-operation with Prof. Sandor Devich was the key moment for the successful event.

The Wind Department's great result is the competition for clarinet players, organized yearly. Dr. Janos Szabo, clarinetist is the establisher of this domestic competition. Parallely the competitions of classical saxophone is very popular. The instrument is well used in the classical music nowadays, this is one of the reasons of popularity.

The festival and competition of the classical guitarists was established by Dr. Istvan Adrovicz, guitarist, organized in every August. Also his event is the Festival of guitar orchestras in May.

The youngest and newest competition is the Petrovics Emil Singing Competition, organized by Dr. Eva Mohos-Nagy, singer, the chair of Department of Singing. This competition is special in its repertoire, because it is based on the contemporary Hungarian vocal music. The competition has a great supporter, Mrs. Eva Batori, the Ambassador of the Hungarian Opera. This event is the part of Young Musicians' Summer Academy.

There are competitions, which are organized together with the F. Liszt Academy of Music (woodwind competition and brass quintet competition, and there are special days, when the representatives of the teachers, students from other institutions are coming together in Debrecen, eg. string players, flutists, oboists, saxophonists, pianists). Practically this system of the competitions and meetings give a strong position in Hungarian music education, and open the window to the world for our students.

### **Ensembles, orchestras, choirs**

The regular education of the arts and sciences are controlled by exact law, rules, but the music education needs more than it is necessary to work by the plan end program of the education. The students need possibilities, where they can test their knowledge in real musical life, so the important part of the educational strategy is to form different musical groups (orchestras, bands, chamber ensembles, choirs).

The predecessor institution of Faculty of Music had choir from the first moment, which was the Kodaly Choir, as a professional choir, but as the amount of the students grew, an independent mixed choir began to work. It belonged mainly to the plan of education. The real performing female choir, the Bardos Girls' Choir was established by Zsolt Szesztay, head of the department of Solfeggio, Music theory and Conducting. (The name of Bardos Lajos was given in 1987.) The choir in its long history won a great amount of first prizes and grand prix in domestic and international choir contests. The contemporary composers composed many choral pieces directly for the choir. It was an emblematic choir of the Hungarian choir life during decades. The last conductor of the choir was Denes Szabo.

Mainly since 1974, the new building gave the possibility for establish instrumental groups, because they had enough place in the building to keep their rehearsals, more and more students could join to these ensembles. The Symphonic Orchestra is one of the most traditional group at the Faculty, which was led at first by Dr. Lajos Szucs, later Laszlo Martos, Zoltan Kovats. This orchestra is able to play full concerts or play on important events in the University, or in the city, eg. on the International Day of Music. The students can learn how to be a member of a symphonic orchestra, what are the necessary abilities, which will be necessary, if they chose the job to be orchestra members in their grown up life. The String Ensemble is as old, as the symphonic orchestra. Its first leaders were Endre Dekany, Stefan Ruha. At present time the young conductor of these ensembles is Zoltan Bolyky.

Jozsef Vrana, the establisher of the Debrecen Percussion Ensemble could see the possibility of the development of the education. His student Dr. Istvan Szabo formed two percussion ensembles: the Talamba (which is now independent group from former students), and the Sonus Percussion Ensemble. These groups were and are very popular, they are invited to many events in Debrecen, in the region. The concert halls are always full with audience on their concerts.

The Brass Band is also one of the first time established groups, which has long history with its establisher, Andras Kammerer. The band is continuously working and plays on concerts directed by guest conductors. The present time leader of the band is Peter Bognar. They are invited also to other cities for different events to play.

The Canticum Novum Chamber Choir is more than 25 years old group, the leader is the establisher of this mixed choir, Dr. Agnes Torok, conductor. The choir represents a high quality and sensitive choir singing, is awarded on several domestic and international choir competitions. This talented group is an important representative of whole Debrecen's choir culture.

The former Bach Collegium, and later the Harmonia Instrumentalis, and now the Debrecen Historical Music Group is the representative of a valuable musical taste of the old music. The group, consisting of mainly students, led by Dr. Csaba Nagy is a very special chamber music workshop of the Debrecen music education. They are often invited to play in several cities of Hungary.

The Fonix Chamber Music Group now is the part of the history, but it was a special mixture of very talented students and their teachers. This group is already not existing, but was an important colour in Debrecen for a long time, led by Laszlo Martos.

The Guitar Orchestra is a very special group with special musical character, established by Dr. Istvan Adrovicz. This community had invitations to foreign countries for concerts and competitions. They organize yearly the Festival of the guitar orchestras in Debrecen. They play often on the events of the University of Debrecen.

The Wind brass conductor master degree is an important part of the education, which gives brass band conductor diploma for the students. The wind orchestra is formed to help this education as a practicing orchestra. The establisher and first conductor was Laszlo Dohos, at present time is Gyula Bekker. The orchestra had several full concerts, this ensemble gave a great help to organize the First Wind Orchestras' Festival in 2014. in Debrecen, which was a successful regional international event of the world association (WASBE).

These groups, orchestras and choirs are taking part on diploma concerts, or giving the possibilities for the students to practice their conducting studies in reality. The publicity of their work is a very important control, but a good public demonstration, too. There are common productions with closed co-operations of these ensembles, eg. Concert performing of operas with the talented singer students. Usually these performances can be compared with the professional productions of other professional ensembles.

There is a special female choir, which has mainly amateur members, but presents a continuously high musical level: the Kolcsey Choir, established by Dr. Laszlo Tamasi in 1979. This choir is working in the Faculty of Music, as a tutorial choir, taking part of the choir conductors education. The ensemble won several international prizes on competitions, but they are the winner of many domestic choir competitions, too, with radio- and CD recordings.

### **The community of the students**

In the very beginning, the students' amount was not more than 50-60 at the school. In the building of the original place was not enough big for the secondary music school and the College of Music, so the new conditions of the new building from 1974 gave new dynamism for growing the number of new students. From this time the entered students came from Debrecen, from the region and from Budapest, from all the counties of Hungary. In the eighties the number of the students was around 160-170. After a long time development, this number is around 200-220. The school had foreign students, too, but when the school divorced from the Academy of Music, it has lost the name of F. Liszt, so we had to rebuild the international students' connections by the help of the University. The Erasmus program was a great help, so now, the mobilisation of the students and the professors began to develop.

The students and their leaders are always very good partners of the leadership of the Faculty, because of the personal knowledge of the music education. They are permanently good partners of the Faculty to fight for the common targets of the school, they are the members of the Faculty Council. They have a vocational college, named after Gyorgy Gulyas, where the most talented students are frequently supported by stipendiums, applications to competitions, etc. The quality work of this group is a good example for all the students.

The leaders of the students' community are the members of the University's student organization, so they can help in many cases for the students. Their greatest, traditional event is the Midnight Concert which has more than 40 years tradition. This is a concert, which is beginning at midnight, but there are complementary events before and after. The concert is performed mainly by the students, but sometimes some of the professors also give productions. The main target is the entertainment, the humor, the up side down situations of the everyday life in the Faculty. The event is very popular year by year. The students are performing in every parts of the University, in many events, but in many students' concerts in Liszt Hall, or in Kolcsey Center of Debrecen. This activity is a great addition for the positive PR of the Faculty.

### **The teachers, professors – the guarantee of the high level education**

There were three responsible persons in the history of the school, leading the Debrecen music higher education: the school establisher, Gyorgy Gulyas, Liszt awarded choir conductor, worthy artist, director (1966-1976), Tamas Kedves professor of violoncello, director (1976-1992) and Dr. Mihaly Duffek professor of piano, dean (1992-2017). Kalman Illes, professor of piano had the responsibility of leading for half a year in 1976. The mentioned persons were different characters, but their vision about the school was almost the same, so the development of the school had guarantee in their personality. This period was a continuous development, keeping the traditions and the values, but give new values in their own period.

If we look at the list of the professors, teachers of the school, this list will be very serious, great generation of the professors worked in the education. The present time professors' group is also an attractive list, that is why students are coming to Debrecen to study, and that is why more and more foreign students are interested in the education. The education is organized into departments, which are important musical communities. These are: Department of Strings (chair is Dr. Gyorgy Sarosi), Department of Woodwind (chair is Dr. Janos Szabo), Department of Brass and Percussions (chair is Dr. Istvan Szabo), Department of Singing (chair is Dr. Eva Mohos Nagy), Department of Solfeggio, Music theory and Conducting (chair is Dr. Marta S. Szabo), and the Cabinet of Chamber Music (chair is Zsolt Molnar). These departments are not similar, than in the University, because they have no independency in finance, but very important working communities, which are coordinating the work of the professors and the students. These units are in closed connections with each other, like the parts of the human body: the problem of one of them becomes the problem of the whole system. That's why the professors connections are not formal, but very much co-operative.

The Faculty is very proud of those professors, who are the members of professional orchestras, or choirs in Budapest, in Debrecen, or in one of the neighbouring countries. More than a half of the professors, teachers have PhD or DLA degree qualification, and more young colleagues are taking part in doctoral studies at present time. (The list of the present time teachers, professors can be seen at [www.music.unideb.hu](http://www.music.unideb.hu)).

### **The Dean's Office and Office of Education, the financing direction, cultural management**

The organogram of the Faculty of Music shows, that these units of the faculty are very important. A few persons are responsible for very much, and serious things in education, or in official connections with the leadership of the University, the connection of other institutions, the leadership of the city, the foreign partners. At present time the following fellow workers help the every day work of the Faculty: Judit Katona, Erika Mangu Peterne, (responsible for education), Anita Bilanics (responsible for finance), Emese Batta Kissne (responsible for kultural management's daily organization,) Andrea Piros (secretary of the Dean.) There are two vice deans: Dr. Peter Lakatos (general vice dean,) Dr. Agnes Torok (vice dean of education).

### **The cultural function of the Faculty of Music**

The fastest development of the Faculty is demonstrated by the cultural function. This means, that a faculty of music has two functions: first is the regular education, second is the organization of concerts, taking part in the cultural life of the region and the city. In the first years of the school the concert hall, the Kodaly Hall was of the secondary music school and the college, so it was very busy with concerts. But it was in the middle of the city, so it was easy to invite public for the concerts. After 1974, near the campus of the Kossuth Lajos University, it became harder, because of the distance from the city centre.

The new concert hall was more comfortable, bigger than the Kodaly Hall, it had an organ and a studio for recordings. This was the moment, when the leadership of the Faculty decided to change this situation, and turn this into positive direction. Many guest concerts were organized with famous and popular artists, and there were many recitals of the professors of the Faculty. We remember the agreement with foreign travelling agencies to bring the tourists into the Faculty, and there were mini concerts for them in Liszt Hall.

After this period, the integration with the University of Debrecen this situation has changed. Two agreement with the Kodaly Philharmony and the Csokonai Theatre demonstrated the new situation. The musical performances were organized at different faculties of the University in great amount. Many of our professors and students had concerts at the University, or musical performances at the celebrations or important events. At present time the situation is more positive, than before, the number of people, who come to the concerts is permanently growing. This function became stronger and stronger, so the Committee of the Faculty of Music decided to establish a management office for organising the events. The Office of Cultural Management is now the guarantee, that the concert organization is successful and valuable. The responsible leader of the office is Dr. Judit Varadi, cultural manager.

After this the concert series began to be organized better and better, the Universitas Debrecen Concert series, the Conservatory Evenings, the Sunday Music in Kolcsey Centre, the Sound-play- music series for children, the so called „Heart warmer” concerts in the Library of the University all show, that the professional function of the cultural activity is well directed. The Office of Cultural Management is responsible for all outside events in Debrecen and in other places.

### **Domestic and international connections**

In the very beginning, in the sixties all of the international connections were organized by the F. Liszt Academy of Music. There were not much possibilities in making individual foreign connections, because the political system was closed and very much centralized, controlled. Sometimes there were possibilities to go to the countries of the communist block, but the iron curtain closed the western side of the country... When the political changes turned the whole life in Hungary, in the beginning of the nineties this situation has changed, the Faculty had more and more independency to make foreign contacts. The most serious result of this development was the biggest international event of the Faculty of Music, which was organized for the first time in 2001. This was, and this is now a famous and attractive international musical event in Debrecen, and in the Eastern region of the country. The Summer Academy's first artistic director was Tamas Kedves. The event had and has two profiles: to give individual master classes for different instrument players by invited professors and artists from Hungary and from abroad, and the other profile is a symphonic orchestral camp directed by a famous conductor. The first conductor was Geza Oberfrank. The Academy is organized in every July with the

support of the University of Debrecen, the Ministry of Human Resources, the National Cultural Foundation, the City Council of Debrecen, the Conservatory Foundation and the Foundation for the Art of Future. The applicants' number now is around 200 students, who are coming from several countries, eg. Slovakia, Slovenia, Rumania, Serbia, Austria, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Nederland, Belgium, Japan, Korea, Peru, South Africa, Argentina, China.

The leader and conductor of the Academy's symphonic orchestra since Tamas Vasary, the very famous Hungarian pianist and conductor. The orchestra is permitted to use the name of Zoltan Kodaly Youth Orchestra. By the conception, the ensemble gives the closing concert of the Summer Academy, and begins a concert tour in Hungary (eg. In Budapest and other cities) and travels to other countries (France, Rumania, Austria, Italy, Slovakia and Czech Republic). These concert tours are unforgettable events for the orchestra members. This whole event demonstrates the Hungarian music education's level, gives a very positive PR for the University of Debrecen and the Faculty of Music, too. The director of the Summer Academy is the dean, the artistic director is Dr. Judit Varadi.

The representatives of the Faculty has signed several agreement of the University for making contacts with other universities, but there are special agreements with Korean Academies for co-operations with real activities. The colourful palette of the international contacts the students of the Faculty have possibilities to take part in international competitions, too.

The domestic contacts has a conceptual philosophy: all the faculties and institutions of music higher education formed one organization before, so we are all responsible for the Hungarian music culture, so these institutions have balanced, good connections with each-other. The changing, new rules of the music higher education were found out in a consortium, in co-operation with the Academy of Music, but we could say more examples, too to certify this statement.

### **The infrastructure**

The music education needs seriously completed infrastructure. The building at the central campus of the University of Debrecen was absolutely modern building in 1974, with sound proofed classrooms, with a 300 seats concert hall, with a dormitory for 80 students. A sound studio was belonging to the concert hall, and it was possible to make sound recordings from every classes, too. The conception of the new building was, that the students must live and study among the same artistic conditions, to be better musicians. A small library is also belonging to the infrastructure, which is an everyday help for the education. Now, this unit is the part of the central library of the University, so the computerised connections are very useful for every professors and students.



The first year of the new building was very important, because brand new instruments (mainly pianos) were bought, (Steinway, Yamaha, Bosendorfer, Bluthner, Forster, Estonia, and Russian pianinos). There was a reconstruction of the building inside in 1998, but the financial background was not enough for total reconstruction. Another reconstruction could happen in 2012, when the building's surface were reconstructed, and the heating system was partly changed into solar technology. During the 17 years of belonging to the University of Debrecen the informatical infrastructure developed quickly inside the building: the rooms of the dormitory and all of the classrooms can have internet connections with cable and by wifi routers, the audio-visual equipments can help the education in some classes. The Liszt Hall now is waiting for general reconstruction, the heating system will be much more modern, the seats will be changed, the stage and the walls of the hall will be reconstructed. A Steinway „D” model piano came to the concert hall in 2016, and a new cembalo was bought, too.



*The reconstructed building of the Faculty of Music*

### **Where can we can find our former students, now?**

If you search the teachers' lists of the Hungarian music education, you can find our students everywhere. They are the members of the professional symphonic orchestras, choirs, you can find our singer students in the Hungarian State Opera, you can find our piano correpetitors in several theatres, in the media, etc. Many of our students became successful musicians in foreign countries (Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Austria, Finland, the USA). We are looking forward the future, because we plan new fields of education (music therapy, sound engineering, rock music, musical management in co-operation with other faculties).

The last 50 years behind us is a story of a beautiful flower, which is opening its leaves if it gets water and light... The support of the University and the Hungarian state is the guarantee, that we will have more flowers in the next fifty years.

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