



Mihaela Buhaiciuc

When Human Emotions meet Technology

A study of Tod Machover's opera:

Death and the Powers, the Robot opera

My current study offers an assessment: that melody can be identified in the most unusual musical architecture of today's composed opera; and that emotional delivery and communication in the singing art occur still through text, audio-visual, and now, as never before, through technology.

In order to demonstrate this, I have chosen one single opera, perhaps the newest, but certainly the most innovating of the 21st century, a masterpiece, that has been in the spotlight since its premiere in 2010 and whose music, libretto and performing production may seem controversial to some of the traditional – oriented performers and audiences. It is Tod Machover's *Death and the Powers, the Robot opera*. My presentation also highlights the importance of sustaining innovation in the opera as a need to naturally adapt to the new conduct of life.

Mihaela Buhaiciuc is currently a full-time voice faculty at *Transylvania University* of Braşov where she coordinates the vocal performance area. Her teaching experience includes ten years in the U.S.A. for University of Mobile (full-time) and Stony Brook University, New York (assistant). She has been awarded the *Megginson Research Award* for 2010 by the University of Mobile. Buhaiciuc has presented works at the Royal Academy of Music in London, UK; the International Academic Forum, Osaka, Japan; International Congress of Voice Teachers, Paris, France; George Enesco International Festival in New York City. She is the author of the book: *The Art of Singing. The Science of Emotions*, published in 2014 in the USA.



Her repertoire includes works from Renaissance to postmodernism. Her operatic repertoire includes roles such as Mozart's Susanna, Despina, Zerlina; Haendel's Nerone; Bizet's Micaela; Britten's Miles, Mrs. Hayes in Floyd's Suzannah among others. Buhaiciuc performed in the U.S.A., and Europe with Mobile Opera, Stony Brook Opera of SBU New York, South Florida Lyric Opera Co., and Braşov Opera, Romania.

Buhaiciuc directs the Braşov International Summer Voice program, an intense training program for aspiring singers. She holds a Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in vocal performance from Stony Brook University, New York.