

Comitato 8 Ottobre 2001 per non dimenticare

19° Anniversary at Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory



Good evening everyone, dear friends:

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mayor Giuseppe Sala, Councilor Roberta Cocco, who always graces us with her affectionate presence, Conservatory Director Ms. Cristina Frosini, SEA, and all the authorities present for their precious support and

friendship.

I also want to greet dear Pasquale Padovano, who is here with us. Our thoughts always go to our dear Paolo, who is here with us in spirit.

I want to also remember Serafino Cagnetti, a special person who passed away this year.

It seems impossible to me that he is no longer with us, intent on organizing everything with his unique and irreplaceable seriousness and professionalism.

Goodbye, Serafino. May you rest in peace and continue to follow us as you have done for these 19 years.

...For those who love with heart and soul, there is no separation...

Tonight, the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory welcomes us and, despite the organizational complexities, offers us an emotion-filled moment, guiding us with music along paths of eternal melodies that are a balm for the soul and spirit during the tender and nostalgic commemoration of our loved ones.

This year we found ourselves more fragile and more sensitive than we thought. With the tensions and fear of the pandemic, dormant anxieties have returned strong and painful in some of us. However, I am equally sure that our ability to cope with difficult times has ultimately prevailed in these last months, when we have often felt alone and helpless: the experience of the struggles that we have had to face over the past 19 years and the memory of our loved ones have brought out a strength that we may not even thought we had.

There is a phrase in a book by Coelho that says: "*What can I do in*

the worst moments? asked the warrior.

"Simple," replied the Master. "Grit your teeth and go on. A warrior cannot lower his head - otherwise he loses sight of the horizon of his dreams."

So here we are: we are the warriors.

This is demonstrated by the fact that there were many of us at the Holy Mass celebrated this morning at the Bosco dei Faggi, and this evening we are still here, despite the social distancing that does not allow us to be physically close to share this Memory. Even though we inevitably had to slow down this year, we did not stop!

Last November we signed the very important Draft Agreement with ENAC that allows us to actively collaborate as family members in their projects. We were able to physically participate in the first of the meetings with airport staff at the end of January, and for this I thank the family members who agreed to contribute. I assure you that the emotion felt by the participants, during our account of that day, was very intense. Now the meetings have resumed remotely, but the emotional impact is equally strong.

Last November, scholarships were awarded for the competition launched by the City of Milan in memory of the victims of Linate. The new competition has been launched, and next year we hope to present the awards without impediments.

And with the necessary precautions, at the end of October we will present the Pettinaroli Award that we should have awarded in May to our TFT Commander and Director Arturo Radini, who has always done and continues to do so much for us. We will also present a certificate in memory of our Commander Andrea Zipoli who passed last November.

We had almost completed the procedures and agreements for the project that presented the concept of safety in schools, but it is only postponed.

Another suspended project is the 285 km marathon that last year brought dear Anja to Italy, who represented the Committee with honor.

Even if we were inevitably slowed down, our film director, Francesca La Mantia, still managed to work a little on the film. We will complete it for next year: we must be confident and optimistic!

Perhaps we will also be able to complete another great project linked to the twentieth anniversary celebration: finally, a book! To continue plans the future, we often met remotely and not just for our regular board meetings. How many phone calls come to mind during the darkest months of the lockdown ... how many messages ... even video calls just to feel close as we were accustomed, to reassure one another about our health and state of mind. This affection, supporting and comforting each other, has made us all stronger and has kept us together for 19 years after that terrible day.

It is no small thing to still see this strong, sincere affection that has always been the necessary fuel that has helped us to never give up and to continue the plans and objectives we set ourselves for them, our 118 loved ones.

If the health emergency allows it, after Christmas we will start actively planning the many projects to worthily celebrate the twentieth anniversary, including the conference that we had to cancel this year.

I am convinced that we will recover what was postponed. We know that life is not only made of trials and tribulation, defeat, pain and tears, but also, and above all, of joys, smiles, hope and sometimes long-awaited success.

Even if the road we travel is not always easy, like Coelho's warrior we do not want to lose sight of the horizon of our projects and the future of our children. Therefore, we do not lower our heads and, if each of us continues to contribute with correct behavior, we will soon be able to say: it wasn't easy, but we did it!

Now let's enjoy the beautiful melodies that our concert performers offer us, in the splendid setting of our Music Conservatory, the pride of our city's institutions and one of the most beloved traditions of the Milanese and more.

Thanks to all and enjoy the concert!