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### Letter of reference – Elisabeth Belgrano

Elisabeth Belgrano first contacted me as I was finalizing my own dissertation, a phenomenological study on the experience of a present-day singer of early Italian baroque opera, Monteverdi in particular. I found it remarkable that a Swedish singer-researcher would be approaching similar questions and a similar repertoire from a somewhat similar point of view as I was, and would defend her dissertation on the same year as I did.

Since then there have been several significant points of contact (in addition to the frequent exchange of ideas and experiences via email and social media): The Embodiment of Authority Conference (Helsinki 2010) as well the Doctors in Performance Conference (Helsinki 2014) for which we planned together a session with two other musician-researchers. For the last meeting in Gothenburg (2015) Elisabeth brought together a group of teachers and students with such experts in vocal music research as John Potter and Konstantin Thomaidis.

What was it about her that convinced me and continues to do so? Firstly, her expertise on Monteverdi as well as on 17<sup>th</sup>-century French music is most impressive. Secondly, and even more importantly, her commitment to developing novel artistic research methods in the field of vocal music research is admirable. She has created a new way of doing research on historical performing practices, based on a thorough knowledge of the repertoire and relevant historical sources but anchored firmly on the here-and-now experience of the present-day singer. Her innovations in the field of methodology can certainly be shared with others involved in the artistic research of music. Thirdly, I admire her skill and determination in bringing together people to share their views in a true dialogue – an essential, valuable asset in the academia - her latest project in the area of creating spaces for dialogue and research collaboration being the Nordic Network for Vocal Performance Research.

When, as with Elisabeth, such knowledge, experience and vision connects with the desire to bring people together, the wish to offer them the space and time for constructive dialogue, and the perseverance to organize such meetings, there is a potential for productive learning and fruitful collaboration in the field of artistic research for students and colleagues alike.

I support her recruitment with pleasure.

Respectfully,

**Päivi Järviö**, DMus

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