



European Economic and Social Committee
Comité économique et social européen

The memorable bass
Boris Christoff
Le basse mémorable



{ Culture } music



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

100th anniversary of the birth
of Boris Christoff, opera singer
(1914-1993)
Celebrated in association with UNESCO



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE



FONDAZIONE
BORIS
CHRISTOFF

The EESC's mission

Committed to the building of Europe, the EESC contributes to strengthening the democratic legitimacy and effectiveness of the European Union by enabling civil society organisations from the Member States to express their views at European level. It fulfils three key missions:

- Advising the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission so as to ensure that EU policies and legislation match economic, social and civic realities
 - Building a more participatory EU, closer to its citizens
 - Promoting EU values and civil society organizations globally
-

Mission du CESE

Engagé dans la construction européenne, le CESE contribue au renforcement de la légitimité démocratique et de l'efficacité de l'Union européenne (UE) en permettant aux organisations de la société civile des États membres d'exprimer leur avis au niveau européen. Le CESE accomplit trois missions essentielles:

- assiste le Parlement européen, le Conseil et la Commission européenne afin que les politiques et la législation européennes soient mieux adaptées aux réalités économiques, sociales et civiques;
- favorise le développement d'une UE plus participative et plus proche de ses citoyens;
- promeut les valeurs de l'UE et les organisations de la société civile globalement.

The memorable bass

Boris Christoff

Le basse mémorable



Jane Morrice

Vice-President of the EESC
Vice-présidente du CESE

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is extremely honoured to be celebrating the centenary of the birth of the renowned Bulgarian opera singer, Boris Christoff, in association with Bulgaria's Minister of Culture, the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union and UNESCO. Boris Christoff is widely considered to be one of the 20th century's greatest basses and one of its most intense and moving voices. Born in Bulgaria, he embarked on a career in law before entering the world of opera. He found success in Italy and was a true European, who witnessed some of Europe's darkest moments. The EESC is keen to play a part in keeping alive and promoting the memory of luminaries from European civil society and figures who have marked Europe's cultural life, by making people aware of their life and work. In this case, in view of Boris Christoff's talent and presence and the universal power of music, this undertaking will undoubtedly be crowned with success.

Le Comité économique et social européen (CESE) est très honoré de pouvoir célébrer le centenaire de la naissance de Boris Christoff, le basse bulgare mémorable, en coopération avec le ministère bulgare de la Culture, la Représentation permanente de la République bulgare auprès de l'UE et l'Unesco. M. Christoff figure parmi les voix les plus intenses et touchantes de son siècle. Un avocat, un chanteur, né en Bulgarie. Il a rencontré le succès en Italie et était un vrai européen qui a vu l'Europe lors de ses moments les plus difficiles. Le CESE souhaite aider à conserver et à valoriser la mémoire des personnalités de la société civile européenne, ainsi que de celles qui ont marqué le milieu de la culture en Europe, en diffusant la connaissance de leur vie et de leur œuvre, un engagement auquel la grandeur de M. Christoff et la puissance universelle de la musique assurent la plus charmante réussite.



Marie Paule Roudil

Head of the UNESCO Liaison Office
in Brussels

*Chef du bureau de liaison de l'Unesco
à Bruxelles*

UNESCO is honoured to be associated with the celebrations being organised in Brussels to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Boris Christoff. A European legend on the international music scene, Boris Christoff remains a shining example of the power of culture to shape a Europe that is based on dialogue and connections between peoples.

L'Unesco est honorée d'être associée à la célébration du 100^e anniversaire de la naissance de Boris Christoff, organisée à Bruxelles. Véritable légende musicale de l'Europe sur la scène internationale, Boris Christoff demeure un témoin du pouvoir de la culture au service d'une Europe du dialogue et du rassemblement entre les peuples.



Peter Stoyanovich

Bulgarian Minister for Culture

Ministre de la Culture bulgare

It's no accident that Boris Christoff is in the UNESCO calendar for 2014. «The biggest bass of them all», «the king of bass», «an artist with a unique temperament and voice» are just some of the terms used to describe him by the critics. Today his grateful public will have the chance to enjoy his audio and video recordings, the highpoints in the brilliant career of a world-famous musician. Without any doubt, the visitors to the exhibition, those watching the film and the audience at the concert in the Atrium of the «Jacques Delors» building, will enjoy his great artistic talent, imbibe the memorable atmosphere of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and have the pleasure to hear his young Bulgarian followers.

Good luck!

Ce n'est pas un hasard si Boris Christoff figure au programme des célébrations d'anniversaires de l'Unesco pour l'année 2014. Ce grand chanteur d'opéra, qualifié par la critique de «plus grande basse du monde», de «roi de la basse», ou d'«artiste au tempérament et à la voix unique» est né il y a cent ans. Aujourd'hui, le public a l'occasion de profiter, grâce à ses enregistrements audio et vidéo, des meilleurs moments de la brillante carrière de cet immense interprète qui s'est produit sur les scènes d'opéra du monde entier. Sans aucun doute, les visiteurs de l'exposition, les spectateurs du film et le public du concert qui aura lieu dans l'Atrium du bâtiment Jacques Delors apprécieront son grand art, sentiront l'atmosphère mémorable de la cathédrale Alexandre-Nevski et auront le plaisir d'entendre ses jeunes disciples bulgares.

Bonne chance!



In October 1951 Boris Christoff sang for the first time in Belgium. He performed twice in the role of Tsar Boris in Boris Godunov at the Royal Opera in Antwerp and gave concerts in the Coffina-Hall in Antwerp and at Flanders Festival in Ghent. Audiences were bowled over and the press had nothing but praise.

En octobre 1951, Boris Christoff chante pour la première fois en Belgique. Il joue deux fois le rôle du tsar Boris dans "Boris Godounov" à l'Opéra royal d'Anvers, donne des concerts au Coffina-Hall à Anvers, ainsi qu'au Festival de Flandre à Gand. Le public est ravi, l'aime beaucoup. Ces événements reçoivent des échos élogieux dans la presse.

Concert in honor of Boris Christoff / 21 May 2014


Ivan Thirion, baritone:

W. A. Mozart: "Le Nozze di Figaro"
– Aria di Figaro: "Tutto e disposto"

M. Mussorgsky:
"Pesny y plaskysmierty" – "Kolibelnaya"

G. Verdi: "Un Ballo in Maschera"
– Aria di Renato: "Eri tu"

On the piano: Marie Boulenger

Katerina Grueva, mezzo-soprano:

C. Monteverdi: "L'Incoronazione di Poppea"
– Octavian: "Disprezzata Regina"

G. Donizetti: "Anna Bolena"
– Smeton: "Deh, non voler constringere"

M. Mussorgsky: "S kukloi"

On the piano: Vessela Diakova
Katerina Grueva and Ivan Thirion:

W. A. Mozart: "Don Giovanni", Duetto Zerlina
– Don Giovanni: "La ci darem la mano"

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**"Everything I did has been done in the name
of my homeland, Bulgaria."**

Boris Christoff

Boris Christoff was born in Plovdiv on 18 May 1914. He began singing with the Gusla choir in Sofia in 1930, becoming its soloist in 1940. Two years later, having qualified as a lawyer, the young Boris Christoff was awarded a national scholarship to pursue his musical training in Italy and worked in Milan with the famous baritone Ricardo Strachari (1875-1955). After several visits and recitals in Austria in 1944 and 1945, Christoff returned to Italy in December 1945. He made his opera debut in the role of Colline in *La bohème* in Reggio Calabria on 12 May 1946. Over the next few years, he performed in a number of roles at La Scala in Milan, the Opera House in Rome, La Fenice in Venice, and Covent Garden in London, as well as in opera houses in Naples, Florence, Barcelona, Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco and many other cities. He also sang in Belgium, at the Royal Opera in Antwerp and at the Flanders festival in October 1951.

Over the years, the Bulgarian bass became one of the world's most renowned opera singers. Based on criteria such as voice, artistic abilities and stage presence, music critics have judged Boris Christoff to be the greatest bass of the second half of the 20th century. The Italians dubbed him "the voice of the century", and even "the king of the stage, titanium, the greatest", finding him one of the most beautiful voices in the world and considering his art as "an unforgettable phenomenon in the world's musical life".

Boris Christoff is one of the small handful of artists to have performed well both on the opera stage and in the concert hall. Opera roles occupied a special place in his repertoire. Indeed, in view of their vocal reach and musical and artistic expressiveness, many of his performances are still models for interpretation even today. Boris Christoff took part in many prestigious festivals and won a multitude of prizes. A true European, he sang in six languages: Italian, French, German, English, Bulgarian and Russian. The many recordings he made in the 1950s and 60s included the full repertoire of songs by the Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky, earning him a reputation as a master of Russian classical music as well as a distinguished performer of chamber and church music.

Boris Christoff donated his home at 43 Tsar Samuil Street in Sofia to the Bulgarian state as a centre for the arts and for the development of young opera singers. Today it is also the home of the Boris Christoff museum. He also founded the Bulgarian Academy of Arts and Culture – Boris Christoff in Rome, as a place where talented young Bulgarian singers could come to refine their art. It was here, on June 22 1986, that the great artist gave his final concert and ended his career.

Boris Christoff died in Rome on 28 June 1993, but was buried in Sofia, in his native land.

**«Tout ce que j'ai fait, je l'ai fait au nom
de ma patrie, la Bulgarie.»**

Boris Christoff

Boris Christoff est né le 18 mai 1914 à Plovdiv. Dès 1930, il a commencé à chanter dans le chœur Gusla de Sofia, dont il est devenu, en 1940, le soliste. Deux ans plus tard, le jeune juriste Boris Christoff est parti poursuivre son perfectionnement musical en Italie avec une bourse du Royaume de Bulgarie, pour travailler à Milan avec le célèbre baryton Ricardo Strachari (1875-1955). Après plusieurs visites et récitals en Autriche en 1944 et 1945, Christoff est retourné en Italie en décembre 1945. Ses débuts sur scène ont été dans le rôle de Colin de l'opéra «*La Bohème*», le 12 mai 1946, à Reggio de Calabre. Les années suivantes, Christoff a joué plusieurs rôles à la Scala de Milan, à la Fenice de Venise, à l'Opéra de Rome, au Covent Garden de Londres, ainsi que dans les opéras de Naples, Florence, Barcelone, Lisbonne, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco et bien d'autres. Il a également chanté en Belgique à l'opéra royal d'Anvers ainsi qu'au festival de Flandre en octobre 1951.

Au fil des années, le basse bulgare est devenu l'un des chanteurs d'opéra les plus célèbres. Les critiques musicaux considèrent Boris Christoff comme le plus grand des basses de la seconde moitié du XX^e siècle, tant pour ses caractéristiques vocales et ses capacités artistiques que pour sa présence sur scène. Les Italiens l'appelaient «la voix du siècle», et même «le roi de la scène», «le titane», «le plus grand». Il possède l'une des plus belles voix et il a été considéré comme un «phénomène inoubliable dans la vie musicale du monde entier».

Boris Christoff fait partie des rares artistes qui ont aussi bien joué sur la scène de l'opéra que chanté dans les salles de concert. Les rôles qu'il a interprétés à l'opéra occupent une place spéciale dans son répertoire; beaucoup d'entre eux restent aujourd'hui encore des modèles d'interprétation, à cause de leur richesse d'expression vocale, musicale et artistique. En outre, il a chanté en six langues: italien, français, allemand, anglais, russe et bulgare. Boris Christoff a participé à de nombreux festivals prestigieux et a remporté plusieurs prix. Dans les années 1950 et 1960, il a réalisé de nombreux enregistrements, notamment l'intégrale des chansons de Modeste Moussorgski. Ainsi, Boris Christoff est devenu un maître réputé de la musique classique russe, et un artiste distingué de la musique de chambre et de la musique sacrée.

Boris Christoff a fait don à l'État bulgare de sa maison à Sofia, au 43, rue Tsar Samuil, pour qu'elle soit consacrée au développement des jeunes chanteurs d'opéra et transformée en centre artistique. Cette maison est aujourd'hui le musée Boris Christoff. En 1986, il a aussi fondé à Rome l'Académie bulgare des arts et de la culture – Boris Christoff, où les jeunes talents bulgares peuvent développer, en tant que stagiaires, leurs capacités vocales. Le 22 juin 1986, le grand artiste a terminé sa carrière et a donné son dernier concert à l'Académie bulgare à Rome.

Il est décédé le 28 juin 1993 à Rome, mais il a été enterré à Sofia, sur sa terre natale.

МОЛИТВАТА НА БОРИС ХРИСТОВ

„На земли мир
В чловецах благоволение“

BORIS CHRISTOFF'S
PRAYER

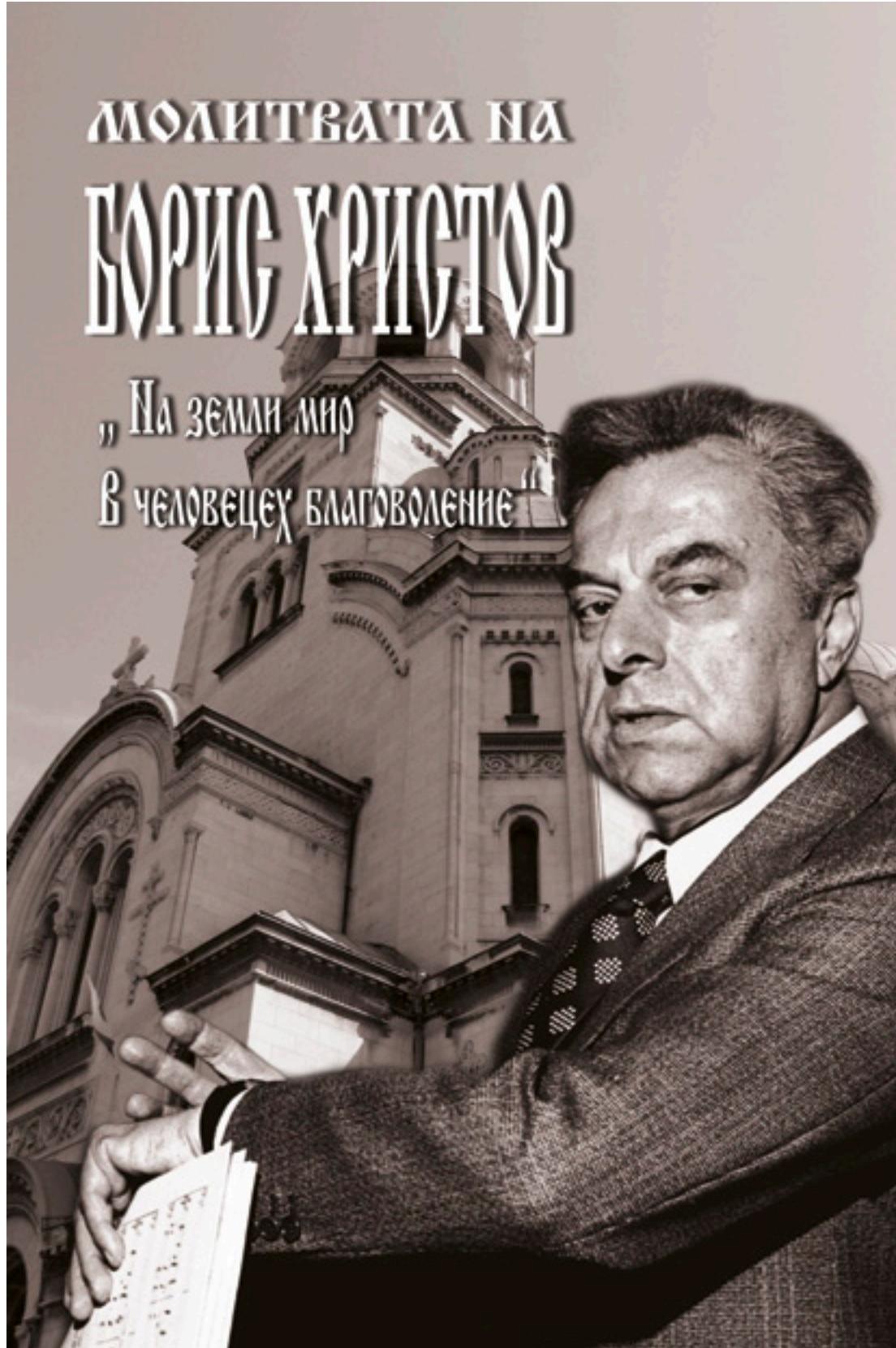
“Et in terra pax
hominibus bonae
voluntatis.”

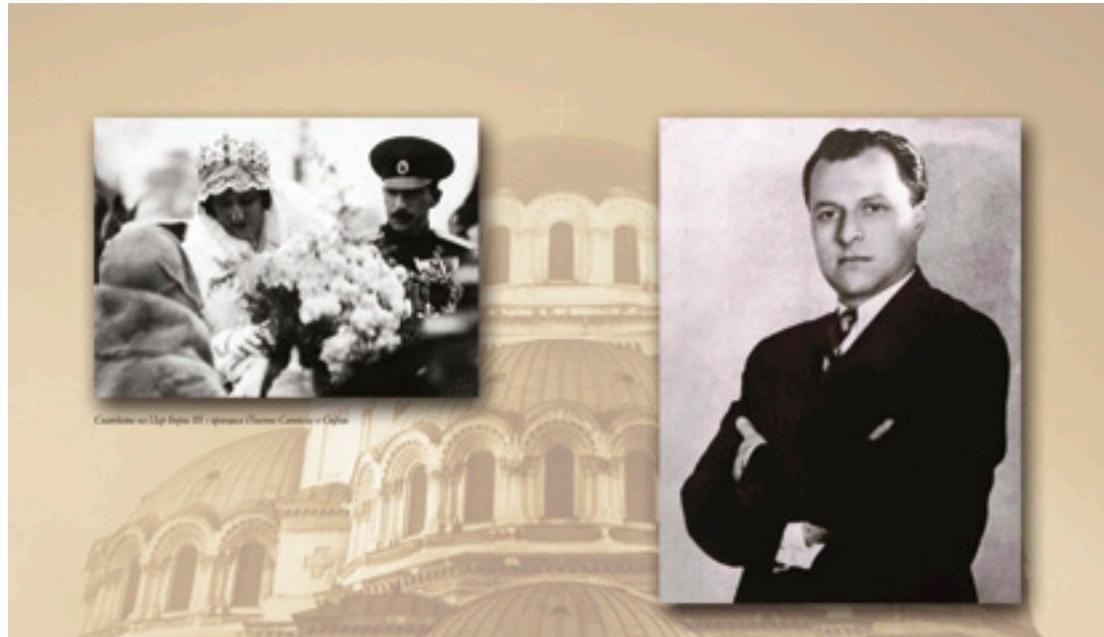
“Peace on earth, good
will towards men.”

LA PRIÈRE DE BORIS
CHRISTOFF

“Et in terra pax
hominibus bonae
voluntatis.”

“Et paix sur la terre
aux hommes de bonne
volonté.”





НАЧАЛОТО НА ПЪТЯ

Въпреки желанията си да учи пее, Борис запълнила волата на майка си. Съдът крама, Талантът му е открит и царската хор на „Св. Александър Невски“ Една случай решава пътят в живота му. След служба в храма „Царското архиерейско кметство“ в Абадзя, където Борис си очарова с гласа си. Съдъба същото на пристраст, покутува отговорност да учи пее в Италия.

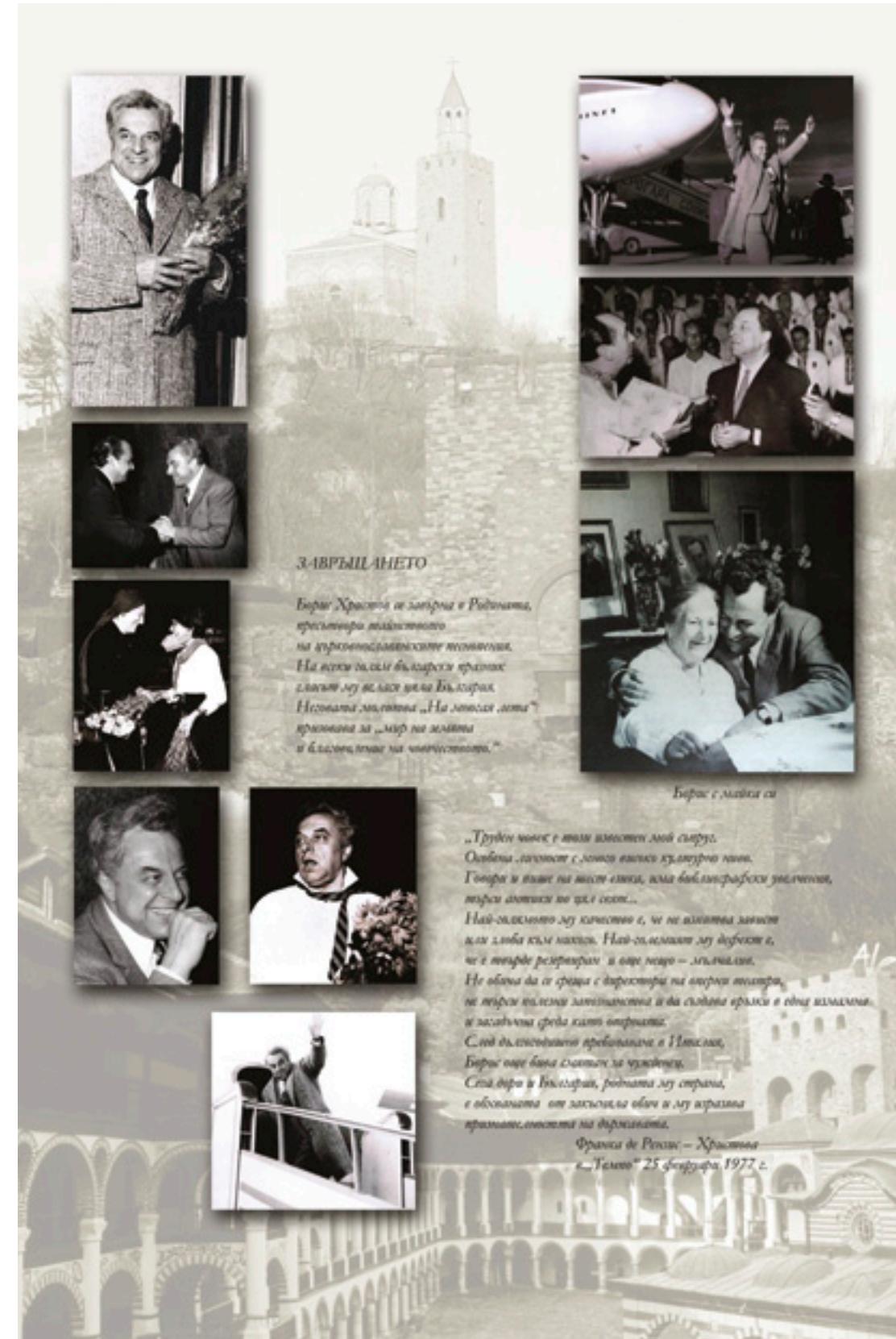
Despite his desire to study singing, Boris obeyed his mother's wishes and studied law. His talent was discovered in the St. Alexander Nevsky church choir. One chance event decided his path in life. After a church service, the Royal Family invited the choir singers to the Palace, where Boris enchanted them with his voice. His dream came true and he received a scholarship to study in Italy.



Malgré son envie d'étudier le chant, Boris respecte les vœux de sa mère et se lance dans des études de droit. C'est dans le chœur de la cathédrale Alexandre-Nevski que son talent est découvert. Un événement fortuit va déterminer sa voie. Après un office religieux, la famille royale invite les choristes au palais. Boris les enchantera avec sa voix. Son rêve devient réalité et il reçoit une bourse pour étudier le chant en Italie.

Song is in the hearts of Boris Christoff's family. They are famous as magical singers. Legends tell of his grandfather, an acolyte, whose song made nightingales fall silent. His father, Kiril Christoff, recorded more than 400 folk songs on the radio. Boris continued the legend. He came to this world with festive gunfire on 18 May 1914. A lucky sign of fate.

Le chant est présent dans le cœur des membres de la famille de Boris Christoff. On les considère comme des chanteurs magiques. Des légendes racontent que le chant de son grand-père, acolyte, faisait taire les rossignols. Son père, Kiril Christoff, enregistre plus de 400 chansons populaires à la radio. Boris entretient la légende. Il vient au monde sous des coups de canon festifs le 18 mai 1914. Un signe heureux du destin.



ЗАВРЫШАНЕТО

Борис Христов с замърка в Родопите, пресътари на величествено на курортногражданския туризъм.
На всички пъти благодарен е художникът
за всички му великолепни цели България.
Неговата легендарна „На лятоса лята“
празнува за „мир на земята“
и благополучие на човечеството.

Борис с майка си

„Трудът човек е чист и чист е смърт.
Одебели лагомост с лютия възгора културно ниво.
Говори и пиши на мист-енка, има библиографски умления,
които се отпечатват по този силен...
Най-задоволително му е качеството с, че не изпитва занети
или любов към никой. Най-задоволителен му дефект е,
че е твърде резервиран и отре нещо – мъжествено.
Не обича да се среща с директори на американски театри,
не търси възможност за запечатане и да създаде образ в един къменик,
и заради сърдца като отвори...
Спод обикновено пребивава в Италия,
Борис още беше склонен за чужбина.
Сед бора в Болгари, родната му страна,
е обсъждана от засилена обич и му изразява
принципи, опасни за държавата.

Франсис де Рекюс – Христовъ
– „Телев“ 25 февруари 1977 г.



ЗВУКОВИ ПЛАМЕТ С ИЗКУСТВОТО НА БОРИС ХРИСТОВ

Голямата историческа панорама от изгроянето на оперното изкуство от 20-ти век, издадена през 1986 г. в Париж, започва не случайно с името на Борис Христов. Звукозаписните фирмии се надпреварват да засъздадат уникатните интерпретации с исключително фоногенния глас на българския бас.

„Балкантон“ записва български и руски църковни песнопения и „Литургия Доместика“ от Александър Гречанинов, които влизат в световната музикална гимназија.

Acoustic Memory with Boris Christoff's Art

It is no accident that the great historic panorama of the highlights of 20th century operatic art, released in Paris in 1986, opens with the name of Boris Christoff. Recording companies competed to record the unique interpretations with the exceptionally phonogenic voice of the Bulgarian bass. Balkanton recorded Bulgarian and Russian church songs and Alexander Gretchaninov's "Liturigia Domestica", part of the world's musical treasure trove.

Mémoire acoustique avec l'art de Boris Christoff

Ce n'est pas un hasard si le panorama historique des grandes œuvres de l'art lyrique du XX^e siècle, sorti à Paris en 1986, s'ouvre sur le nom de Boris Christoff. Les maisons de disque se font concurrence pour enregistrer les interprétations uniques avec la voix extrêmement phonogénique du basse bulgare. Balkanton enregistre les chants d'église bulgares et russes et la "Liturgia Domestica" d'Alexandre Gretchaninov, l'un des trésors musicaux mondiaux.



Boris Christoff The Legend

"To hear and see Boris Christoff means to come in contact with greatness itself..." This is how the critics heralded the birth of legend Boris Christoff. A born actor and singer, endowed with exceptional individuality, Boris Christoff does not interpret his characters, he creates them.

Boris Christoff La légende

"Écouter et voir Boris Christoff, c'est entrer en contact avec la grandeur même." C'est ainsi que les critiques ont annoncé la naissance d'une légende. Acteur et chanteur-né, doté d'une personnalité exceptionnelle, Boris Christoff n'interprète pas ses personnages, il les crée.



„Балканарон“ драмата
„Руски народни песни и църковни песнопения“
пред Александър Гричанинов, 1976 г.
Глочета във време утеш,
тарале 300 000 само за България.
Издана се драмата във вън.



Boris Christoff erected a monument to Russian music. With his talent and force of character, he lastingly established Russian opera on the world stage. His Boris Godunov triumphed across the world, becoming a model for the future.

Boris Christoff rend hommage à la musique russe. Avec son talent et sa force de caractère, il installe l'opéra russe durablement sur la scène mondiale. Son Boris Godounov connaît un succès international, devenant un modèle pour le futur.

Художник – ОВДОРСКА ЕЛЕНА ЙОАНКОВА, СТ-8
ДР-М-07-4.1-01531-0.М-07-03-2015-0
ДРЛ-07-07-09-0101-07-03-2015-0
Фото: СНИМЪК: МИХАИЛ ГЕОРГИЕВ

Възстановка на пълното документи и личност
от спектакъл „Борис Годунов“ на Михаилът Михаилов,
от спектакъл на граф. Антонио Балаки „Борис Христов“,
от спектакъл на граф. Александър Панов и на Сърфюкън „Музън на ЕМС“.

Първоначалният текст на спектакъла не е
спечелен от спектакъла на Борис Христов.
Спектакълът „Мъжеството на Борис Христов“
е част от националната програма по икономически
специализирани университети по ръководство на Борис Христов,
отличен като личност и глобален календар на ЮНЕСКО за 2014 г.
Издадена е книга с изображение
на Мъжеството на Борис Христов.



"My doctrine and my long international career in the service of culture have always been and will continue to be in the name of humanity, of my Slavonic peoples and in the name of my native Bulgaria, to which I feel filial affection and pride."

"J'ai toujours soutenu et continuerai de soutenir ma doctrine et la longue carrière internationale que j'ai menée au service de la culture au nom de l'humanité, du peuple slave et de ma Bulgarie natale, pour laquelle j'éprouve de l'affection filiale et de la fierté."

„Моято учение и дългогодишната моя картиера в служба на културата са били и ще бъдат епизоди в името на човечеството, на моя славянски род и в името на моите родни България, като концепцията си остава кръстозданост и гордост“



The Voice

"Boris Christoff's voice contains that tone, imbued with melancholia, which we experience as a unique gift of the Slav race. A voice that is religiously moving, bursting with rebellious sprit, yet able to lean to reconciliation. A tragic voice, even when performing ironic phrases. The voice of a great «protagonist»."

Teodoro Celli

La voix

"La voix de Boris Christoff, empreinte de mélancolie, s'offre à nous comme un cadeau unique du peuple slave. Une voix religieusement touchante, à l'esprit rebelle, mais capable de glisser vers la réconciliation. Une voix tragique, même lorsqu'elle interprète des expressions ironiques. La voix d'un grand «protagoniste»."

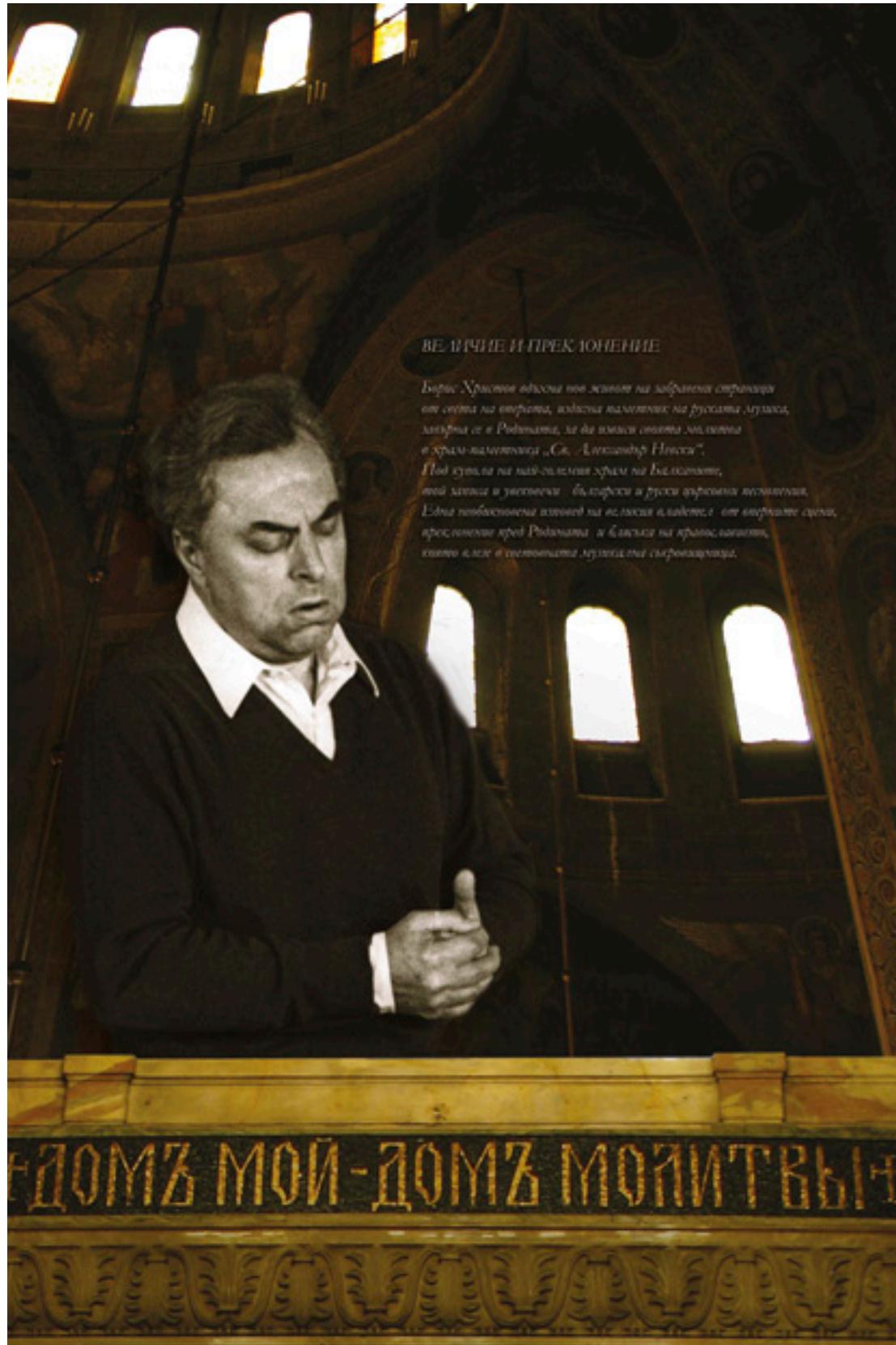
Teodoro Celli

Grandeur and admiration

Boris Christoff brought to new life forgotten pages of the opera world and set up a monument to Russian music as well. He returned to his homeland to raise his prayer in St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Under the dome of the largest cathedral in the Balkans, he recorded and perpetuated Bulgarian and Russian chants.

Grandeur et admiration

Boris Christoff redonne vie à des pages oubliées de l'opéra et rend hommage à la musique russe. Il revient sur sa terre natale pour prier dans la cathédrale Alexandre-Nevski. Sous le dôme de la plus grande cathédrale des Balkans, il enregistre et immortalise des chants bulgares et russes.



ВЕЛИЧИЕ И ПРЕКРАСЕНИЕ

Борис Христов обнови чрез звука на забравените страници от света на операта, водещи пълното на руската музика, завръща се в Родината, за да помни името на своята и крам-паметница „Св. Александър Невски“.
Под купола на най-големия храм на Балканите, този звук е и уважение – български и руски фрагменти на музикация.
Една гендерована изложба на песни и видето, от откриването на сцена, представяне пред Родината и блоксът на крам-паметница, която влезе в световната музикална география.



"To be able to reach the top and do real church singing, I had to work very hard. I learned the text by heart despite having sung in a choir before. I wanted to be convincing, by putting just enough voice to make the text comprehensible and not to make it obvious that an opera singer was singing church music."
Boris Christoff

"Pour pouvoir atteindre le sommet et interpréter correctement les chants d'église, j'ai dû travailler très dur. J'ai appris les textes par cœur même si j'avais fait partie de la chorale. Je voulais être convaincant en donnant juste assez de voix pour rendre le texte compréhensible sans que l'on ait l'impression qu'un chanteur d'opéra interprète des chants d'église."
Boris Christoff

**"To sing
with heart ..."**

During the recordings Boris Christoff often says: "Sing and pray - it is a prayer, we seek the Lord with our heart, and the singing should be «meek» and «suppliant»."

Once Boris was asked: "Mr. Christoff, what does it mean to sing «mezza voce»?"

He replied: "It is so simple - you just sing with your heart."

**"Chanter avec le
cœur..."**

Pendant les enregistrements, Boris Christoff répète souvent: "Chanter et prier - c'est une prière, nous cherchons le Seigneur avec notre cœur, et le chant devrait être «doux» et «suppliant»."

Un jour, on lui demande: "M. Christoff, que signifie chanter «mezza voce»?"

"C'est très simple: il suffit de chanter avec son cœur", répond-il.





"Mnogaya Leta"
(Grant, Oh Lord,
Many Years)

On every major Bulgarian holiday the voice of Boris Christoff fills the whole of Bulgaria. His prayer "Mnogaya Leta" calls for "peace on earth and the goodwill of mankind".

À chaque grande fête bulgare, la voix de Boris Christoff résonne dans tout le pays. Sa prière "Mnogaya Leta" invite à la "paix sur la terre" et à "la bonne volonté des hommes".

НА МНОГАЯ ЛЕТА

Дарувай, Господи,
на благочестивия и православен
български народ
мирен живот и благоденствие,
здраве и спасение,
благопречяване във всичко
и го запази
за много години!

И А ФРАНКА.

Любима съпруга и съавторка създала

е умножаващата на душата музика.

ПОСВЕЩАВАМ

Приятел, остваряващ на интуитивния здрав, лице народ:

Нашата на наше Православна църква,

която едва очищава обича.

Чрез нея все привличам и това от християнското

духовни приятели на българския народ,

послужител на която искам да бъде,

която той е учен да предаде в писаните на песни.



To Franca, Beloved wife and invaluable collaborator in the improvement of my art, I DEDICATE my first work fulfilled in the Fatherland: chants of our Orthodox Church, which she loved spontaneously.

Through them, she penetrated into one of the most important spiritual expressions of the Bulgarian people, which served as a shield against storms over the centuries.

À Franca, mon épouse bien-aimée et précieuse collaboratrice dans l'amélioration de mon art, JE DÉDIE ma première œuvre réalisée dans la patrie, les chants de notre église orthodoxe, qu'elle a aimés spontanément. À travers eux, elle a pénétré dans l'une des plus importantes expressions spirituelles des Bulgares, qui les a protégés des tempêtes au fil des siècles.





Борис като дете



РОДЪТ НА БОРИС ХРИСТОВ

*Първото е в сърцата на рода на Борис Христов.
Следват съвети защо пътешества.
Любовните разказвания за нещата добре, здраво,
които като свет в съвестта запасяват.
Бъди му, Борис Христов живеши
като 400 народни песни в разигнато.
Бъди гробът скромна, лекомана.
Идва на твои съвет с пръстенче мъжкото гордост
на 18 май 1914 г. Шапчето твое на съдбата.*



Малкият Борис с баща си и брат си Николай



• Фотография на семейство пред дома
на Тодор Попиванов, Райна Христова, Кирил Христов,
Борис и брат му Николай



Надгробна плоча на Борис Христов
на "Лайт-Карнъй"
Ап. Гарни, София



- Young Boris with his father and brother Nikolai.
- Boris as a child.
- View of Boris Christoff's paternal home in Tsar Samuil Street, artist Slavka Deneva.
- Family photo in the yard of the paternal home: Todor Popivanov, Raina Christoff, Kiril Christoff, Boris as a school boy and his brother Nikolai.

- Le jeune Boris avec son père et son frère Nikolai.
- Boris enfant.
- Vue de la maison paternelle de Boris Christoff, rue Tsar Samuil, par l'artiste Slavka Deneva.
- Photo de famille dans le jardin de la maison paternelle: Todor Popivanov, Raina Christoff, Kiril Christoff, Boris, en écolier, et son frère Nikolai.

Conception and author of the exhibition:

Dr. Magdalena Manolova

Design: Orlin Atanasov**Photos:** Mircho Slivenski

Documents and photos from Magdalena Manolova's book "The Bulgarian Opera Myth – Three Basses and Three Sopranos", from Prof. Atanas Bozhkov's book "Boris Christoff", from the archives of Prof. Alexander Yosifov and the Museum of Bulgarian Musical Culture Association have been used in the exhibition.

The project is part of the programme of the Museum of Bulgarian Culture Association, which has presented the theme of the "Bulgarian Operatic Miracle" in many European countries, chosen by a Bulgarian National Television poll as "The Greatest Event of the 20th Century".

The exhibition "Boris Christoff's Prayer" is part of the national programme on the occasion of the birth centenary of opera singer Boris Christoff, included in the UNESCO cultural calendar for 2014.

The exhibition has been created with the support of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture.**The Boris Christoff Foundation in Rome**

Set up at the behest of Franca De Rensis Christoff, wife of the great Bulgarian singer, the Boris Christoff Foundation in Rome is aimed, inter alia, at: fostering knowledge of the artistic figure and memory of the great Bulgarian performer; developing appreciation of music; and providing professional training to talented young singers and musicians.

Since 2011, it has been organising a series of master classes in opera singing in cooperation with the Italian Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (Academy of St Cecilia), which supports, in particular, the "Santa Cecilia Opera Studio" programme. It co-produces a series of activities with that academy, aimed at providing opportunities to the best students from the master classes to take their first steps into the professional world of music.

The Boris Christoff Foundation also encourages cultural exchanges between Italy and Bulgaria, supporting the participation of young Bulgarian singers in courses run by the Santa Cecilia Opera Studio.

Conception et auteur de l'exposition:

Dr. Magdalena Manolova

Design: Orlin Atanasov**Photos:** Mircho Slivenski

Des documents et des photos du livre «The Bulgarian Opera Myth – Three Basses and Three Sopranos» de Magdalena Manolova, du livre «Boris Christoff» d'Atanas Bozhkov, des archives d'Alexandre Yosifov et du Musée de l'association de culture musicale bulgare ont été utilisés dans cette exposition.

Ce projet fait partie du programme du Musée de l'association culturelle bulgare, qui a présenté le thème du «Bulgarian Operatic Miracle» (le miracle de l'opéra bulgare) dans de nombreux pays européens, considéré comme «le plus grand événement du XX^e siècle» lors d'un sondage de la télévision nationale de Bulgarie.

L'exposition «La prière de Boris Christoff» fait partie du programme national présenté à l'occasion du centenaire de la naissance du chanteur d'opéra Boris Christoff, qui est inscrit au calendrier culturel de l'Unesco pour 2014.

L'exposition a été créée avec le soutien du ministère bulgare de la Culture.**La Fondation Boris Christoff à Rome**

Créée par la volonté de Franca De Rensis Christoff, épouse du grand chanteur bulgare, la Fondation Boris Christoff à Rome a notamment pour but de faire connaître la personne et la mémoire du grand artiste et interprète bulgare; de développer et de valoriser l'art musical; d'assurer la formation professionnelle de jeunes chanteurs et musiciens talentueux.

Depuis 2011, elle organise une série de classes de maître de chant lyrique en collaboration avec l'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (Académie nationale Sainte-Cécile), dont elle soutient en particulier le programme «Santa Cecilia Opera Studio». La Fondation coproduit par ailleurs avec cette académie une série d'activités visant à donner aux meilleurs élèves qui suivent les cours de perfectionnement l'occasion de faire leurs premiers pas dans le monde professionnel de la musique.

La Fondation Boris Christoff encourage en outre les échanges culturels entre l'Italie et la Bulgarie, en soutenant la participation de jeunes chanteurs bulgares aux cours dispensés dans le cadre du Santa Cecilia Opera Studio.



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