

## **Methods used by Western-European classical singers and singing teachers in order to achieve text intelligibility**

*Veeda Kala, Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre*

Western-European classical singing is a rather long-standing cultural phenomenon and tradition. Although singing consists of both melody and text carrying meaning, it often remains incomprehensible to listeners what the singers are singing about. In spite of many publications on Western-European classical singing and its technique, there are very few scientific approaches focused on this problem, and even these remain rather theoretical and descriptive.

In this research, an attempt is made to find out what are the knowledge, values and most valued techniques of today's professional singers in achieving text intelligibility. In order to have an overview of the values, practices and main sources of support in working with and teaching the text, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 20 professional singers from the most important Estonian institutions. The results of this inquiry can provide an input for further research in the field of sung text intelligibility and possibilities of improvement.