Life goes in circles!

Many years ago, a fantastic person, Eri Klas, invited me to the Estonian National Opera and I stepped into a whole new world – Estonia! Jüri Krjukov was my Cicero and he taught me to love and understand Estonia. It was a changing world that looked back to its roots, but proudly built its nation into a free and strong country for the future. I was proud to be part of the Baltic Chain, linking hands through the three Baltic countries, and I was privileged to be present when the Estonian flag was raised again, this time by a free nation. Simultaneously, we were rehearsing for Bock's "Fiddler on the Roof" (1989), and at the premier I found myself crying with pride and happiness along with all the actors and the audience! It was the beginning of a love story for me with this country – I had drunk the "L'elisir", the potion offered to me, and now consider Estonia my second home.

By now, I have directed over 20 productions in Estonia – a kaleidoscope of drama, opera and musicals: "Angels in America" (1996, Estonian Drama Theatre), "Les Miserables" (2001, Tallinna Linnahall), "Miss Saigon" (2002, Tallinna Linnahall), "Oliver" (2003, Tallinna Linnahall), "Cabaret" (2003, Russian Culture Center), "Rent" (2004, Club Hollywood), "Jesus Christ Superstar" (2004, Vanemuine Theatre), "Evita" (2009, Nokia Concert House), "Rain Man" (2010, Small House of the Vanemuine Theatre) and "Grease" (2013, Vanemuine Theatre) have left indelible images in my mind. After "Il barbiere di Siviglia" (1994), it has been 20 years since I have directed in the Estonian National Opera.

To be back again feels like another circle has been completed. It has been a happy and pleasurable rehearsal period and the ensemble have given themselves totally to the process and have dug deep at the gold mine of this glorious comic opera. Donizetti's music and a very well written libretto has been a source of great joy in the creation of this production.

I hope that when you meet Nemorino, Adina, Belcore, Dulcamara and Giannetta, they will lead you through a love labyrinth and that you will be seduced by the message of love and joy in Donizetti's masterpiece.

I wish you all a very pleasurable experience!

Georg Malvius
Stage Director