

REICHENSTEIN

2165

*Das geheimnisvolle Notenblatt  
der Sophia Hornero-de-Largo*

## The story:

Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1969

The funeral of Carlos and Sabrina Hornero de Largo. Daughter Sophia and some relatives say goodbye to Sophia's parents (1

„Requiescat in pace“).

After the funeral, the guests sit together in a restaurant and exchange memories (2 „Erinnerungen an alte Zeiten“).

Montag, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1969

Sophia is in Seville to dissolve the last remnants of the house. While

cleaning up the attic, she finds a huge box with lots of old photos and a paper roll. When she rolls it out, she sees that



it is a handwritten sheet of music (3 „Das geheimnisvolle Notenblatt“). Sophia takes it with her to her personal memorabilia and continues to tidy up.

Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1969

Sophia is back in front of the sheet music. She herself can't figure out what's behind it. It is not signed, and how else she could find out who the author is, is not clear to her either.

Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1969

A co-worker who is an enthusiastic music listener gives her the tip to turn to a well-known music historian.

Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1969

Meeting with Dr. de Luz-Martinez (4 „Dr. Raphael Maria de Luz-Martinez“). After an initial examination, he is fascinated and, on the basis of the sound sequences, expresses the opinion that it must be an unpublished work by a composer from the Viennese Classical period. He offers Sophia to look more closely at the authorship of the sheet music.

Sophia is completely overwhelmed by the result of the short analysis, because the events of the last few days were

simply too much. Without thinking much, she grabs the sheet music and goes home.

In her apartment she is thinking about how her family got to the paper roll (5 „Woher, warum und wie?“).

None of her close family had any relationship to classical music. She takes a look at the family tree she had made on the evening of the funeral and thinks about who might be the most likely to answer the question about the author of the sheet music.

She had enough leave and overtime.

She decides to make a trip to her relatives to solve the riddle of the sheet music.

Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1969

Sophia knew from Maria, her mother's sister, that Gabriella, her sister, works as a nurse in the hospice of a monastery in northern Spain (6 „Monasterio de Valvanera“). So Sophia travels first to her aunt Gabriella (7 „Gabriella“). By meeting with her aunt, Sophia doesn't get any further.

Her aunt doesn't know anything about a sheet of music.

At least she did not cultivate any monastic brother, musician or composer who could have been the owner or author of

the sheet music. However, Gabriella remembers that perhaps her brother Manuel might know something about the origin of the sheet music.

Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1969

Sophia goes back home to Madrid. She sits down on her terrace, once again she checks the family tree and the notes she had made with Gabriella and Dr. de Luz-Martinez, and considers the possible next destinations (8 „Die Sternennacht von Madrid“).



Her uncle Manuel is the next place to go. As Gabriella had said, Manuel was employed in an antique shop in London or even the owner. Maybe her parents came to the sheet music via Uncle Manuel?! His exact address is not known, however, and the

letter to him with the invitation to the funeral was returned undelivered. Sophia has always wanted to visit London anyway, so she asks at the train station for the cheapest and easiest way to get from Madrid to London. Sophia decides to travel by train to Bilbao, from there to transfer by boat to Portsmouth. From Portsmouth she will continue by train to London (9 „Madrid - London“).

Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1969

Arriving in London, she goes straight to search for Uncle Manuel. When she goes to the address you know, her uncle can't be found there. Sophia hopes that the neighbors will be able to give information about her uncle's new address. In fact, a neighbour Sophia may point out that "the old Spaniard" has now moved into a smaller apartment further towards central London. Sophia then wanders through London between „Tower Bridge, Trafalgar Square and Hyde Park" (10) and contemplates what she might do. Since a search seems unlikely to be successful, she decides to try it the next day first at the registration office.

Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1969

Sophia asks the local registration office for her uncle's new address.

After receiving the new address, she visits her uncle. She learns from him that the antique shop where he was working was closed because the owner had died and Manuel was unfortunately unable to take over the business. With scores or the like, however, the Antiquarian bookshop never had any contact points but only with classical and scholarly literature.

After this further, unproductive trace, Sophia doubts her intention and considers the idea of leaving the research to the music expert.

After much thought, she decides to continue the search for the secret (11 „Die Spurensuche geht weiter“).

Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1969

Who else could know the source of the sheet music? Until now, her mother's two sisters – Maria and Gabriella – and her brother Manuel have been jerky. The last realistic hope is Sophia's father's brother, Uncle Fernando. Since her

father's parents are no longer alive and there is no contact with other relatives in her father's branch except Ferando, he is the last resort.

As a result of a happy coincidence, Uncle Manuel Sophia offers himself as a ride. He wants to go to Amsterdam to visit an old school friend and Sophia could at least go with him for a bit. Sophia gratefully accepts the offer.



Sophia therefore plans to travel with Manuel to Amsterdam and from there by train to Paris (12 „London-Amsterdam-Paris“).

Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1969

On the evening after arriving in Paris, Sophia uses the opportunity to explore the area around the small guesthouse

at Montmartre (13 „Souvenirs du Montmartre“).

Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1969

After breakfast in a café near the Seine, Sophia visits her uncle Fernando. Fernando is not at home, however. She leaves him a message and then goes for a walk through the neighbourhood.



Passing the music academy, from which music sounds (14 „L'academie de musique“), she walks past several Parisian churches in a wide variety of architectural styles, back to her pension at the Gare du Nord. In the note to her uncle, she had asked him to meet her later at Sophia's

boarding house.

Talking to her uncle, Sophia experiences a shock. She learns that she has a half-sister from a previous relationship with her father. Carlos had asked his brother to keep the secret. Fernando tells her, among other things, that her half-sister lives in Milan and gives Sophia the address (15 "Sophia and Fernando"). Her half-sister would be able to tell Sophia more details about the relationship. It would also provide the answer to the question of the origin of the sheet music.

Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1969

At home in Madrid, Sophia has to recover from the surprising news. After digesting the first horror, she decides to take the final step in the search for the origin of the sheet music.

Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1969

Sophia goes to Milan to meet her half-sister. Nervously, Sophia arrives at the address on her notepad after a new, long journey by train.

After Sophia briefly introduced herself, her half-sister invites her in and invites her to a cup of coffee and a piece of lemon cake. Francesca is a beautiful young woman with long, dark hair and a winning smile (16 „Francesca”). The two get along very well from the start and exchange their respective memories of their father.

Francesca's memories are much further back than Sophia's. Later in the course of the conversation Sophia comes to the real reason for her trip. Francesca tells Sophia that Francesca's mother can tell her something about the origin of the sheet music. Francesca suggests Sophia to visit her mother the next day.



I want Sophia to stay at Francesca's.

At night, Sophia hardly finds any sleep, too omnipresent is the idea of being close to solving the mystery behind the mysterious sheet of music and also experiencing a completely new chapter in her family history (17 „Der Wahrheit ein Stück näher“).

Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1969

Francesca's mother lives in an old castle outside Milan. At the gate in front of the entrance there is a large inscription "da Ponte". At the end of the driveway there is a beautiful property, which is surrounded by a well-kept green area (18 „Das alte Schloss“). Francesca's mother is already waiting for them at the front door. Signora Caterina (19 "Signora Caterina") has grey strands in her brunette hair and is as charming as her daughter. After Caterina Sophia has expressed her condolences on the death of Carlos, Caterina, Francesca and Sophia sit down for coffee and cake. During the conversation, Sophia learns that one of the ancestors had written lyrics for different composers.

Her family has always had the scores of the composers for

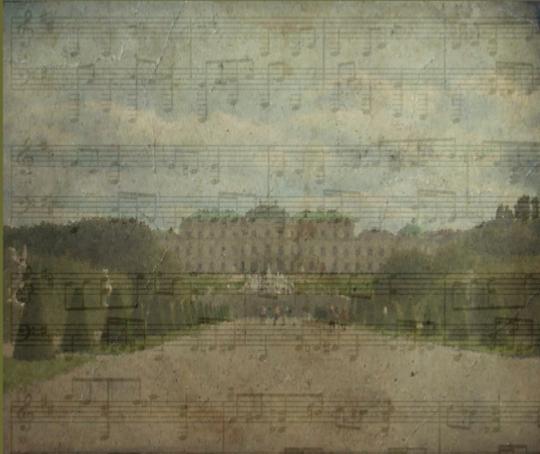
whom her ancestor wrote the libretti. The sheet music that Sophia found certainly also came from this source. Signora Caterina advises Sophia to turn to Giovanni Franchini, an old friend of the family. He knows the historical connections between the da Pontes, Salieri and Mozart from the ff and can surely tell her everything. Sophia accepts the unexpected and newly-won part of the family and sets out to maintain contact in order to learn the whole story of her father and Caterina in the course of time.

Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1969

Francesca accompanies Sophia to Giovanni. After looking at the sheet of music, he explains that his friend Stefano – Caterina's late father – gave Sophia and Francesca's father and Caterina the sheet of music as a kind of engagement present. Caterina and Carlos wanted to get married before it happened, but Carlos had left Italy overnight and had gone to Spain with the sheet music in his luggage.

Giovanni goes on to say that although there was competition between Mozart and Salieri for the patronage of the European royal houses (especially the Emperor's Vienna Court), the mutual esteem was greater than the rivalry generally assumed (20 „Wiener Luft“).

The piece on the sheet music is probably the first, short notation of an aria that emerged from an never-finite joint work by Salieri and Mozart (21 „L'aria“).



This has revealed the secret behind the sheet music. Sophia's journey, which began in Seville, ends in Milan with an introduction to the world of Viennese classical music at the time of Mozart.

The only thing left for Sophia to do is to clarify what should happen with the sheet music (22 „Am Ziel - und jetzt?“)?

Giovanni was aware that such sketches were highly traded at auctions. The audience for previously unknown compositions was huge. In addition to investors, who regarded them as purely financial investments, there were also institutions such as the Mozarteum in Salzburg that would show interest or private collectors. The former would be a disaster, as the sheet music would surely end up in a safe until someone would eventually offer more for it. For culture, therefore, a great loss.

Sophia likes the idea of the auction very well and asks Giovanni to arrange the necessary.

Wednesday, October 8th, 1969

The big day of the auction has come. Sophia's destination is London again. She already realises how great the interest is when she enters the auction house together with Giovanni. After the sheet music was presented as an auction item in the catalogue for the auction day, not only international interested parties were on the mat, but also press

representatives from all over the world (23 „Die Versteigerung“).

Then it is finally the turn of the sheet of music and the battle for the award (24 “Wetlauf um das Höchstgebot”) begins. After initial tactical restraint, the bids rise from minute to minute. A bidding battle between several well-to-be prospective bidders turns into a battle between three remaining bidders. After archives, research companies and similar interested parties have left, only private bidders, investment funds and speculators remain. After a series of trumpeting bids, a British music lover finally takes the race at the last second. The sheet music will be framed in his private collection near Coventry and will also be available to music lovers from all over the world.

Epilogue:

Sophia is thinking about what to do with the proceeds from the auction. After careful consideration, she decides to donate part of the proceeds to the convent of her aunt Gabriella for the hospice. She invests the rest of the proceeds in the purchase of a finca with sea views near

Alicante and realizes her dream of owning her own business by buying and renting a small bakery (25 „Reprise - Sophias Zukunft“).

Disclaimer:

The plot of the story is fictitious. Similarities with people still alive or already dead are unintentional and purely accidental.

The production:

Music composed, performed, recorded and mixed from June 2017 to December 2020 by Björn Leodolter. Produced by Björn Leodolter.

(C) Reichenstein 2165 - 09/2021.

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Requiescat in pace - Erinnerungen an alte Zeiten  
Das geheimnisvolle Notenblatt

Dr. Raphael Maria de Luz-Martinez - Woher, warum und wie?  
Monasterio de Valvanera - Gabriella

Die Sternennacht von Madrid - Madrid-London  
Tower Bridge, Trafalgar Square & Hyde Park

Die Spurensuche geht weiter - London-Amsterdam-Paris  
Souvenirs du Montmartre - L'academie de musique

Fernando und Sophia - Francesca

Der Wahrheit ein Stück näher - Das alte Schloss  
Signora Caterina - Wiener Luft - L'aria

Am Ziel und jetzt? - Die Versteigerung  
Wettlauf um das Höchstgebot - Reprise-Sophias Zukunft

1989: Bei der Auflösung des Hausstandes ihrer verstorbenen Eltern in Sevilla findet Sophia ein Notenblatt mit der handschriftlich erstellten Partitur eines klassischen Musikstücks. Da sie über keine ausreichenden Kenntnisse der klassischen Musik verfügt, holt sie eine Auskunft bei einem renommierten Musikexperten ein. Dieser äußert sich nach einer ersten Betrachtung der Partitur begeistert und vermutet eine frühe Version einer bekannten Arie hinter der Notation. Noch bevor der Wissenschaftler in der Lage ist, weitere Erkenntnisse in Erfahrung zu bringen, macht sich S.H.d.L. wieder mit dem Notenblatt auf den Weg nach Hause und ist fest entschlossen, selbst Nachforschungen anzustellen.

Wie, wann und warum ist ihre Familie zu dem Notenblatt gekommen?

Da die Vernetzung innerhalb der Familie und die damit verbundenen Kontakte über die Generationen nachgelassen haben, beginnt für Sophia eine Reise durch halb Europa...

Die Geschichte ist frei erfunden und jede Ähnlichkeit mit lebenden oder verstorbenen Personen wäre rein zufällig und ungewollt (außer mit den im Text erwähnten historischen Persönlichkeiten).