



The Dvořák Prague Festival Announces Its Offerings, Enticing Audiences with World-Renowned Orchestras and Soloists Headed by Yo-Yo Ma

Prague, 26th April 2015. This year the Dvořák Prague International Music Festival will celebrate the great Czech composer Antonín Dvořák in the company of prestigious orchestras, star soloists, and conductors both from the Czech Republic and from abroad. Appearing on its concert stages from 7 to 23 September will be acclaimed ensembles like the Philharmonia Orchestra of London under Christoph von Dohnányi, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zürich, and the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra. This, the eighth year of the festival, will be festively opened by the unique cellist Yo-Yo Ma performing with the Czech Philharmonic. Some other evenings, including the closing concert, will also belong to this foremost Czech ensemble. And programmes will be further adorned by such stars as violinists Lisa Batiashvili and David Garrett, cellist Gauthier Capuçon, and pianist Piotr Anderszewski.

The festival also offers chamber concerts. This year the programming for the 'Chamber Music Society' series has been entrusted to the Czech pianist Ivo Kahánek. This young artist who is attracting international attention is receiving an opportunity in the Dvořák Prague Festival to collaborate with top chamber music performers of the world. For example he has invited to the Czech capital renowned string ensembles like the Emerson Quartet and the Tetzlaff Quartet, but in the midst of such international competition our pianist will also perform as a soloist.

Following upon last year's presentation of Dvořák's first opera *Alfred*, the festival is continuing in its series 'Opera in Concert'. Sounding in a concert performance with a superb international cast will be Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. This year's 'Spiritual Concert' will be devoted to music by the extraordinary composer Arvo Pärt. Also not lacking again will be for example a program for families, a 'D Day' (or 'Debut Day') devoted to young artists, and another in the festival's series of exploratory excursions 'On the Trail of Dvořák'.

The main centre of the festival remains according to tradition Prague's foremost concert building, the Rudolfinum. The heart of the 'Chamber Music Society' is the St. Agnes Convent, and sacred music will sound in the Cathedral of St. Vitus in Prague Castle. For more information and ticket sales see www.dvorakovapraha.cz/en/.

* * *

The Dvořák Prague Festival is proud to bear the name of one of the greatest composers of the world, Antonín Dvořák. Concert goers will hear his iconic works but also works performed less frequently. This year again the festival will offer music by Dvořák's predecessors and successors as well, all in superb performances. Festival Artistic Director Marek Vrabec adds: 'The Dvořák Prague Festival wants to do honour to its name and to be a festival that is global yet quintessentially Czech, a festival that weds talent, hard work, and respect for traditional values.'

The gala opening evening on 7 September will be devoted entirely to music of Dvořák as performed by the most qualified of artists. Playing the most celebrated work in cello literature – Dvořák's famous Concerto in B minor – alongside the Czech Philharmonic under the baton of Jiří Bělohlávek will be an artist often called the greatest cellist of the present time, holder of sixteen Grammy awards, Yo-Yo Ma. And the first half of the evening will be devoted, in a rendition by the Czech Philharmonic, to the rarely-heard Second Symphony.

The Czech Philharmonic holds a privileged position in the Dvořák Prague Festival as its resident orchestra. In the 'Dvořák Collection II' series it will perform additional Dvořák symphonies, welcoming also conductors like Jakub Hrůša and Semyon Bychkov and soloists such as the outstanding pianist Piotr Anderszewski and the charismatic violinist David Garrett. This year we'll hear Dvořák's even-numbered symphonies, rounded out by his iconic Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*, which as performed by the Czech Philharmonic will bring the eighth year of the festival to its culmination.

In the mosaic of the 'Dvořák Collection II' the Eight Symphony will be played by the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zürich, bearer of a tradition going back 150 years. This concert, too, will be spiced by star soloists: violinist Lisa Batiashvili and cellist Gautier Capuçon.

Other renowned orchestras from abroad will come to Prague as well. One of the festival's highlights will certainly be an appearance by the much-in-demand Philharmonia Orchestra of London, arriving with its legendary maestro Christoph von Dohnányi. Also coming to the Dvořák Prague Festival with an attractive programme will be another London orchestra, of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, in the company of the brilliant German clarinetist Sabine Meyer.

Pianist Ivo Kahánek, curator of the 'Chamber Music Society' series, has been scoring ever-greater successes in the international field, praised recently for example as an outstanding pianist by no less than Sir Simon Rattle. During the Dvořák Prague Festival he will have an opportunity to collaborate with the cream of world chamber music artists. His invitations have been accepted for instance by the Emerson Quartet (recipient of nine Grammy awards), and the remarkable Tetzlaff Quartet.

The 'Chamber Music Society' will also offer the Bohemia Luxembourg Trio: flutist Carlo Jans, violist Jitka Hosprová, and harpist Kateřina Englichová. And the young Czech artists of the Lobkowitz Trio (violinist Jan Mráček, cellist Ivan Vokáč, and pianist Lukáš Klánský) will have an opportunity to perform with their guests Irvin Venyš on clarinet, Jan Fišer on violin, and pianist Ivo Kahánek. Curator Kahánek will also appear before festival audiences in a solo concert and a song recital with Berlin State Opera soloist Jan Martiník.

Following after last year's concert performance of Dvořák's first opera *Alfred*, the festival is offering another delicacy: the opera of operas, W. A. Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, sounding in a concert performance by a topflight early music ensemble,



the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra under the baton of René Jacobs, with a line-up of exceptional soloists.

The concert in St. Vitus Cathedral will draw listeners into the world of the spiritual minimalist Arvo Pärt. Some of his key works will sound in performances by the superb Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir accompanied by the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra.

The festival's presenters track young artists of great talent over a long period of time. This year 'D Day' (or 'Debut Day') in the Dvořák Prague Festival will give Czech violinist Jan Mráček and the Italian pianist Federico Colli a chance to display their skills. 'D Day' will also offer young audience members an opportunity to experience the festival atmosphere in informal attire at reduced ticket prices.

The second Sunday of the festival traditionally belongs to families. A morning 'matinée' will be presented by the leading Czech early music orchestra, Collegium 1704. The afternoon programme will then entice children with a programme in the open air as well as an appearance by the 'Classic Bunkers' – British musical comedians – in the Rudolfinum's Dvořák Hall.

On the eve of the festival's opening concert, attendees will be taken 'On the Trail of Dvořák' to Vysoká u Příbramě, into the house known as 'Villa Rusalka' which Dvořák remodelled from a sheep tender's headquarters to a residential home with garden and which is still owned by his descendants. In this authentic venue, too, music by Dvořák will sound.

The Dvořák Prague International Music Festival could not develop successfully without the long-term support of cultural philanthropist Karel Komárek and the KKCG investment group. Robert Kolář, director of the Academy of Classical Music, explains:

A non-commercial music festival with the highest standards cannot exist without funding from both public and private sources. Thanks to the KKCG investment group, the positive attitude of Karel Komárek, and long-term support from the City of Prague, we can present a festival that disseminates the legacy and works of the great Czech composer Antonín Dvořák.

Tickets to all festival concerts are now on sale online at www.dvorakovapraha.cz, in the Dvořák Prague Ticket Centre, and via the Ticketpro sales network. The organizers offer quantity discounts, membership in the Youth Club, and other special advantages.

The Dvořák Prague Festival is held under the patronage of Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Bohuslav Sobotka and the Mayor of Prague Adriana Krnáčová.

Principal partner: the KKCG investment group

With support from: the City of Prague and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic



DVOŘÁKOVA PRAHA

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Major partner: Sazka

Partner of concerts: MND (Moravian Petroleum Wells)

Principal media partners: Czech Radio, *Mladá fronta Dnes*, and iDNES.cz

Other media partners: *Opera Plus*, *Harmonie*, *Classic Praha*, *Forbes Česko*, *Reportér*, *Literární noviny*, *Dotyk*, *Týdeník Rozhlas*, and Expres FM

Official automobile: BMW CarTec Praha

Non-profit partner: Nadace Proměny (The Transformations Foundation)

Special thanks go to: the National Gallery in Prague, the Czech Philharmonic, Prague Airport, The Emblem Hotel, and Impromat

Contact information for the media:

Silvie Marková, Lucie Čunderliková
public relations

e-mail: press@dvorakovapraha.cz

tel.: 604 748 699, 733 538 889

tel.: +420 272 657 121

www.dvorakovapraha.cz