

## **Singing knows no frontiers - the hymn Paula Romanescu**

The historical context mostly assumes that a text has wide resonance, going beyond, even ignoring it. Yet, when what all the world understands is pain, the doors of the mind remain open, and people are stepping out of the shadows to bring their meanings to the light of expression. In 1993, at the Summit for Francophones on the Saint-Maurice island, where governors from almost 50 countries participated, and the French language was the official language, Romania became a member with full rights in the worldwide francophone language, adding a wonderful crown of light, whether as Branches, Enescu, Cioran, Eliade, Ionesco or Anna Brancoveanu, or simply as Romanians.

How can we take the bird's song from the French sky? But how are we to express the song of the bird who „sang all life and death for us”? How to convey the essence of flight in which birds and sky are one? How can you express the earth and love? That is a place where death can't be. How can you make a stranger to understand what's in our language. Some of us have chosen this country of light and sun where, like the wind, we know no borders, this country that embraces all the world: the world of words. Didn't Cioran say that the country where you live is a language? If this chosen country has the language of Pascal, the son of the country - language - will be raised as word to the light as just as, at the highest level, carpatian trees smell on that mountain where human beings gave birth to the word "dor" (to want something, a word specific Romanians)? Our Romanian streets, known as well as imagined, teach us us that beyond every horizon there remains something to touch, a place where we have never been: a friend's hand, a welcome sign or something that we didn't know would happen. Another story, a new beginning.

The poem "J'ai cherche mes amis inconnus" followed me from the day when I was walking on the map of France, the country whose language I had taught for 30 years, but which I had never seen. Somewhere, on Loar's valley, not far from Loches, the name of the city of Montrésor caught my attention. Mon tresor...my treasure... I think that people are there too and that we have a lot to talk about. Later, I actually visited Mon- tresor, a small city that has a fortress from the XV'th century and a church built in the same period, there were young people, students and old people that had all the same problems as people anywhere on earth.

My song came from the need to communicate with these people. The language I chose was the song of birds from the world of Enescu and Brancusi, as a free pass passport. The first verse contains pure Romanian elements in which „I" am dressed for celebration. The second verse comes from French poetry: „B de J.P.", a well-known poem in France. With the "Barbara de Jacques Prevert" poem, well known for the France people. In 1991 Romania, being as of right a fully Francophone country, was entitled to take part in a competition for a literary creation sponsored by the Terpsichore-Europoezie magazine. The poem had the title "Pour faire le portrait d'un pays" and was awarded the "Regard sur le monde". It was included in the volume "Hypocrite Poete, mon semblable, mon frere" (EdHelicon Editure, Timisoara, 1995), and set to music by Laurentiu Profeta. Liana Lungu recorded it for the radio with another 11 songs, settings of verses by Eminescu, Blaga, Paraschivescu in Paula Romanescu's and Romulus Vulpescu French version.

The title song of the cassette is "Chant a la francophonie", and was presented at the francophony session in December 1998, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There it was proposed that this song could be the international francophone song and His Excellency Boutros Ghali was very impressed by this hymn.

But it wasn't approved. For a hymn to become international it needs to contain all the world's soul and the hymn " Chant a la francophonie" is just a "beau cadeau qui va droit au coeur"... a declaration of love for the French language, in which you can find Romanian and France culture.

Laurentiu Profeta's music has roots and sounds that remind us of Romanian ballads, the flute's song or other popular instruments, mountain springs can be heard high up, „sous le ciel de la francophonie". As a symbol of "on ne voit bien qu'avec le coeur, l'essentiel est invisible pour les yeux", a well-known phrase from the "Little Prince's" philosophy written by Antoine de Saint Exupery (1900-1944) where "le langage - source de malentendus" becomes the usual method of communication in a multi cultural universe in which the French language is privileged in a 50-55% proportion as a foreign language taught in school.

This song is included in the French language manual for the seventh grade, printed by Humanitas Editure in 1999, where the song "J'ai cherché mes amis inconnus" it is "une invitation au voyage" in a world in which we don't need to feel strangers because we are giving something to the "wonder crown" of the world, in a world of the understanding in which we will have only our smiles as passports. Maybe it is an a utopia someday it will happen, and for that we need to do something now.