
For the
Love
of Art



PIERINO AMBROSOLI
Foundation

Research into the family history of Ms Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli shows that patronage on the maternal side of the Ambrosoli-Knieser family (see Sonja Bragowa) existed as early as the beginning of the 20th century:

Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli's great uncle, Friedrich Hauber, a successful entrepreneur from Schwäbisch-Gmünd (southern Germany) was a lover of the fine arts and supported painting, music, and dance.

A recently rediscovered bookplate, beautifully etched by the famous Swabian painter Reinhold Nägele, depicts Friedrich Hauber, who was himself a musically gifted person, playing music. *As long as there has been art, there have been patrons with the conviction that art is beneficial to society and who have been willing and able to financially support the arts. Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli from Ticino, Switzerland is such a person.*

In 1990, she dedicated part of her estate to establish the Pierino Ambrosoli Foundation, located at Kreuzstrasse 78 in Zürich.

In memory of her parents, the entrepreneur Pierino Ambrosoli, from whom she received a considerable inheritance, and the expressive dancer Sonja Bragowa, to whom she owes her love of dance, Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli through her foundation primarily supports young, talented dancers, but also musicians

and filmmakers.

The foundation awards training scholarships and production grants, it offers counselling for young dancers and their parents, it collaborates with selected schools, cultural institutions, theatres, and dance companies, and it functions as a mediator for auditions for international juries and competitions.

It sponsors prizes for e.g. the Prix de Lausanne.

In 1999, the then 15-year-old Laetitia Guggi received the "Prix du Meilleur Suisse", funded by the foundation. In 2000, the Russian Sergej Kheilik received the "Prix Espoir" for a year of training sponsored by the Pierino Ambrosoli Foundation.

Aspiring professional dancers of any nationality between the ages of 15 and 18 can apply for a training scholarship, provided they already have adequate schooling in classical dance. From more than 100 applications received each year, the foundation's president and a panel of experts select eight to ten worthy applicants each year to receive a scholarship for one to two years in one of the 15 schools worldwide that the Ambrosoli Foundation recognises. In Switzerland, students of the Ecole-atelier Rudra Béjart in Lausanne and the Swiss Professional Ballet School SBBS in Zürich are supported. At the suggestion of the SBBS management, for exam-





ple, during the school years 97/98 and 98/99, the Finnish Mia Kivelä, born in 1983, was sponsored by the foundation. *Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli is concerned not only with promoting classical ballet but also modern or contemporary dance, as well as music and film.*

In individual cases, the foundation also supports young people in associated arts. For example, this year Mona Pête from eastern Switzerland received a second grant for her training at the Circus School for Artistic in Berlin. Once the talents have finished their schooling in the formal sense, they enter the practical phase of apprenticeship, during which the foundation provides support through monthly contributions. In this way, the foundation has already helped some of its scholarship recipients to secure engagements with renowned ballet and dance companies.

Some artists aspire not to join a dance company but to create something on their own. Such artists are typically even more dependent on a patron. A Swiss ensemble supported by the Ambrosoli Foundation – partly because it combines dance, artistry, and music in an innovative way – is the Metzger/Zimmermann/de Perrot trio. The success of its debut “Gopf” proves that the foundation has a good nose for talent. The companies “Nomades” and “Linga” from western Switzerland also owe their development in part to the foundation.

In addition to supporting selected individuals or groups, Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli is also committed to supporting broader issues in the arts. For example, she supported “Not Just Any Body”, an international conference held last November in Toronto and The Hague. The conference dealt with the health situation of dancers and current training and treatment methods. In order to make the foundation’s activities and offers transparent and accessible to the public, a website was set up, which went online in December 1999. To learn more about the foundation, go to www.ambrosoli.org, where you can even download the application form for a training scholarship.

Christina Thurner - dance magazine „tanz-la danse suisse“ - May 2000

Update:

As of 2022, the Pierino Ambrosoli Foundation has largely concluded its scholarship programme. The foundation now considers new applications for scholarships in exceptional cases only.

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