

24th GERMAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010

第24回 ジャーマン・オープン・チャンピオンシップ2010 (report and photo by Fuad Topic, Croatia)

The 24th international dance sport championship "German Open Championship" or GOC for short, has just finished in Stuttgart (Germany). From 17th till 21st August more than 4500 dance couples from 47 countries took part in the competitions. All age groups of Amateur dancers from Juveniles, Juniors, Youths, Adults to Seniors I, II and III in Standard and Latin, participated in the competitions. Professionals in Standard and Latin dances competed there as well. Participants in the all competitions were of a very high level of dance skill. Judges in all competitions were from different countries and they were divided into different teams for several competitions. As a satellite of the main event, the European Boogie Woogie championship was also held.

The following basic question should be in the minds of visitors. What attracts the world's dance community to Stuttgart on GOC in such great numbers? The root of an answer could be found in the history of GOC. As is well known, the choreographer and dance coach Harry Korner from the German federal state Baden Wurttemberg, wanted to organize in one place a dance competition for all ages and class groups, amateurs and even professionals in Standard and Latin dances. As a model, Harry Korner had in mind the Blackpool Dance Festival in England, which has a very long tradition. In 1984, Harry Korner put his idea to the public, looking for help from all relevant factors of the German Dance Association and from the biggest German dance clubs. In the years that followed Harry Korner, together with his companions, succeeded in preparation of the first German Open Championship, which was held in Mannheim in September 1987. Mannheim is the second biggest city in the German federal state of Baden Wurttemberg. It lies on the confluence of two rivers, the Rhine and the Neckar. Mannheim was a fishermen's village until the seventeenth century, when it became a city. Throughout the history, Mannheim has been also the home of famous poets and musicians from Germany and from abroad. The first dance competition was held in the beautiful Mannheim Rosengarten (The garden of roses) Festhall - the building which was the old festival hall of the city. In the competitions about 800 couples, from different parts of Germany and from neighboring countries, took part in the first Championship. It is very important to point out that from the very beginning the organizers put the accent on the competitive side of the dance and not on dance as a show. The second dance championships were held in the same place but in June 1988.

At the beginning of the 1990's, new political changes enabled the arrival of a great number of dancers from eastern European countries so that the number of participants was doubled and the duration of the dance championship extended. From that time, the number of dancers that have taken part in the competitions has constantly grown. In 2001, at the 15th GOC, the number of dancers from 49 countries exceeded 2600 couples.

In the year of 2004, GOC moved to a new home in Stuttgart Kultur und Kongresszentrum Liederhalle (Culture and Congress Centre) because of some organizational problems in Mannheim. Stuttgart is the biggest city in the German federal state Baden Wurttemberg. It was given its name after the stud farm (stuetgarten) (stout means a mare, and garten means a garden) in one of the old German dialects. In Roman times that place was known as Condostat. Today, the biggest city district has the name Bad Cannstatt. Stuttgart is well known as the city in which the automobile was invented and is sometimes mentioned as "The cradle of the automobile". Stuttgart is also known as the home of the famous automobile brand Mercedes.

In comparison with Mannheim Rosengarten, Stuttgart Kultur und Kongresszentrum Liederhalle is quite a new edifice. In the beginning (the 1960's) this Cultural Centre was a concert hall that was completely refurbished in 1991 and later became a multipurpose edifice. After that, the edifice became a few new halls. All of them except one, were given names after very famous German musicians and philosophers. There are Mozartsaal, Beethovensaal, Silchersaal, Hegelsaal and Alte Reithalle which can all be converted into ballrooms. The Liederhalle has a few ballrooms. All of them are different from each other according to their shape, size, dimensions of the dance floor and position of the audience. Also, the ballrooms are situated on different levels. Some of them are in the basement while the others are at the first floor. In spite of that fact, all rooms and all working spaces are excellently interconnected with escalators, lifts, staircases and passages. The whole Congress Centre looks like a labyrinth, but the signs towards restrooms, dressing rooms or ballrooms are quite clear and easily visible. At the check-in desk during the registration, couples are given written instructions in German and English, which help dancers to find dressing rooms or ballrooms and to avoid unpleasant situations.

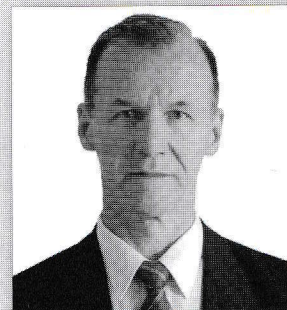
The world dancers have fantastic opportunities in the Congress Centre. The dance floor in all ballrooms have excellent dancing quality, one hotel is quite close to and inside the Congress Centre during the Championship there is a huge fair selling dance equipment and different items which dancers need. It could be said that the dancers have almost all they need in one place. Dressing rooms especially designed for Seniors are unique if we compare them with the dressing rooms of other dance championships. Beside the full size mirrors and enough hangers, there are small cabinets suitable for making up. Everything is very clean and tidy. These and a lot of others well integrated facilities, make GOC in many aspects a unique place for dancing events. Because of that, good dancers from all over the world come to compete for medals or for the ranking on the IDSF scale in the best possible conditions. Because of that, over the years the number of participants in the competitions reached 5000 couples in the year of 2007 and with small variations retained almost the same until the 24th GOC in the year of 2010. Frankly, it could be said that it is pleasantly worth and taking part in the competitions of the German Open Championship.

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ファウド・トピック

心理学、ダンス生理学、写真、音楽などを趣味に持つ職業病医学分野の理学修士。以前はアマチュアの10ダンスに出場していたが、現在はシニア・ラテンに出場。



ブラックプールの終わると、8月にはそれに匹敵する規模と言われるジャーマン・オープンが開催されます。この記事は毎年参加されているクロアチア在住のF.トピック氏から寄せられたもので、本大会の歴史的背景が詳しく書かれた、大変興味深い内容となっています。使用写真、およびウイング・ノートにあるスティリアン・オープンの記事も同氏から寄せられたものです。

ドイツのシュトゥットガルトで開催された今年のジャーマン・オープンには、47カ国から4500組を超えるダンサーが参加しました。アマチュアのジュビナイル、ジュニア、ユース、アダルト、シニア (I, II, III) の他、プロのスタンダードとラテン部門が行われ、様々な国から招聘されたジャッジ陣が審査にあたりました。参加者のレベルはどの部門においても非常に高かったです。特別イベントとしてヨーロッパ・ブギウギ大会も行われました。なぜこの地にこんなに多くの参加者が? 大会を訪れた人達はきっとそうした疑問を抱くことでしょう。その答えはこの大会の歴史にあるかも知れません。

ダンスのコリオグラファーでコーチャーでもあったハリー・コーナーは(バーデン・ヴェルテンベルク出身)、歴史あるブラックプールのモデルに、あらゆる年齢層のアマチュアが参加でき、かつ、プロの部門もある大会が開ける場所を捜し、1987年9月、第1回のジャーマン・オープン選手権をマンハイムで開催するに至りました。ライン川とネッカー川の合流地点にあるマンハイムは17世紀までは小さな漁村でしたが、歴史を通じて常にドイツ内外の著名な詩人や音楽家の居住の地でした。第1回大会はローズガーデンと呼ばれる古いホールで行われ、約800組が参加しました。ここで特記すべきことは、この大会が、最初から競技に主眼が置かれたショー的要素のないものだったことです。第2回は1988年に開催されました。90年代に入ると政治的变化により東欧からの参加者が増えたことで倍増し、2001年第15回大会には49カ国から2600組の参加がありました。

組織上の問題で、マンハイムの拠点は2004年に同州最大都市のシュトゥットガルトのコングレス・センターに移されました。シュトゥットガルトは自動車が発明された地として、また、メルセデス・ベンツがあることで知られています。因みに、この地名は古いドイツの方言で「雌馬の庭」の意味です。60年代はコンサートホールだったシュトゥットガルト会場は、91年に改修され、後に複合施設として生まれ変わりました。この州のホールにはモーツァルト、ベートーベン、ジルヒャー、ヘーゲル等の音楽家や哲学者の名前が付けられており、ボールルームとしても使用が可能です。その中の一つ、リートホールには幾つかのボールルームがあり、一つ一つの大きさも、形状も、客席の位置も異なり、それぞれ別々の階上に置かれています。加えて、ホール内の移動がスムーズにできるよう機能的に設計されており、一見、迷路のようでも迷うことはありません。

シュトゥットガルト会場のフロアは素晴らしく踊りやすく、大会期間中にはダンス関係の品々を扱うショップが数多く開かれるため、必要なものを全て揃えることができます。控室(特にシニア向け)は十分な大きさの鏡、不足ないハンガー、化粧用の整理棚も用意されているため、不快な思いをすることはありません。そのため、世界中から優れたダンサーが数多く集まり、'07年には5000組を超え、その後ほぼ同じレベルで推移しているのも頷けます。参加者の一人として一言感想を述べると、ジャーマン・オープンに参加していく実に気持ちの良い大会です。(各部門の上位入賞者は右の英文記事をご参照下さい)

The medallists of the 24th German Open Championship in several adult categories were;

Professional Standard

1. Mirko Gozzoly and Edita Daniute (Italy)
2. Domenico Soale and Gioia Cerasaly (Italy)
3. Sasha Karabey and Natascha Karabey (Germany)

Professional Latin

1. Franco Formica and Oxana Lebedew (Germany)
2. Andrey Skufca and Melinda Torokgyorgy (Slovenia)
3. Markus Homm and Ksenia Kasper (Germany)

Professional Rising Stars Standard

1. Oliver Rehder and Jasmin Rehder (Germany)
2. Alexey Troshin and Ekaterina Kirillova (Russia)
3. Weiko Ratas and Helena Liiv (Estonia)

Professional Rising Stars Latin

1. Daniel Gozzi and Cecilia Giovocchini (USA)
2. Alessandro Camerotto and Nancy Berti (Italy)
3. Markku Nyvarinen and Disa Korteleinen (Finland)

IDSF Grand Slam Standard

1. Benedetto Ferruggia and Klaudia Kohler (Germany)
2. Emanuel Valeri and Tania Kehlet (Denmark)
3. Simone Segatori and Annette Sudol (Germany)

IDSF Grand Slam Latin

1. Alexey Silde and Anna Firstova (Russia)
2. Zoran Plohl and Tatsiana Lahvinovich (Croatia)
3. Andrey Zaitsev and Anna Kuzminskaya (Russia)

Rising Stars Standard

1. Alexey Glukhov and Glazunova Anastasia (Russia)
2. Paul Lorenz and Ekaterina Leonova (Germany)
3. Ronalds Abols and Santa Vitenberga (Latvia)

Rising Stars Latin

1. Vincenzo Marinell and Sara Casini (Italy)
2. Pavel Zvychnyy and Sarah-Sophie Ritz (Germany)
3. Joel Lopez Gomez and Kristina Bespechnova (Spain)

IDSF Senior I Standard

1. Stefano Bernardini and Stefania Martellini (Italy)
2. Tasilo Lax and Sabine Lax (Germany)
3. Mirko Francesconi and Milena Cervell (Italy)

IDSF Senior I Latin

1. Gwenael Lavigne and Stephanie Godet (France)
2. Daniele Ferraris and Antonella Ciccirelli (Italy)
3. Andreas Hoffmann and Isabel Kruger (Germany)

IDSF Senior II Standard

1. Michael Lindner and Beate Lindner (Germany)
2. Bernd Farwick and Petra Voosholz (Germany)
3. Giovanni Arnaldo Ciotti and Annalis Risi (Italy)

IDSF Senior II Latin

1. Manuel Ramirez Moreno and Julia Lopez (Spain)
2. Nikolay Orlov and Tatiana Nikolaeva (Russia)
3. Arturo Cordoba and Victoria Hernandez (Spain)

IDSF Senior III Standard

1. Vitam Kodelj and Barbara Kodelj (Slovenia)
2. Bo Nistrom and Monica Hogmark (Sweden)
3. Christian Bohm and Elizabeth Striegan (Germany)