

GENEVA CAMERATA - THE DANCING ORCHESTRA THAT BREAKS ALL THE RULES

On Monday, October 14th, the exceptional Swiss orchestra Geneva Camerata performed in Brno the show "Dance of the Sun", revealing an unexpected surprise that exceeded all expectations.

As the show was starting, thirty-one musicians entered the stage, walking towards a few chairs and a harpsichord. They stood all together, in chaos, talking, expressing trepidation and turmoil, with strong gestures. Was there a problem with the chairs? Was there a technical obstacle on stage? Absolutely not.

Dancer Martí Corbera suddenly entered, bringing immediate silence. Despite his attempts, he could not manage to come close to the musicians, since they were all moving away from him. He then started to dance, in total silence. Suddenly, to the amazement of the entire audience, the musicians started playing, while standing, all dispersed throughout the stage, in different angles. Only the harpsichordist, the double bass players, and the cellists, remained in their spots. Little by little, during Lully's piece, the musicians and the conductor David Greilsammer seemed to become fascinated by the dancers' movements, gradually uniting, and coming together. Some musicians were in positions that did not allow them to see their other colleagues, nor the conductor, but still, their playing was beautiful, with perfect balance between all the instruments! Occasionally, the light on stage was almost completely dark, and yet, the musicians never stopped playing. Their entire performance was from memory.

In the second part of the evening, the orchestra performed Mozart's Symphony No. 40. Many chairs were randomly dispersed on stage. The performance started with the musicians standing inside of the public, next to the auditors, in total darkness. At some point, the musicians walked towards their chairs on stage and stood on them, then sat, then later kneeled on the floor. During the performance, as in an intense dialogue, the dancer took down several chairs, dropping them on the floor, while the musicians were still sitting on them: the musicians were then lying on their backs, and yet, they did not stop playing. The dancer was constantly moving and dancing among them, creating fascinating interactions and powerful images. In the last movement of the piece, the dancer, in the center, seemed to be slowly fainting and dying, and the musicians moved towards him, encircling him, while playing. When the music stopped, they lifted him in their hands, above their heads, then, slowly, they all dropped together to the ground, lying there in silence, like a mass of human bodies.

The show was met with such unprecedented success, that many auditors asked intriguing questions: How is it possible that the musicians could play this way, in movement, by memory, dancing from one side of the stage to the other, following the conductor in total darkness, while producing such beautiful sound, with such rhythmic precision and musical elegance, while their bodies are in so many different physical positions? It was so impressive, that one auditor even asked if they were performing with "playback"... but of course, this was not the case: the musicians were indeed interpreting the music all around us in the hall, with an extraordinary proximity to the public. It was all authentic, intelligent, unbelievably imaginative, and almost shocking in its audacity and creativity. The orchestra presented a performance that is usually considered impossible in the music world... But, as we saw in this show, sometimes the impossible can become reality. Revolutionary and incredible.