

## LAUDATIO

**Dear Zoltán Majó,**

I have often said before that according to biblical time, the age of 60 years is the end of the first half and the beginning of the second half of human life, as it is also stated in Genesis 6. Today, we gladly note that although the first half of your life is over, and ten minutes have passed from the second half as well, it wasn't an average life. We are also particularly pleased that this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year that you are teaching at the Faculty of Reformed Theology of the Babeş-Bolyai University.

In 1999, I was truly worried about music teaching at our Faculty, i.e. I really missed instrument teaching. I believed that it is quite useful for a religion teacher, and any teacher for that matter to play a portable and easy-to-use instrument at school. It helps a lot in music teaching. This is how the flute and the guitar came into focus, as well as Mr. Zoltán Majó, whom I have previously known. Our children have gone to kindergarten and school together. Those were great times indeed.

Now that we are celebrating your 70-minute and 20-year-long playing time, I, as the oldest member of the teaching staff, would like to thank you primarily for your work at the University. I have always admired you for this work.



I knew that at the Apáczai Csere János High School and at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy you are doing a tremendous amount of work, and you also have a lot of concerts, rehearsals and performances, however, regardless of all this, you have accepted my request to do instrument teaching at our Faculty as well. You have taught hundreds and hundreds of students how to cover those little holes, how to adjust their lips and tongues, how to read music properly in order to create sound from the air blown into the instrument, and how to turn that sound into music and art. You further did this, even when we were able to turn music into a stand-alone major, the subsidy was getting lower and the hourly rate dropped. The building of our Faculty was always filled with flute music, and the various wind instruments have been played not only at your concerts, but also at the concerts of the Faculty students.

We are therefore glad, that your professional career does not only have such milestones like the teacher training classes of the Apáczai Csere János High School, the A.Bena Music School, the Gh.Dima Music Academy, the Romanian Opera of Cluj, the Flauto Dolce and the Baroc Transylvania ensembles, and almost 600 domestic and foreign concerts, but there is a milestone that says 20 years at the Faculty of Reformed Theology.

We, teachers and students alike, are highly grateful for being a small pearl in your artistic rosary, and for being able to enrich your Professional Curriculum in such a way that it actually enriches us with the music technology, the art of sounds, the dynamics of the music and its wrinkle-smoothing softness, all of the above represented by Zoltán Majó among us.

In the Old Testament we often read about solo singers, men and women alike, musicians, bands, composers, lyricists, but we also read about an interesting duo, a man and a woman. This is Deborah, the female singer, and Barak the male singer (Judges 5). After the victorious battle against the Canaanites, the two of them sing. I would like to highlight two ideas from this duo.

Firstly, in verse 3 of the chapter, we read, *“I, even I, will sing to the Lord; I will praise the Lord, the God of Israel, in song.”* It is clear from this verse that the whole song, both the melody and the lyrics, i.e. the whole duo, is not about and not meant for anyone else, but the Lord. Music is a praise of God, which is not primarily meant to satisfy people’s artistic pleasure, but it is something that God is delighted in. So, let us pay attention to this idea: music is a God-pleasing art.

Dear Zoltán Majó, we wholeheartedly wish that you remain a God-pleasing artist for a very long time, playing the flute, the whistle, the drum, the lute, the cymbal and the harp.

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Secondly, in the last verse of the chapter we read: *“But may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength. Then the land had peace forty years.”* The artists Deborah and Barak loved God. They sang to him and shone for a lifetime like the rising sun in its strength. Artists are capable of this. They can shed light and warmth upon those who are cold and living in the dark. And what is the effect of this? The land had peace, i.e. the earth was full of Shalom, peace for many decades.

Dear Zoltán Majó, we all wish that you remain for many decades not only a God-pleasing artist of Transylvanian society and our music loving students, but also one that fills the earth with peace, in order for the strength of the rising sun to fill our hearts with peace as well.

***Ad multos annos dear Zoltán Majó!***

Warmest regards,

**János Molnár<sup>1</sup>**

*Translated by Magyari Renáta*

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