

In memoriam

URVE LIPPUS

5 March 1950 – 13 May 2015

On 13 May 2015 we lost a main figure behind the foundation of the Estonian Musicological Society and a long-time Head of the Department of Musicology at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre – Professor Urve Lippus. She came from a family of well-known musicians: her father, Endel Lippus, was a violinist, her mother, Virve Lippus, a pianist. In 1975, she graduated from the Tallinn State Conservatory (now Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre) as a musicologist and started work at the Institute of Estonian Language and Literature. She was offered employment at the Institute by influential linguist Mart Rimmel who was interested in developing musicology in Estonia. She defended her candidate dissertation at the Moscow State Conservatory in 1985, worked 1992–1993 as researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, and defended her PhD in 1995 at the University of Helsinki. Her doctoral thesis received an award from the Cultural Endowment Foundation of Estonia. In today's structure of research organization in Estonia, the candidate and PhD are doctorate degrees of academic equivalence, but in those times, a thesis defended in Moscow was implicitly considered inferior to the one defended elsewhere, preferably in the West. Thus the PhD from Helsinki considerably helped Urve to strengthen her academic position as a researcher in Estonia.

Gradually Urve Lippus's professional activities shifted towards the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (EAMT). From 1990 until recently she was Head of its Musicology Department (originally: Chair of Music History). Urve Lippus's greatest organizational achievement was the establishment and development of a contemporary musicology curriculum at the levels of bachelor, master and doctoral studies at the EAMT. For that she was awarded a prize from the Cultural Endowment Foundation of Estonia in 2010.

Urve Lippus's research interests were wide-ranging. She was particularly fascinated by Veljo Tormis's oeuvre and its relations with the runic song tradition of Baltic Finnish people. In the late

1990s, Tormis delivered a course of lectures as Professor of Liberal Arts at the University of Tartu. On the basis of those lectures and in cooperation with the composer, Urve compiled and edited a book entitled "Sung Word" ("Lauldud sõna") that was published in 2000. That book received the annual award from the Cultural Endowment Foundation of Estonia. It is to date the most meticulous and thorough study of Tormis's oeuvre. Among her most distinguished academic accomplishments is her work with the historical Estonian sound recordings from 1939 and the publication of this material in 2009 on 12 CDs accompanied by a substantial collection of articles. This major contribution received another annual award from the Cultural Endowment Foundation of Estonia.

Urve Lippus was devoted to preparing the publication of a new, comprehensive, co-authored treatise on Estonian music history. The nine volumes of the *Publications in Estonian Music History* that she compiled and edited, not to mention the articles she herself contributed, bear witness to this major undertaking. Numerous BA, MA and PhD theses in various musicological fields and on a wide variety of topics have been successfully completed under her supervision. As Head of the Department, Urve Lippus was tolerant and broad-minded in letting staff members operate in accordance with their own specific research interests. Her contribution to the development of the Department of Musicology at the EAMT is invaluable and enduring as was her work as an editor of most of the EAMT's academic publications. Additionally, in 2009 she founded the musicology yearbook *Res Musica* and served as the editor in chief for its first six volumes.

Urve will be sadly missed and fondly remembered. She leaves behind a devoted son with his family, as well as her sister and brother with their families, not to mention her many appreciative colleagues and her numerous grateful students.

Estonian Musicological Society
Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre