

For the Year of Czech Music, the Dvořák Prague Festival is commemorating Smetana, Dvořák, and other famous natives

Prague (12 March 2024) – Conductor Jakub Hrůša as an artist-in-residence, the Czech Philharmonic as the Festival's ensemble-in-residence, world-class orchestras led by the Vienna Philharmonic, celebrated Czech personalities together with famous natives, the culmination of a three-year chamber music project, the return of Martha Argerich, and the spectacular debut of pianist Mao Fujita. All of that combines, in a nutshell, to form the programme of the 17th Dvořák Prague International Music Festival opening on 6 September 2024 with Antonín Dvořák's Cello Concerto in B Minor and New World Symphony. The Bamberger Symphoniker will be conducted by their principal conductor Jakub Hrůša, featuring Julian Steckel as the evening's soloist.

Advance ticket sales starts on 12 March at www.dvorakovapraha.cz.

"This year, we will commemorate the Year of Czech Music through the works of Czech composers, including those who are not celebrating an anniversary in 2024, and we will also give space to famous native Czechs such as Gustav Mahler and Erich Wolfgang Korngold. A special concert performed by the combined orchestras of the Czech Philharmonic and the Bamberger Symphoniker, conducted by 2024 Dvořák Prague's artist-in-residence, Jakub Hrůša, a world-class icon of contemporary Czech performance art, will be dedicated to Mahler," says Director of Dvořák Prague Jan Simon.

Besides the Bamberger Symphoniker, who will perform three times in Prague, the list of **world-class orchestras** features the Wiener Philharmoniker with conductor Christian Thielemann (18 September). Returning to Prague on 21 September is also the Academy of St Martin in the Fields from London, this time with their artistic leader Joshua Bell as soloist for Dvořák's Violin Concerto.

United by Mahler is the title of the open-air concert being performed by the Bamberger Symphony and the Czech Philharmonic under Jakub Hrůša's baton, held on 11 September at The Prague Exhibition Grounds. This special project, held on the occasion of the Year of Czech Music, will be a re-creation of the world premiere of Mahler's Seventh Symphony in 1908. The composer then conducted the Czech Philharmonic and the orchestra of the former New German Theatre in Prague, whose members, following their post-war expulsion from Czechoslovakia, laid the foundations of today's Bamberger Symphoniker.

On 10 September, the popular Opera in Concert series will offer a concert performance of **Die tote Stadt** (The Dead City), an early work by Brno native Erich Wolfgang Korngold. Lithuanian soprano Vida Miknevičiūtė will play the main part of Marietta, while the German-Italian tenor Roberto Saccà will play Paul. The Prague Symphony Orchestra, together with other soloists and the Prague Philharmonic Choir, will be conducted by Tomáš Brauner, the orchestra's principal conductor.

Collegium 1704 and **Collegium Vocale 1704**, under the direction of Václav Luks, are preparing the Seventh Symphony by another Czech native, Jan Václav Kalivoda, and an interesting interpretation of Dvořák's Piano Concerto, to be performed on 15 September. Eric Guo, the last winner of the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, will appear as soloist and will perform on a period instrument.

This year, the **Dvořák Collection** will conclude a three-year chamber music series of Antonín Dvořák's string quartets curated by the Pavel Haas Quartet. The traditional local ensembles (Bennewitz, Sedlacek, and Zemlinsky Quartets) will be joined by the Italian Quartetto di Cremona and the American Dover Quartet.

The festival will offer three piano recitals in September, including a performance by legendary **Martha Argerich** on 17 September in the Dvořák Hall. Her partner on stage will be the Italian-German pianist Sophie Pacini.

The **For the Future** programme series offers a wide range of concerts and accompanying events, including the final round of the Concertino Praga 2024 competition (14 September) and chamber music masterclasses with members of the Vienna Philharmonic. Two world premieres will take place at Dvořák Prague this year, and the festival will close with a performance by the Czech Student Philharmonic under the baton of Ingo Metzmacher.

This year too, the Festival will present a series of informal evening concerts at **Bořislavka Centre**, the seat of the main patron of Dvořák Prague, the Karel Komárek Family Foundation. While the venue remains the same, the concerts will begin at 6 pm.

The traditional **Family Day** will take place on 8 September in St Agnes Monastery, and the afternoon family concert with the Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra held in the Bethlehem Chapel will introduce Antonín Dvořák as a teacher.

"This year, the festival features an exceptionally high number of concerts and accompanying events – almost forty. We rely both on the interest of the audience and a stable financial background to guarantee its success. Therefore, we greatly appreciate the support of our patrons with the Karel Komárek Family Foundation at the forefront, as well as the grants provided by the Ministry of Culture and the City of Prague. Our thanks also go to the sponsors and media partners of Dvořák Prague," says Robert Kolář, director of the Academy of Classical Music, the Festival's organizer.

Media contact

Markéta Voráčková
E: press@dvorakovapraha.cz
M: +420 724 542 784

About the Festival

The Dvořák Prague International Music Festival is both a celebration of the musical genius of the world's most renowned Czech composer Antonín Dvořák and an important social event. It is a showcase of top soloists, conductors, internationally renowned orchestras, and chamber ensembles. They come to Prague to present Dvořák's music and works by other world composers to an international audience. The festival is organised by Akademie klasické hudby, z. ú. The co-founder and long-time supporter is entrepreneur and philanthropist Karel Komárek through the Karel Komárek Family Foundation. The festival has enjoyed long-term support from both the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the City of Prague. We would like to thank all other partners and patrons who help us bring the world's most important classical music stars and performers to Prague.

main patron • The Karel Komárek Family Foundation • **with the support of** • The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and The City of Prague • **main partner** • MND • **partners** • Sazka, Mindsquared, the RESPECT Group **general media partner** • Czech Television • **main media partner** • Český rozhlas, Seznam.cz, PRÁVO • **official cars** • The CarTec Group • **official water** • Mattoni • **official hotels** • The Emblem Hotel, Mandarin Oriental Prague • **media partners** • Harmonie, Klasika Plus, Novinky.cz, Opera Plus • **special thanks** • Czech Philharmonic, HAMU • **in cooperation with** • The National Museum, The National Gallery Prague, the Municipal Authority of Prague 1 • **with the kind support of** • KKCG, Petrof, Šafář & Partners • **partners of United by Mahler** • Sazka, The Year of Czech Music, The Czech-German Future Fund •

Dvořák Prague will take place from 6 to 24 September 2024. For more information, please go to www.dvorakovapraha.cz.