

Jiří Bělohlávek was awarded Antonín Dvořák Prize 2014 at New York's Carnegie Hall

Prague, 18th November 2014 – The internationally acclaimed conductor Jiří Bělohlávek received the prestigious Antonín Dvořák Prize at the special ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York on Sunday. Bělohlávek, who recently recorded the exceptional collection of the complete Dvořák symphonies, received the award from the Czech Minister of Culture, Daniel Herman, and philanthropist Karel Komárek. The solo sonata of E. Ysaÿe performed by violinist Josef Špaček was the special surprise for awarded conductor.

The ceremony was attended by several leading cultural, social, and political figures from the Czech Republic and the United States, including President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Jan Hamáček, Kennedy Center President Michael M. Kaiser, Executive and Artistic Director of Carnegie Hall Clive Gillinson, president of Columbia Artist Tim Fox, director of the Czech Philharmonic and director of the Czech National Museum Michal Lukeš. As the special guest at Carnegie Hall, where Dvořák's 'New World' symphony was performed for the first time, was the composer's grandson, Antonín Dvořák III.

The decision made by the jury of experts to award the prize to Bělohlávek was unanimous. The internationally-respected conductor recorded the complete Dvořák symphonies for Decca Classics this year. He is also the President of the Dvořák Society for Czech and Slovak Music. The Dvořák Prize is awarded by the Czech Academy of Classical Music, organizers of the Dvořák Prague International Music Festival which is supported by the philanthropist and benefactor Karel Komárek and Investment Group KKCG. Karel Komárek was honored by the Gold Medals in the Arts of Kennedy Center last year.

The ceremony was part of an official presentation of Czech culture in the United States, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and in recognition of the Year of Czech Music 2014.

The general partner of the Antonín Dvořák Prize is KKCG Investment Group. The project is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the City of Prague.

More information on www.dvorakovapraha.cz.

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