

Translation of the narrative voices of the documentary
Rados zo zivota
produced by Slovak television
in honor of *Lucia Popp*

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0.03

My dear father, you know I've never taken anything more seriously than my freedom

0.11

Today she returns after many important years spent abroad. The world-famous soprano returns as a winner: Mrs. LUCIA POPOVA '

0.20

The soprano Lucia Popova was admired by audiences all over the world and famous her colleagues of opera called her "The Miracle of Creation". For her vocal and expressive abilities she was appreciated by world famous conductors such as: Leonard Bernstein, Karlos Kleiber and Herbert von Karajan.

0.39

During the 30 years of the opera career Lucia Popova has interpreted many unforgettable characters: Queen of the Night and Pamina in the Magic Flute, Sofia in Rosenkavalier, Susanna and Contessa in the Marriage of Figaro, Elsa and Eva in the works of Wagner.

0.54

With her talent she has conquered the whole world. Music has become her home. The woman who emigrated was always proud of her country and of her people. In Slovakia she was able to sing officially only after the fall of communism.

2.00 - Otto Schenk - director

I remember. Once, in Milan, she played the role of Sofia under the direction of Karlos Kleiber, and under my stage direction. Il coro di Milano, which is very critical, was full of untrusting singers. Lucia started singing the passage of the Silver Rose and after a while I realized how she began to change the expression on the faces of the choristers, "THIS IS A MIRACLE". The miracle at the Scala in Milan.

2.44 - Peter Dvorsky - tenor

I have heard some tapes because they came even earlier, when there was the "Iron Curtain" [the period of communism]. I heard Lucia playing the role of the Queen of the Night. It was an emotion that I will remember for a lifetime. Not there was a lot of talk about it I would say, but we can say that she was the best Queen of the Night.

3.11 - Ursula Tamussino - friend and biographer

She was one of the last opera singers who had an absolutely unmistakable voice and expression. Turning on the radio and hearing the first note, it was clear to everyone: this is Lucia Popp. This no longer happens in this context [the context of opera].

3.30 Otto Schenk

Her heart seemed to sing, not her

3.39

She was born in 1939. she often spent her childhood in Zahorskej Vsy. Since she was her only daughter, she was dating her uncle Milan who was eleven years older than her.

3.50 - uncle Milan

We used to go with friends to collect chestnuts. She came with us. She used to climb trees too, but at a certain moment We could hear screams. Lucia did not know how to get off the tree. Since she always wanted to climb with us, we tied her foot to the tree with a 3-meter long rope. So she could obviously move but she couldn't go up. "Don't say it at home" - And she "I won't say it"

4.31

His father, Rudolf Pop, worked for the diplomatic services. In the 1950s he worked in the Czechoslovakian embassy in London as a cultural ambassador..

4.43 - Ursula Tamussino

The father was very important to Lucia. They were very close. She loved her mother too, but she had a much stronger feeling with her father.

4.53 Uncle Milan

Lucia had great respect for her father. She saw him as an example, a sincere, determined man. He remained a reference throughout her life. She always had a goal and always managed to achieve it. She one day she said "I have to learn to skate", and I taught her to skate She couldn't become a great skater, but she learned.

She was afraid to ride a bike. She couldn't find the balance, but she, insisting, she eventually learned. If we think of her singing, I must say that she sang like other children.

5.46

Lucia's mother when she was young she wanted to become a professional singer. Her dream never came true. She knew numerous opera arias and after a while Lucia began to accompany her mother on the piano.

6.03 - Zlatica Livorova - lyric singing teacher at the Bratislava Conservatory

Already when she was at "Lucnica" they told her that she is a flower. She was beautiful, a beautiful gentle creature.

6.12

When her parents worked abroad, Lucia lived with her grandmother in Bratislava. She toured with the folklore ensemble "Lucnica". Lucia saw "the big world" when she went to visit London with her parents. She was not yet seventeen when she attended the garden party in honor of Queen Elizabeth II. For such a young girl it was an experience and an unforgettable memory.

6.32 - Vaclav Chudik - Actor

In the sixties we met in a very natural way. We were preparing a production on "Mestiac slachticom".

6.47

Lucia should have become a doctor. Although her father was very strict, she supported her to become an actress.

7.02 -zio Milan

There were professors in the drama school. One of the teachers, Hrusovska, heard her sing and told her: "girl it's a shame to study acting, come and study singing"

7.30 - Hrusovska, singing teacher

I knew you were a smart girl and that you "felt" the music.

7.38 - Lucia

But the beginnings were very hard.

7.42 - Zlatica Livorova

We didn't think at the time that she was such a talented voice ... but how she has grown in two years! an excellent singer. When she sang the role of Rosina in the second year concert, we were all enthusiastic.

7.53 - Lucia

I remember when you once told me: "that DO is up there, in the corner ..." the others looked and didn't understand but I understood what you wanted to tell me.

8.09

At the end of the 1950s, a turning point took place. His father left the Communist Party and the role of ambassador and became a senior employee in the aqueduct. Thanks to him she managed to experience an atmosphere of greater freedom across the border.

8.24 - Chudik

It could feel the strength that she had inside her, her talent, her musicality and her nobility

8.36 - Lucia

I wanted to do something to be able to go out into the world, I wanted to see the world. I had to go to the sailors ... [and they laugh]

8.54 - uncle Milan

She basically finished school and she didn't know what she was going to do. She didn't have a job and they were reluctant to hire her because her father was marked ... and so they thought of sending her to Brno but unfortunately they didn't get any answers from there either.

9.15

At Lucia's essay - at the end of the degree course - everyone was happy, however her future was uncertain. Professor Hrusovska wrote a letter of recommendation to the Vienna State Opera for Lucia.

9.30 - uncle Milan

Had it been discovered that Hrusovska had written the letter for Lucia's hearing, she would have been arrested. It was the crime of aiding emigration

9.48 - Ursula Tamussino

With her mother they have planned a trip to Vienna by bus. They went to find her relatives, but Lucia also had a second purpose. She hoped to pass the singing exam. Her teacher, Mrs. Hrusovska, gave her the letter for an acquaintance of hers with whom she worked in theater administration. The acquaintance called the institution Opera. The audition was possible, but Lucia had to come immediately.

10.34 - Ursula Tamussino

They listened her and understood that it was something exceptional. They called directly the director of the Vienna theater, Herbert von Karajan, and asked him what they should do. He replied: "hire her for three years and then we'll see what to do". It all happened very quickly. Lucia that day had to decide whether to stay or go home; courage was needed, she didn't have much time to decide. She called her father and he said "STAY". Who knows how it ended if her decision had been to return.

11.14

Lucia has decided to stay. Her mother returned to Czechoslovakia without her

11.19 - Lucia

So she went home. I didn't even go to the station with her. They gave me some tranquilizers and I slept all afternoon. When I woke up she was already gone and at that moment I didn't know if I would see her again.

11.37 - Jaroslav Blaho

We knew that if she entered the free world, not only from the point of view of political conditions but above all from the artistic point of view where there were all the most famous conductors, stage directors, singers, she could grow up and take flight.

11.55 - Ursula Tamussino

"I jumped into cold water" - she said - "I have to try; it is the possibility of my life, this is not repeated twice".

12.09 - Letter

My dear father, today when I signed the contract I was very happy even though I cried inside of me. Nature has endowed me with talent but that gift does not bring me happiness. Because they didn't say thank you and they didn't postpone me home. I'm in a mess.

12.22 - Ursula Tamussino

She had only a skirt and a blouse with her and she was out of money. Fortunately, she could count on her relatives in Vienna. She slept with the bed in the kitchen, but that wasn't a problem.

12.38

After the first performances arrives the telegram from Salzburg, for the production of "The Magic Flute" at the Salzburg Festival. She must show up immediately. Traveling Lucia is frightened because she thinks she is singing the Queen of the night; she relaxes when she discovers that she has to interpret the role of the "first boy".

12.53 - Otto Schenk

She was gorgeous. She arrived and everyone was fascinated by her appearance. I wanted her to play a somewhat awkward boy; for her it was not a problem, she did it. When she sang she was tapping her fingers in such a strange way. When we met later I repeated her gesture and she immediately understood. She was already a big star when I asked her if she still accompanied rhythmically herself with her fingers.

13.31 - Ursula Tamussino

Previously it was said that we had to help her development, but she grew little by little.

13.37 - Heinz Holecek - opera singer

As Queen of the Night in Vienna, where we sang together, she was incredibly successful. Since then, her career has enjoyed rapid success.

14.26

The fame of Lucia Popova's captivating voice spread quickly around the world. Invitations to perform came from everywhere. Even a famous Viennese critic wrote: finally, once again, the real Queen of the night!

14.47 - Lucia

I went all the way to America with the Queen of the Night for the new opening of the Metropolitan opera, director Krips, set and costumes by Mark Sagal, who also made me up: he, personally, did the make-up for me. And I said to him "master now I can't wash myself anymore; I'm very precious ... [laughs]

15.16 - Heinz Holecek

She was a person who knew what she wanted. It was clear that she had a very strong character, she was determined and prepared everything down to the smallest detail. She was very smart.

15.31 - uncle Milan

At the beginning they pushed her away from Vienna. They wanted to send it from one side to the other. But she said: "but I have just begun: I have come to conquer the world... the world must not conquer me".

15.57 - Otto Schenk

My method was to use her as she was. Lucia liked our work. She had so many colors, so many expressions and in the end I could use everything in her roles. Her voice reached where she wanted to send it. I got the impression that she was building the character while I was perfecting it. I have always encouraged her to be who she really has always been.

16.32 - Ursula Tamussino

She was very happy doing "Der Rosenkavalier" in Munich. She liked Kleiber as a conductor very much, but also in her private life. As a conductor he fascinated her. Kleiber had a very complicated personality.

16,54 - Lettera di Lucia

My dear father, I rediscovered you in another person. It is not difficult to guess that he is someone from the environment, and very talented. I wish it were all completely different but, as you've always said, and as Carlos [Kleiber] comprehends too, ... Lucia Popp doesn't cry.

17.08

Lucia, after three years, married in Vienna with Georg Fischer who accompanied her on the piano at her first audition. They settle in Kolin where the husband starts working as an orchestra conductor. For her there is the offer to prepare the entire cycle of Mozart's operas.

17, 24 - uncle Milan

He was a very nice and personable young man. Lucia was fine with him for his age; the others were too young or too old.

18.04 - Heinz Holecek - singer

She was a beautiful woman, but she made men realize they couldn't get too close to her.

18.15 - uncle Milan

Peter was friend with her for about ten years. In an interview he said, in the absence of written documents, that Lucia was his wife and that statement angered her. With those words he offended her because he was demanding Lucia for himself.

19.22 - uncle Milan

Lucia's father, if I may say it, was jealous, even though he loved her very much. Even when she was famous, but still at home, when she had a boyfriend, no man was right for her. None of them were fine. Then, due to her last marriage, he did not speak to her for a year.

20.20 - Kamila Konecna

She would surely have wanted children because she loved children, and when her first granddaughter (Andrea) arrived, Lucia said: "you give her to me!"

20.42 - Ursula Tamussino

All famous artists have an unsolvable problem: it's beautiful when the audience is enthusiastic, but it's just a faceless mass hidden in the dark. Human relationships are very important and give support in this difficult job.

21.10 - Kamila Konecna

I know that when she could come to Czechoslovakia she couldn't perform; she watched the show "Who is behind the door" conducted by Lasica and Satinsky, who were her first year classmates in the arts and music university.

That time I said to her: "Call them, so you meet" and she replied - "no, absolutely not ... I could hurt them. They wouldn't be seen well. I don't want to harm anyone."

21.46

Loved everywhere, but hindered in her own country, she performed with Placido Domingo on the feast of the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

On November 12, 1989, she turned fifty and a few days later she received an unexpected gift; after the fall of the regime she finally could return to Slovakia no longer as an anonymous woman, but as the most famous soprano in the world: Lucia Popova

22.13 - Zlatica Livorova

After all these years, when we met again, we greeted her with that enthusiasm, that cordiality and happiness that one feels after a long time.

22.41 Lucia

As one gets older, the Chinese proverb applies: when the leaves fall close to the roots the person must find her place in the return home.

22.51 - Zlatica Livorova

Our singers have always received the greatest "BRAVO" after concerts and shows, and this has been taken away from her.

23.05

Lucia Popova, as a Slovak first, sang in the Vienna State Opera, at the Scala in Milan, at the Metropolitan in New York and at Covent Garden in London. She have recorded 140 vinyls and for thirty years you have been the top in the standings. She in Slovakia she managed to sing only two concerts.

23.24 - Peter Dvorsky

Lucia did not show when she was in company or on stage the serious state of her health. She was a sunny woman, she always had a smile and in her eyes, she had the spark of joy for everything she did. No one would have thought she was at the end of her life. For her, evil and disease never existed.

24.05 - Zlatica Livorova

We all thought that, having her every chance of the best care, they would surely have done everything to save her.

24.18 - uncle Milan

She phoned me, but first she talked to my wife and told her she was getting better. My wife asked her what was improving and Lucia replied: "my tumor".

24.48 - Ursula Tamussino

The last time we spoke was when she celebrated her birthday. She turned fifty-four, four days before she died. She joked and laughed, she said, "yes, I'm in the hospital but nothing important, something small." I really didn't know. After four days I got the news. It was a shock.

25.05 - Otto Schenk

When I received the news it seemed to me that at that moment the whole world had stopped.

25.29 - Final

The legend Lucia Popovà in 1990 in Bratislava, in a great concert, said: "Art has a unique capacity; it gives birth to inner freedom in man. Music helps detach [from the troubles of life] and makes us better "

In a simple message, the complexity of personal experience manifests itself in the legacy that Lucia left us.