

For the love of art

Investigations made into the history of Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli's family arose that already on the mother's side of the family Ambrosoli-Knieser a patron of the art existed at the beginning of the 19th century (Sonja Bragowa). The grand uncle of Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli, Friedrich Hauber, was a successful businessman from Schwäbisch-Gmünd (South Germany), was also an enthusiast of the fine arts. He supported painting, music and dance.

On the re-discovered ex-libris etching by the famous Swabian painter Reinhold Nägele one recognises the person of Friedrich Hauber who has been an artistic person himself playing music.

As long as art exists, there will be art-lovers who are convinced that art serves humanity and who are willing and able to support the arts financially. Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli from Ticino, Switzerland, is one of these people. In 1990, she used part of her inheritance to found the Pierino Ambrosoli Foundation at Kreuzstrasse 78, Zurich. She established this foundation in memory of her parents, the businessman Pierino Ambrosoli, from whom she inherited her fortune, and the dancer Sonja Bragowa, from whom she inherited her love of dance. Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli's foundation is particularly supportive of talented young dancers, but also furthers the careers of aspiring musicians and filmmakers. The foundation subsidises training courses and contributes towards art productions; it offers counselling for young dancers and their parents and co-operates with selected schools and other institutions promoting culture, as well as with theatres and dance companies. It acts as an agency for auditions, international juries and contests, as well as sponsoring prizes for the Prix de Lausanne and other competitions. In 1999, 15-year old Laetitia Gugli received the "Prix du Meilleur Suisse" from the funds of the foundation. In 2000, the Russian Sergej Kheilik received the "Prix Espoir" for a year's training, donated by the foundation.

Aspiring professional dancers of all nationalities between the ages of 15 and 18 may apply to the foundation for a grant, provided they have sufficient preliminary training in classical dance. Over a hundred young hopefuls apply for a grant each year. Eight to ten candidates are then selected by the foundation's president, together with a panel of experts, as being sufficiently talented to receive a scholarship to one of fifteen schools worldwide recognised by the Ambrosoli Foundation. In Switzerland, students of the Ecole-atelier Rudra Béjart in Lausanne and of the Swiss Professional School of Ballet (SBBS) in Zurich are supported by the foundation. In the period 97/98 and 98/99, for example, Mia Kivelä from Finland (born 1983) was sponsored by the foundation on the strength of a recommendation from the SBBS administration.

Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli is not only interested in classical ballet, but also promotes modern and contemporary dance, music and filmmaking. In a few instances, her foundation has also supported young people in related fields of art. Thus Mona Pête from Eastern Switzerland received a grant this year for the second time to attend the School of Circus Arts in Berlin. After completing their course, students can apply for a trainee's post, where they will gain practical experience. They receive monthly grants for an apprentice year at a theatre or with a dance company. In this way, the foundation has helped many young Dancers to find an engagement with a renowned Ballet- or Dance Company.

Those who are not content with being a member of the corps de ballet and want to branch out on their own are usually even more dependent on benevolent patronage. One example is the Trio Metzger/Zimmermann/de Perrot, a Swiss ensemble supported by the Ambrosoli Foundation thanks to its innovative combination of dance, artistic expression and music. The success of their first presentation "Gopf" proves that the foundation has a good feel for talent. The dance companies "Nomades" and "Linga" from Western Switzerland are also indebted to the foundation for their success.

Apart from promoting specific people or groups, Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli is also interested in supporting the arts in general. Last November, she helped to organise international conferences in Toronto and The Hague on the theme "Not Just Any Body", focussing on the health aspect of dancing and modern methods of training and treatment. In December 1999, a website was created to publicise the activities and projects of the foundation. For further information, please call up www.ambrosoli.org If required, you can simply download the registration form for a scholarship.