



Dvořák Prague Festival to Host the World's Leading Orchestras, Most Notably Staatskapelle Dresden and London Symphony Orchestra

Prague, 30 March 2016 – The Dvořák Prague International Music Festival has unveiled the program and begun selling tickets for the upcoming season. Dedicated to commemorating the legacy of the musical genius of Czech composer Antonín Dvořák, this year's ninth edition of the event held during 5 to 24 September 2016 will feature leading orchestras and soloists from the Czech Republic as well as top-class ensembles and renowned musicians from abroad. The opening concert will be presented by one of the best European orchestras, Staatskapelle Dresden under the direction of Christian Thielemann. Apart from the orchestra in residence, the Czech Philharmonic conducted by Jiří Bělohlávek and Jakub Hrůša, the Rudolfinum Concert Hall will host such ensembles as the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gianandrea Noseda, which will accompany Czech cellist Jiří Bárta. The lineup also includes phenomenal violinist Gidon Kremer and his ensemble Kremerata Baltica and the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia under the direction of Antonio Pappano, which will perform the closing concert of this year's Dvořák Prague. One of the event's high points will be a recital given by the excellent Russian pianist Boris Berezovsky. Other soloists who will grace the festival's stages include star violinists Hilary Hahn and Gil Shaham.

This season marks the first time when the program director of the Chamber Society series will be a foreigner – the prominent British violinist and promoter of musical activities Daniel Hope who will collaborate closely with the festival's Artistic Director Marek Vrabec on what they call a "Small Festival within Dvořák Prague". Hope will be aided by his last year's predecessor, the Czech pianist Ivo Kahánek, and leading personalities of New York's Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the cellist David Finckel and piano player Wu Han. In addition, Hope and Kahánek will be featured as soloists in a concert with the renowned Zurich Chamber Orchestra from Switzerland. The Chamber Society series will also include a recital of songs performed by tenor Pavel Černoch who is rapidly becoming a mainstay on the international music scene.

In line with its goal to present both well- and lesser-known compositions of its namesake musical genius, Dvořák Prague's this year's offering includes all Dvořák's concert overtures and symphonic poems inspired by the Bouquet, a collection of ballads written by poet Karel Jaromir Erben. The works will be performed by an orchestra best suited for this task – the Czech Philharmonic. The Spiritual Concern series will present an innovative programming concept that will bring together works by the masters of Renaissance polyphony and the contemporary music of John Tavener in performances delivered under the majestic archways of the St. Vitus Cathedral. As every year, the program will include concerts for families, this time featuring the popular duo Igudesman & Joo, another excursion from the On the Trail of Antonín Dvořák series, which will take visitors to the master's hometown of Nelahozeves, and Day D, an event dedicated to the artistry of the generation of young artists.

As has been the tradition, the festival's center stage will be the Rudolfinum Concert Hall. The Chamber Society series will be presented in the St. Agnes Cloister. Advanced sale of tickets for all Dvořák Prague concerts begins on 30 March 2016. For more information visit www.dvorakovapraha.cz.

The Dvořák Prague International Music Festival is proud to bear the name of one of the greatest composers in music history, Antonín Dvořák. The festival's principal aim is to present the entire body



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of musical works composed by the Czech genius. *"As every season, this year's edition of the festival will deliver a diverse cross-section of Dvořák's works. The concerts will present both well- and lesser-known compositions that will present Dvořák's music alongside works composed by his European contemporaries, Renaissance composers, and present-day authors. We believe that this approach is the best way of highlighting Dvořák's instantly recognizable contribution to the history of music in the worldwide context,"* explained Artistic Director Marek Vrabec.

The ceremonial opening concert on 5 September 2016 will feature one of Europe's most renowned orchestras, **Staatskapelle Dresden** directed by **Christian Thielemann** who is one of the most in-demand conductors today. The ensemble, whose history dates back to the year 1548, will perform works by Max Reger, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Richard Strauss. Beethoven's violin concerto will feature soloist Nikolay Znaider.



The **Czech Philharmonic**, the festival's orchestra in residence, will perform the ensemble of Dvořák's symphonic poems and concert overtures as part of the **Dvořák Collection III** series. On Thursday 15 September 2016, **Jakub Hrůša** will direct the orchestra in a concert featuring symphonic poems inspired by the Bouquet, a collection of ballads written by poet Karel Jaromir Erben, including the seldom played Hero's Song. In performing Dvořák's "Nature, Life, and Love" trilogy of overtures, the Czech Philharmonic will be conducted by **Jiří Bělohlávek**. Concerts of the festival's orchestra in residence will feature American violinist **Hilary Hahn**, Czech baritone **Svatopluk Sem**, and the **Prague Philharmonic Choir** under the direction of **Lukáš Vasilek**.

The current season will showcase a number of internationally reputed ensembles, such as the **London Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Gianandrea Noseda**, which will treat the audience to an extraordinary musical experience in accompanying Czech cellist **Jiří Bárta** in Dvořák's famous Cello Concerto in B Minor and Symphony No. 2 in E Minor by Sergei Rachmaninov. One of the best Italian and internationally renowned orchestras, **Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia**, headed by chief conductor **Antonio Pappano**, will perform compositions by Gioachino Rossini and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky in a concert featuring soloist **Gil Shaham**. Phenomenal violin player **Gidon Kremer** will head his own ensemble, **Kremerata Baltica**, in presenting a novel, albeit effectively composed, program comprising works by such diverse composers as Alfred Schnittke, Antonín Dvořák, and Astor Piazzolla.

This year marks the first time when the program director of the **Chamber Society** series will be a foreign artist. Well known to Prague's audiences, **Daniel Hope** is not only an excellent violin player, but also an untiring instigator and organizer of musical events and activities. He will be joined by Czech pianist **Ivo Kahánek** and violinist **Jakub Fišer**, American viola player **Paul Neubauer**, and British cellist **Josephine Knight** in paying homage to Dvořák's chamber music for piano in the most befitting setting of the St. Agnes Cloister. Other Chamber Society protagonists will include American cellist **David Finckel** and pianist **Wu Han**, Czech violinist **Jan Mráček**, and tenor **Pavel Černoch** who is a rapidly collecting accolades on the international scene. One of the festival's high points will be the opening concert of the Chamber Society series featuring the **Zurich Chamber Orchestra** in a performance of Dvořák's serenade and Erwin Shulhoff's double concerto. The soloists will include **Daniel Hope** and **Ivo Kahánek**, the festival's featured performers and programming gurus.

The **Recital** series of this year's Dvořák Prague will present the top-class performing skills of Russian pianist **Boris Berezovsky**, one of the very best musicians in the world who will charm listeners with a performance of Liszt's Transcendental Études, considered one of the technically most challenging works in the entire body of piano music.

As in previous year, this season will feature a spiritual concert at the St. Vitus Cathedral. Following in the footsteps of last year's performance of Te Deum by Arvo Pärt, the event will present an original combination of works by masters of Renaissance polyphony and contemporary musical creations. The concert will feature the British ensemble **Tallis Scholars** conducted by **Peter Philips**, which will join forces with **Martinů Voices** directed by **Lukáš Vasilek**, the **Martinů Quartet**, and various soloists who will perform works by Renaissance masters and the British composer John Tavener who perished three years ago.

In line with the organizers' dedication to providing space to young talents, this season's **D Day** will bring to the stage two up-and-coming artists – the Swiss pianist **Louis Schwizgebel** and the American violinist **Benjamin Beilman**. As in the past, D Day will offer tickets at special prices for the young audience as well as an opportunity to experience the festival's atmosphere in casual attire.



Dvořák Prague caters to all generations of listeners. The Family Day, held on the second Saturday of this year's program, will first offer the Dvořák Matiné featuring the renowned Belgian orchestra **Anima Eterna** with **conductor Jos van Immerseel**. The afternoon program in the Rudolfinum's Dvořák Room will entertain both children and adults with the globally acclaimed duo of first-class music clowns **Igudesman & Joo**.

The traditional **On the Trail of Dvořák** series will continue with another excursion on the eve of the festival. This year, the organizers will take festivalgoers to the region where Antonín Dvořák spent his young years – his hometown of **Nelahozeves**.

The Dvořák Prague International Music Festival has been able to flourish thanks to long-term support from art patron Karel Komárek and the KKCG Investment Group. Robert Kolář, the Director of the Classical Music Academy, explained, *"A festival featuring such international depth, high quality, and broad extent as Dvořák Prague can exist only if supported by important financial assistance from its partners. It is thanks to the KKCG Group, Mr. Komárek's benefaction, and the lasting support of the City of Prague that we are able to hold a festival that spreads the legacy and works of the great Czech musician Antonín Dvořák."*

Tickets for all festival concerts can be purchased starting today online at www.dvorakovapraha.cz, in the Dvořák Prague Ticket Center at Palackého Street 1, and in the Ticketpro sales network. Apart from loyalty discounts, the festival offers reduced prices for students, teachers, and senior citizens, membership in the Youth Club, and numerous other benefits.

Dvořák Prague

Marek Vrabec, Artistic Director

The Dvořák Prague Festival is held under the aegis of Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic.

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