

BDG Report 2017

The BDG now has more than 1250 members, and at this year's Annual General Meeting the members voted in favour of converting our organization into a **professional association**, hopefully from January 1st 2018. This is a big step for us, and has arisen from the expansion of our activities and our membership numbers. It will also include the requirement for members to attend continuing education events, which are awarded points under a system similar to that of the speech therapists' association. By means of this accreditation we hope to set a recognizable standard for our members and also encourage cooperation with other associations. External events may also be accredited with points by the BDG, and the number of applications has exploded within the last two years.

We provide training and continuing education programmes and events through the **Academy of the BDG**. This includes

- **GPZ** (vocal pedagogy certificate), a programme in its 11th year which offers basic vocal pedagogy classes over several weekends within 12 months. This year's course has 18 participants.
- **PPG** (pedagogy of popular singing), a new programme introduced in 2015 which has proved extremely popular. It runs over two years and the new course starting in September has 32 participants.
- **BDG intensiv**, a weekend seminar of professional development guided by a mentor and encouraging reflection and discussion
- **BDG vor Ort** is an umbrella for regional meetings and workshops which are run by local teams. Our longterm goal is to have at least one team in each of the federal states.

BDG

See our poster at ICVT for more details.

Our journal **VOX HUMANA** continues to publish excellent articles on many topics from the fields of voice research and vocal pedagogy. Each edition now also includes a page of abstracts in English. The December edition each year contains the documentation of the annual conference. Check out the new website www.voxhuman-online.de.

Our members newsletter **BDG intern** is published twice a year, containing news and reports about BDG activities. An email newsletter is sent out to members every two months with the latest information. Our website www.bdg-online.org now includes a list of teachers, which our individual members can update as necessary. We now also have a BDG page on Facebook – moving with the times!

We have increased our **cooperation** with other associations and companies, including the Leipzig Symposium on Children's Voices, the German Speech Therapists' Association, the German Music Council, the Association of German Music Schools, the choral conference *chor.com*, the Freiburg Institute of Musicians' Medicine and the Laaber and Helbling publishing companies. The latter two have recently produced a Lexikon of the Singing Voice and the DVD The Voice (see information sheet). Through the BDG Foundation we provide **prizes** for several youth singing competitions, including *jugend musiziert*, *Musical StarT* and the national singing competition *Bundeswettbewerb Gesang*.

The first ICVT in 1987 was the catalyst for the founding of EVTA and of the BDG. In 2018 we **celebrate 30 years** of the BDG with a conference in the new-old centre of the German capital Berlin. Our theme is "**Lachen und Weinen**" and we have a packed programme planned, including a boat trip on the river Spree and a visit to the Komische Oper for a performance of "Il Barbiere di Siviglia". More details to follow in the autumn, but mark your calendars now and come join us from **13-15 April 2018!**

BDG

Prof. Eleanor Forbes

Beisitzerin BDG e.V.