

# CZECH ORCHESTRAS



## **CZECH ORCHESTRAS**

Theatre Institute – Arts Institute – Czech Music Council



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## EDITORIAL NOTE

Dear Readers Interested in Czech Music,

Allow us to draw your attention to the vast panorama of Czech Symphony and Chamber Orchestras including their history, a short profile of their activities and their current personnel administration. The list is a representative selection of the organizations that currently exist in the Czech Republic. Fifteen of the orchestras (formerly known as state orchestras, excluding the Prague Chamber Philharmonic) form the Association, and have permanent employees, cycles for subscription audiences, and a defined number of concerts performed over the course of the year. The majority of the orchestras (with the exception of the Czech Philharmonic) is administered by the municipalities, and are partly subsidized by regional and state resources. These include: Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Prague Symphony Orchestra FOK, Prague Philharmonia, Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, South Bohemian Philharmonic orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra Hradec Králové, Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, West Bohemian Philharmony Mariánské Lázně, Moravian Philharmonic, Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra Ostrava, Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice, Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra, North Bohemian Philharmonic Orchestra Teplice, Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra.

The new legal situation following 1989 provided an opportunity for the establishment of new special-purpose bodies who do not have permanent employees, but who are engaged in special activities such as recording or participating in festivals. The most prestigious labels are also included in our panorama. In the Czech Republic, there are in total of approximately 40 professional symphony organizations, 40 chamber orchestras with wind ensemble, 40 chamber string orchestras, 16 wind or jazz orchestras and 12 bodies in the field of opera/ballet/operetta.

Our selection also includes a directory of other orchestras and non-professional chamber or symphony organizations from the Czech Republic. The introductory essays recapitulate the history of the orchestras in the Czech lands, and provide additional brief information about the activities of the non-professional orchestras.

## HISTORY OF CZECH ORCHESTRAS

The oldest still existing orchestras in the Czech Lands are the spa orchestras (Teplice from 1831, Karlovy Vary from 1835). At the time when its orchestra was founded, Teplice was known as “the salon of Europe” and many leading cultural figures visited the resort (including J. W. Goethe, L. van Beethoven, R. Wagner, F. Chopin, F. Liszt, R. Schumann, and B. Smetana). At the end of the century The *Teplice Orchestra* was already presenting symphonic cycles on a regular basis. Some of its concerts were conducted by E. d’Albert, for example, or R. Strauss. The *Karlovy Vary Orchestra* performed Dvořák’s “*New World*” *Symphony* in the Post Court in 1894, a year after it was formed. The heyday of this orchestra was during the period when it was directed by R. Manžera (1911-41), and worked with R. Strauss and P. Casals, for example.

In Prague, B. Smetana, founder of Czech national music, and the orchestra of the Provisional Theatre introduced public philharmonic concerts from 1869. The *Czech Philharmonic Orchestra*, the most important Prague and Czech orchestra, appeared before the public for the first time on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1896 with a gala concert conducted by A. Dvořák. In 1901-03 Ludvík Čelanský became chief conductor of this new independent orchestra. Leading figures who have directed the orchestra include Václav Talich, Rafael Kubelík, after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Karel Ančerl, after his departure for Canada (1969), Václav Neumann, from 1990 Jiří Bělohlávek, later Gerd Albrecht, Vladimír Ashkenazy and currently Zdeněk Mácal. Since the beginning of the orchestra’s existence its reputation has been furthered by internationally esteemed guest conductors including E. Grieg, S. Rachmaninoff, A. Nikisch, G. Mahler, A. Zemlinsky, Ch. Munch, L. Bernstein a. o.

The history of the *Brno Philharmonic Orchestra* goes right back to the plans of young composer L. Janáček, and later his pupil Břetislav Bakala, whose Brno Radio Orchestra in 1956 created the basis for what today is the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra (Petr Altrichter is a current chief conductor, Caspar Richter is a honour conductor).

The important Prague orchestra, founded after the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, is the *Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra* (SOČR) founded in 1926. Its main function was and remains to record Czech (and contemporary) music. This has always made the orchestra a body with interesting and adventurous programmes and important guest musicians. S. Prokofjev, O. Respighi, A. Honegger, A. Khachaturian and K. Penderecki have all presented their music with the Radio Symphony Orchestra. Vladimír Válek, who has also been conducting the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra since 1996, assumed the post of chief conductor of Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra in 1985 and, under his guidance, the orchestra has become one of the most prominent in Europe.

The *Prague Symphony Orchestra* was formed in the autumn of 1934. Its founder conductor Rudolf Pekárek defined his goals with the words Film-Opera-Koncert (i.e. FOK). In the 1930s the orchestra recorded music for the majority of Czech films. Its standards were built up particularly by the conductor Václav Smetáček, who headed it for 30 years from 1942. After Smetáček’s departure there were especially conductors Jiří Bělohlávek, Petr Altrichter, Martin Turnovský and Gaetano Delogu who led this orchestra. In the 2001 Serge Baudo, who has worked with Czech orchestras for many years, was appointed its chief conductor.

Socialist Czechoslovakia had a policy of developing and maintaining the network of so-called “state orchestras” in such a way that every region would have at least one professional philharmonic. This cultural network, financed by the state, operated for the whole period of the socialist regime up to 1989. The biggest regional orchestras are the *Brno Philharmonic Orchestra*, the *Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra Ostrava* (since 1954, by the transformation of a radio orchestra) and the *Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra* in Zlín (founded in 1946 as the Symphony Orchestra of the Baťa State Concern, the current chief conductor is Jakub Hrůša).

The orchestras all had relatively balanced professional quality and a good core repertoire, although it tended to be very traditional. There was no significant difference in standards between the professional musical culture of the centre (or centres, i.e. Prague, Brno and Ostrava) and the provinces.

Regional orchestras with a particularly striking profile in this period were the *Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice* led by conductor Libor Pešek in 1970-77 (currently by Leoš Svárovský and main guest conductor Douglas Bostock from Great Britain), the *Brno Philharmonic Orchestra*, directed at various times by Břetislav Bakala, Otakar Trhlík, Jiří Bělohlávek, František Jílek, Petr Vronský, Aldo Ceccato and since 2002 by Petr Altrichter or the Ostrava Janáček Philharmonic (current chief-conductor is Theodor Kuchar).

After 1990 there was major reform in cultural administration. The orchestras (apart from the radio orchestras and Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and Orchestra in České Budějovice) were taken under municipal authorities, a move that has aroused fears for their continued survival. A number of new private orchestras have been formed. The most important include the *Prague Philharmonia* (since 1994) set up by the former head of the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra and then the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Jiří Bělohlávek, now conducted by Kaspar Zehnder.

Orchestras with a core of permanent employees and regular concerts are still partially subsidised by the state through a special programme of support but most of the costs are borne by the promoters, municipalities, with consideration now being given to the idea of support from the newly established regional authorities as part of multi-source funding. In comparison with the situation abroad, the orchestras are able to cover a relatively substantial proportion of their costs from their own earnings (20% or in exceptional cases 30%), and concert attendance is still high, partly because ticket prices remain comparable with cinema tickets, except in the case of the Prague orchestras and important international festivals.

A number of new or transformed agency orchestras have been formed (e.g. the *Czech National Symphony Orchestra Ltd.*, chief conductor – Paul Freeman from USA, the *Czech Symphony Orchestra Ltd.* and *FISYO -Film and Symphonic Orchestra* based 55 years ago), which essentially work on commission (specifically recordings, foreign tours, festivals) under a permanent name but mostly without permanent employees. Most of them are recruited from the players in stable orchestras or members of chamber groups. It can also create a misleading impression for the unwary, for example in figures that show an apparent striking rise in the number of professional symphony orchestras in the Czech Republic since 1990 (up to around 45). In comparison with the EU, the situation here is also exceptional in that even top bodies such as the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra or the Prague Symphony Orchestra are made up of employees of a single nationality. Sir Ch. Mackerras regards this as an influential factor for the characteristic interpretation particularly of national music.

Thanks to the state grant system the number of festivals have risen, however, and festivals are the traditional terrain for greater adventurousness in programmes. Here it becomes clear that if presentation of new music is properly thought out and promoted with verve by high-profile musicians, there are no a priori problematic pieces. This is demonstrated, for example, by the growing interest in contemporary music in the Ostrava Janáček Philharmonia thanks to the composer Petr Kotík, who lives in the USA but has started International Composing Courses in New Music here (the orchestra rehearses and plays the compositions at the end of the courses).

Lenka Dohnalová



## NON-PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRAS

### WIND ORCHESTRAS

This area consists of small wind orchestras (165), middle-sized wind orchestras (25), large wind youth orchestras (45) and large wind orchestras for adults (29) with a total of around seven thousand players in all age categories. Once again the largest number of ensembles is in the South Moravian and Moravian-Silesian Region. The wind orchestras are organised in associations, and are affiliated with schools, local authorities and cultural centres. The prestigious events in this area are the International Competition for Large Wind Orchestras in Ostrava and the International Competition for Small Wind Orchestras held in Hodonín under the name the *Golden Bugle* (Zlatá křídlovka). Both are organised on a biennial basis on alternate years. Some festivals (*Kmoch Kolín*, *The Děčín International Music Festival*, *FIJO Cheb*, *FEDO Štětí* – currently a majorette competition, *FEDO Zlín* and others) are international. *The Union of Wind Orchestras of the CR* acts as the national umbrella organisation.

### SYMPHONIC MUSIC

The field of instrumental music, defined primarily in terms of repertoire, consists of ensembles (duos, trios, quartets, quintets, sextets and up to decet), of which there are 89 with a total of 450 performers, chamber orchestras with from 15 to 35 members – mainly playing stringed instruments (95 ensembles with around two thousand instrumentalists – and classic symphony orchestras (a total of 18 ensembles with around a thousand instrumentalists). In terms of geographical distribution, the most ensembles are based in Prague, the Central Bohemian and the South Moravian Regions. The national associations in the field are the *Bohemian Association and Moravian Association of Non-Professional Chamber and Symphonic Ensembles*. Youth ensembles and orchestras and their training come under the competence of the organisation *Musical Youth of the CR* (Hudební mládež ČR, a member of *Jeunesse Musicale at UNESCO*). The main events in the area are the *National Festival of Chamber and Symphonic Music* (which takes place every year in the form of four to five concerts in different places in the CR) and the *Camerata nova* in Náchod, *Vysočina Music Festival*, and *Meeting of Chamber Orchestras* in Olomouc. *The Association of Non-Professional Chamber and Symphonic Ensembles* is a state-wide civic association in this field.

Lenka Lázňovská

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**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS**

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**CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**(ČESKÝ NÁRODNÍ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR)**

ADDRESS: Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Ltd., Weilova 2/1144, 102 00 Prague, CR  
Phone: +420 267 215 576, Fax: +420 267 215 361, E-mail: cnso@cnso.cz; <http://www.cnso.cz>

Chief Conductor: Paul Freeman

Guest Conductors: Libor Pešek, Petr Altrichter, Gaetano Delogu, Marcello Rota, Jan Chalupecký

General Manager: Jan Hasenöhrl

Full orchestra body: strings-12,12,10,8,6(8), harp-1., winds-4,4,4,4-4(8),2(8),4(6),1(2), perc-5

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Czech National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO) was established in 1993 by trumpeter Jan Hasenöhrl. The orchestra is made up of approximately eighty skilled, experienced musicians who have found in the orchestra a unique place to be able to express themselves. A spiritual father at the birth of the CNSO was the legendary conductor Zdeněk Košler. He was always there for the orchestra with his wide-ranging artistic knowledge and he recorded several CDs with them. In the year 1996, the American Paul Freeman took over as Chief Conductor, and he is also the orchestra's artistic director.

The ambitious project of this orchestra is one of Freeman's greatest successes on the Czech and world music scenes. The CNSO's recordings are on sale in the United States and Japan, and successful tours have taken place over the British Isles (1997, 2000, 2001 and 2004), France (2000), Japan (2001, 2004) and Mexico (2003). The orchestra has its own recording studio, located in Prague-Hostivař, and the several Gold CDs (for more than 30 000 copies sold) that it has produced. Other accolades include the Gustav Mahler Prize, awarded for the interpretation of Mahler's works, and the prestigious agreement the orchestra signed with IMG Artists London for worldwide representation. The next success is long-time recording project in association with Tokyo media company Victor Entertainment. On the base of this cooperation was recorded until today 8 CDs and video DVD.

The orchestra prepares regularly 8 concerts per year in Prague, about 20 in Czech Republic, 50-60 concerts in total during the year. It participated in festivals in Biarritz, Geneva, Glasgow, Salisbury, Strasbourg or Siena. It made tours to many European countries, in Japan, Mexico.



The Building of orchestra's studios in Prague - Hostivař

## PAUL FREEMAN – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Born in Richmond, Virginia. Freeman attended the Eastman School of Music, where he earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D., with his principal instruments being the clarinet and the cello. Following that, he received a Fulbright Scholarship for two years of study at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin, and then studied under conductor P. Monteaux at the American Symphony. Freeman began his conducting career with the Opera Theater of Rochester, New York, where he worked for six years. Following that, he served as the associate conductor of the Dallas and Detroit Symphonies, and went on to become the Principal Guest Conductor of the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1979, Freeman joined the Victoria Symphony in Canada, where he served as music director until 1989. In 1987, Freeman founded the Chicago Sinfonietta, where he serves as conductor, and in 1996 he was appointed the Music Director and Conductor of The Czech National Symphony Orchestra. He serves in both posts concurrently.



Since the 1970s, one of Freeman's passions has been to expose audiences to black composers. The Sinfonietta has produced numerous shows highlighting the works of some of these individuals, and during the 1970s he released nine albums on Columbia Records to highlight some of the greatest black composers. In 1975, *Time* listed his recordings of the first four volumes in its top ten classical records of all time.

Freeman has been involved in more than 200 recordings. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Mitropoulos International Conductors Competition, the Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds Award and the Jubilate Award, Canada's highest award for music education. In total, he has conducted more than 100 orchestras in twenty-eight countries.

## LIBOR PEŠEK – PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR

Born in 1933. He studied conducting at the Academy of Performing Arts under the direction of K. Ančerl and V. Smetáček. In the sixties, he made himself famous as a founder of the Chamber Harmony, a wind instrument ensemble; later a founder of the Sebastian Chamber Orchestra. He worked as a Principal Conductor of the North Czech Philharmonic Teplice (1963-69) and East Czech State Chamber Orchestra in Pardubice (1970-77). In parallel, he associated with orchestras in the Netherlands, shortly as a director of Slovakian Philharmonic Orchestra in Bratislava.



In the years of 1987-97 he held a position of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (RLPO). During the decade of this co-operation with this ensemble, he expanded its repertoire and he took the orchestra to many successful international tours. Since 1997, he holds a position of Conductor Laureate at the RLPO. Together they performed at the Eastern coast of the USA - Boston, New York, Baltimore, at the Far East - Singapore, Taipei, Hong Kong; European tours consisted of several guest performances in Spain, concerts in the main musical centers of

Austria and Germany. Several times, L. Pešek has been a guest of the prestigious London festival BBC Proms in Royal Albert Hall, he is also very often invited to the festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

L. Pešek is a repeated guest conductor of front world orchestras, mainly in England and America. Some of these orchestras are: Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Baltimore Symphony and others. Regularly, he also associates with all the main orchestras in London. He is a regular Guest Conductor of symphonic bodies in Europe, i.e.: Orchestre National de Paris, Orchestre National de France, orchestras in Barcelona, in Stockholm, etc. He closely associates with orchestras at home, he is regularly invited to seasonal concerts of Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and he holds a position of the Guest Principal Conductor of Prague Symphony Orchestra.

He records for the following companies: Virgin Classics, BMG, EMI, Supraphon. One of his most distinguished works are complete recordings of all of Antonín Dvořák's symphonies, recorded partly in Prague with Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and partly in Liverpool with RLPO. Recording the complete orchestra works of Josef Suk (with RLPO) are near its completion.

On the occasion of the state call of HRH Elisabeth II, the Queen of Great Britain, in the Czech Republic in 1996, he received the K.B.E. (Knight of the British Empire) decoration from her hands. In October 28, 1997, the President of the Czech Republic decorated him with Distinguished Service Medal of the 1st Degree for his the service to the country.

## **CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (ČESKÁ FILHARMONIE)**

ADDRESS: Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Alšovo nábřeží 12, 110 01 Prague 1, CR  
Phone: + 420 227 059 111; E-mail: sekretariat@cfmail.cz; e.sedlakova@cfmail.cz;  
ticket office pokladna@cfmail.cz; <http://www.ceskafilharmonie.cz>

Affiliated society: CZECH CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY  
Phone: +420 227 059 228; E-mail: cskh@cfmail.cz  
Affiliated gallery: GALLERY RUDOLFINUM  
Phone: +420 227 059 204; E-mail: galerie.rudolfinum@cfmail.cz  
<http://www.galerierudolfinum.cz>

Chief Conductor: Zdeněk Mácal  
Permanent Conductor: Vladimír Válek  
Guest Conductor: Ken-Ichiro Kobayaschi (Japan)  
General Director: Václav Riedlbauch  
Director of the Rudolfinum Gallery: Petr Nedoma  
Manager of the Czech Chamber Music Society: Věra Moravcová  
Full symphonic body: strings-20,16,13,13,10, harp-2, winds-5,5,5,5-8,5,6,1-perc-5, piano

## ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) is a prominent Czech orchestra. It gave its first concert on 4 January 1896 in the Rudolfinum, conducted by the composer A. Dvořák. In 1901 L. Čelanský became Chief Conductor of the now-independent orchestra, and from 1903 to 1918 it was led by Dr. V. Zemánek who despite considerable financial difficulties managed to maintain the orchestra and stabilise its position on the Prague musical scene. In 1919, the first year after the war, the post of Chief Conductor was taken by the legendary V. Talich who led the orchestra until 1941, apart from an interruption between 1931 and 1933. Talich conducted a total of 924 concerts with the Philharmonic and is rightly considered the founder of its interpretational tradition.



Rudolfinum

After the short but artistically-fruitful term of R. Kubelík at the head of the CPO from 1942 to 1948 the role of Chief Conductor was taken for eighteen years by Karel Ančerl, under whose leadership from 1950 to 1968 the orchestra gained a reputation as a first-class ensemble on the world musical scene. In his programming focus on Czech music - classical and especially contemporary - Ančerl continued in the tradition of his predecessors, but he also enriched the repertoire to include works by foreign composers such as I. Stravinsky, R. Strauss, B. Bartók, D. Shostakovich, and S. Prokofiev. The years of Ančerl's leadership are considered the orchestra's greatest period of artistic development. After his emigration to Canada the position of Chief Conductor was assumed by V. Neumann, who presided over a long period of stable high quality and successful maintenance of tradition until 1990.

After the change in the political situation in the country, in the 1990s several distinguished musicians took turns as chief conductor in relatively rapid succession: J. Bělohlávek (1990-92), G. Albrecht (1993-96), and V. Ashkenazy (1996-2003). The Philharmonic entered its new 2003-04 season with a new Chief Conductor, Zdeněk Mácal, who at the height of his experience in art and in life now heads the orchestra with which he launched his spectacular conducting career from 1966 to 1968.

Since the beginning of the CPO's existence its reputation has been furthered by internationally respected Guest conductors including E. Grieg, E. Ysaye, S. Rachmaninoff, A. Nikisch, and G. Mahler - the last of whom conducted the world premiere of his *Seventh Symphony* with the Philharmonic in Prague in 1908 - and especially by excellent conductors who worked with the orchestra repeatedly such as E. Kleiber, B. Walter, A. Zemlinsky, G. Széll, C. Munch, Y. Mravinski, L. Bernstein, L. Stokowski, F. Konwitschny, S. Celibidache, G. Rozhdestvensky, K. Kondrashin, L. Maazel, Z. Mehta, B. Haitink, C. Abbado, and R. Mutti among others.

The orchestra had already built up its reputation within Europe before the war, making a significant name for itself in Great Britain (starting as early as 1902!) where it performs to this day, above all in the prestigious BBC Proms and in the Edinburgh Festival. In 1959 the Philharmonic's first overseas concert tour took it

to Australia, Japan, New Zealand, China, India, and the Soviet Union. While the CPO did not return to China until forty-two years later, in 2001, in Japan it has its annual performances in prestigious halls including Suntory Hall in Tokyo. In 2004 it will be a principal feature of the autumn festival of Czech music to be held in Tokyo and its environs with support from the Japanese government. The CPO's first tour of the United States and Canada was in 1965, on which occasion the triumphal successes of K. Ančerl assured the orchestra the excellent reputation in the USA which it has maintained to this day in performing Czech music. In March 2004 the ensemble will depart with conductor A. Boreyko on its jubilee tenth tour of the USA, performing works by Dvořák and Janáček.

In association with the jubilee Year of Czech Music in 2004 the requests for guest performances are even more numerous - for example in Vienna, London (the Proms), Linz, Budapest, Bratislava, and Salzburg (where the CPO appeared for the first time at the famous festival in 1963, and where in 2004 it will perform Dvořák's *Requiem* under the baton of G. Albrecht), and in Germany at the renowned Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival.

The first gramophone recording by the CPO was made in 1929, when V. Talich recorded Smetana's *My Country* for His Master's Voice. After a series of recordings for this world-famous label, following the war the CPO began building its discography with Supraphon. First came unique recordings with V. Talich and then the golden fund of recordings with K. Ančerl, whose unique recordings from the 1950s and 1960s documenting the orchestra's interpretational development began coming out on the Supraphon label in June 2002 in digitized form in a unique set of forty-two compact discs titled K. Ančerl Gold Edition. In 1960 the CPO won the Grand Prix du disque de l'Académie Charles Cros for Ančerl's recording of Martinů's *Fantasies symphoniques* - the first of ten occasions on which the orchestra has received this prestigious honour. The ensemble has received many other international distinctions for its recordings as well, both under its own Chief Conductors and other famous orchestra leaders. It is a five-time winner of the Grand Prix du disque de l'Académie de disque français and several-time winner of the Cannes Classical Award, a coveted prize that the CPO received most recently in January 2003 for works of Dvořák under Ch. Mackerras on the Supraphon label. Under V. Neumann the Philharmonic recorded (again for Supraphon) the complete symphonies of Dvořák, Martinů, and Mahler. V. Ashkenazy enriched its discography with thirteen compact discs featuring works by R. Strauss, G. Mahler, S. Rachmaninoff, and others. And now Chandos is releasing orchestral works by Zemlinsky on three compact discs with Antony Beaumont. The music of B. Martinů has been a special focus of the CPO ever since the time of Talich: all of the orchestra's Czech chief conductors have included Martinů's music in its repertoire, and the CPO presented some of his works in their world premieres. Presently a new complete recording of Martinů's symphonies is being made, prepared for Supraphon from newly-edited scores according to the composer's autographs by the internationally-renowned Martinů expert J. Bělohávek.

The Rudolfinum Gallery and Czech Chamber Music Society are part of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra administration.

## ZDENĚK MÁCAL - CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Born in 1936 – today a citizen of the United States – he studied at the Brno Conservatoire and the Janáček Academy of Music in his native Brno. He first began to make a name for himself when he won two important music competitions: the International Conducting Competition in Besançon in 1965 and the Dmitri Mitropoulos Competition in New York in 1966, at which the jury was chaired by L. Bernstein. He worked closely with Czech orchestras during the early stages of his career, including the Czech Philharmonic, with whom he travelled on tour to Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey (1966), Germany and Switzerland (1968). After the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia, Z.



Mácal emigrated and immediately became involved in the international music scene. He undertook various successive positions – Musical Director of the Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Hanover Radio Orchestra, Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Musical Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor at the Chicago Grant Park Summer Festival. In subsequent years he was responsible for the phenomenal rise of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra which he conducted during the period 1993-2002. In May 1998 he was honoured with an honorary doctorate from Westminster Choir College.

During his career he has been regularly invited to perform with other leading American orchestras: whether as Guest Conductor of the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Washington National Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic or the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he always showed himself to be an incredibly dynamic conductor with a clear musical conception and exceptional emotional depth. He has performed in Europe with similar energy and to similar acclaim, conducting some of the most famous orchestras, such as the Berlin Philharmonic, all the London-based orchestras, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre National de France, Wiener Symphoniker and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. Guest appearances have also taken Z. Mácal to Japan, to the La Scala Orchestra in Milan and other principal opera houses.

Altogether, during his career as a conductor he has worked with over 160 orchestras in four continents. Mácal's musical profile would not be complete without a mention of his participation in top international festivals (Vienna, Lucerne, Montreux, Edinburgh, Prague, Athens, Besançon and, in the USA, Ravinia, Tanglewood, Wolf Trap and the Hollywood Bowl) and his innumerable recordings which, during his career as conductor, he made primarily for Delos and Koss, but also for Sony, EMI, Decca, Deutsche Grammophon and Supraphon. In 1996 and 1997 he conducted the Czech Philharmonic once again during the Prague Spring International Music Festival and subsequently renewed his collaboration with the Prague Symphony Orchestra where, in 2001, he accepted the post of Principal Conductor.

## VLADIMÍR VÁLEK – PERMANENT CONDUCTOR

See in the chapter Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra.

## KEN-ICHIRO KOBAYASHI – PERMANENT GUEST CONDUCTOR

He works as a “President Conductor” in the Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra, the Permanent Conductor in Japan Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and Main Guest Conductor in Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. He is teaching at the Tokyo School of Music. He has received the Liszt award in the year 1986. He has recorded the complete of Brahms symphonies and the cycle of Tchaikovsky symphonies for the firm Canyon Classic.



## FILM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (FISYO)/ CZECH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (FILMOVÝ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Film Symphony Orchestra, Ltd., Nad Krocínkou 6, 190 00 Prague 9, CR  
Phone: +420 603 442 447; E-mail: [kauders@fisyo.cz](mailto:kauders@fisyo.cz); <http://www.fisyo.cz>  
Regularly Guest Conductors: Štěpán Koníček, Leoš Svárovský, Jakub Hruša, Jiří Petrdlík  
Manager: Jiří Kauders  
Full symphony body: strings-12,10,8,6,4, harp-1,winds-2,2,2,2-4,3,3,2, timp., piano

## ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Film Symphony Orchestra (FSO) operates in Czech Music life and among Prague music ensembles for more than 55 years, and it became an indispensable part of the Czech music life. In 1991 it was transformed to the FISYO Corp. Ltd. In the last 30 years new impulses have been brought by the Chief-Conductors František Belfin and Štěpán Koníček (\*1928).

The FISYO archives contain thousands of recordings to Czech and Slovak films. FISYO also performed hundreds of recordings for films in Germany, France, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Canada, USA and Japan.

The orchestra recorded for example the music the American composer's Angelo Badalamenti for the film *Blue Velvet* and *Starke Männer tanzen nicht* from David Lynch and recorded the music from Dav Seltzer' to the serial *Diebe der Nacht*. For Czech Television FISYO has recorded *Evening Assembly*, a contemporary opera by I. Kurz.





Next examples are the recording and the hundred live performances of the musical *Les Misérables*. A special concert tour brought the orchestra to the French Riviera and to Paris for a concert in the theatre Chatelet with the French chanson star Veronique Sanson. Great success accompanied the orchestra's performance in England and the USA, where it had performed J. Klusák's contemporary music from the film *Erotikon* directed by G. Machatý.

The greatest appreciation reached by the orchestra was the prize of the EMMY (Academy of Arts and Sciences) for recording the music to the film *The Bourne Identity*.

## CZECH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

continues the best concert traditions of FISYO. Since 1991 it's activities were taken by the FISYO Ltd. and the orchestra has performed a great number of important performances. Unforgotten are also the other significant Czech conductors, namely F. Vajnar, P. Vronský and L. Svárovský. In it's abroad activities, the Czech Symphonic Orchestra performed various concerts in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy and Spain

## ŠTĚPÁN KONÍČEK – CONDUCTOR

Born in 1928, he studied conducting under the direction of K. Ančerl, A. Klíma, composition with P. Bořkovec. He worked as a Music Director in Czech radio. Since the year 1956 he works as a conductor of the Film Symphony Orchestra.



# PRAGUE CONSERVATORY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR PRAŽSKÉ KONZERVATOŘE)

ADDRESS: Prague Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, Na Rejdišti 1, 100 00 Prague 1, CR  
E-mail [conserv@prgcons.cz](mailto:conserv@prgcons.cz) ; <http://www.prgcons.cz>

The Student orchestra makes a part of the Prague Conservatory school.

Conductor: Miriam Němcová

Full orchestral body: 55 members

## ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Prague Conservatory Symphony Orchestra (PCSO) is some of oldest Czech symphony orchestra. It was founded in the Spring of 1815. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century it played a very important part in the Prague concert life: in March 1827 the orchestra gave the first performance of Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony in the Czech Lands. It played under famous European concertmasters (i.e. F. Liszt, C. Schumann, F. Laub, O. Bull, H.von Büllow), and premiered many compositions in Czech Lands, for example by F. Liszt, H. Berlioz, R.Wagner, and G. Mayerbeer. For most of its history the orchestra has worked under the baton of conservatory directors or other important composers or conductors. At present, the orchestra is made up of students at the conservatory. Since 1994, it has been directed by conductor M. Němcová. The orchestra regularly gives about three concerts a year in Prague and also performs abroad (in France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland). It has won three awards in the Czech Radio Concerto Bohemia Competition.



The Building of Prague Conservatory

## MIRIAM NĚMCOVÁ – CONDUCTOR

She began her conducting career at the age of sixteen with amateur choirs. After graduating from Prague Conservatory and the Prague Academy of Music in conducting and composition, she began working with professional ensembles, specifically Suk Chamber Orchestra, Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, Hradec Kralové Philharmonic, Czech Radio Choir and Prague Philharmonic Choir.

She continued her postgraduate studies under Prof. Rilling at the Bach Academy in Stuttgart and later in Paris. Upon her return she worked with opera companies in Prague and Liberec. In 1993, following her success-



ful presentation of Verdi's *Otello* with the Ostrava Opera, she was offered the position of chorus master and conductor with the Prague State Opera. Since 1995 she has taught conducting at the Prague Conservatory and served as director of its symphony orchestra.

M. Němcová's recent engagements include artistic directorship of the Praga Sinfonietta and the Vox Pragae Choir. Since 2001 she has been Conductor of the Hradec Králové Philharmonic.

## **PRAGUE RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR ČESKÉHO ROZHLASU)**

ADDRESS: Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Vinohradská 12, 120 99 Prague 2, CR  
Phone: +420 221 551 412 (director), -411 (office), Fax: +420 221 551 413, <http://www.rozhlas.cz/socr>

Chief Conductor: Vladimír Válek

Statutory Soloists: Michal Kaňka-vcl., Jan Simon-piano, Ivan Ženatý-vn.

Director: Jan Simon

The orchestra makes a part of The Czech Radio

Full symphony body: strings-18,14,12,11, harp-1, winds-5,5,5,5-7,5,1,perc-5, piano-1

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra (PRSO) was founded in 1926. Its conductors in the past have included such distinguished names on the Czech classical music scene as V. Talich, K. Ančerl, V. Neumann, and L. Pešek, and also guest conductors from abroad, among them C. Munch, F. Konwitschny, H. Scherchen, G. Rozhdyestvensky, S. Baudo, L. Segerstam, Sir Ch. Mackerras and T. Strugala. Composers S. Prokofiev, O. Respighi, A. Honegger, A. Khachaturian and K. Penderecki have also conducted their works with PRSO.

Vladimír Válek, who has also been conducting the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra since



1996, became Chief Conductor of the PRSO in 1985 and, under his guidance, the orchestra has become one of the most prominent in Europe. A number of renowned soloists have performed with them, for example, the violinists V. Tretyakov and J. Suk, cellists M. Maisky, A. Rudin, pianists R. Ormrod, J. Tocco, I. Moravec, E. Indjic and singers S. Estes and G. Benačková.

The PRSO organises about 12 concerts for subscribers in the Rudolfinum (seat of Czech Philharmonic Orchestra), and it participates regularly in many international festival in Czech Republic: Prague Spring, Prague Autumn, Moravian Autumn, Janáček May, Smetana Litomyšl, Festival in Český Krumlov.

The PRSO has appeared in many countries in Europe and elsewhere in the world, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain, Turkey, Switzerland, France, Greece, Great Britain, South Korea, Japan, China, and the USA.

The PRSO has recorded several dozen CDs for leading record companies such as Supraphon, Pony Canyon, Radioservis, and Clarton, among others. The PRSO received an important award in January 1996 from international music critics at the MIDEM Classic in Cannes, where it was presented with the "Cannes Classical Award 95" for its recording of Ervín Schulhoff's piano concertos for Supraphon, with pianist Jan Simon and conductor Vladimír Válek. The PRSO is currently concluding a complete recording of the symphonies of A. Dvořák and P. I. Tchaikovsky, conducted by V. Válek.

#### VLADIMÍR VÁLEK – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Born in 1935. After graduating from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, he worked as conductor with several Czech orchestras, and from 1975 he spent 12 years as the conductor of the Prague Symphony Orchestra (FOK). In 1985, he was offered the post of Chief Conductor of the Prague Radio Symphony. Since 1996, V. Válek has held the position of the Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra as well.

In addition to his leading artistic posts, V. Válek appears as Guest Conductor with assorted symphonic orchestras, and has performed in many great cities of the world (Amsterdam, Athens, Berlin, Bonn, Brussels, Cairo, Istanbul, Copenhagen, London, Moscow, Madrid, New York, Paris, Salzburg, Seoul, Singapore, Vienna, Tokyo, Tel Aviv, Zurich). The Big Radio Orchestra Leipzig, Tonkünstler and ORF, both Vienna orchestras, the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra are just some of the orchestras he has conducted.

The conductor V. Válek has made over one thousand recordings for the radio stations. His discography consists of over one hundred titles for the companies Pony Canyon, Harmonia Mundi, Supraphon, and Radioservis. His recording of the piano concertos of Ervin Schulhoff with the soloist Jan Simon and the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra was awarded the prize of the world music reviewers at MIDEM Classic in Cannes in 1996 (Cannes Classical Award). From 2003, Vladimír Válek is the Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra Osaka Symphoniker.



# PRAGUE SYMPOHONY ORCHESTRA

## (SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR HL. M. PRAHY FOK)

ADDRESS: Prague Symphony Orchestra, Náměstí Republiky 5, 110 00 Prague, CR  
Phone: + 420 222 002 425; Fax +420 222 310 784; E-mail: [psa@fok.cz](mailto:psa@fok.cz); <http://www.fok.cz>

Chief Conductor: Serge Baudo  
Principal Conductor: Petr Altrichter  
Principal Guest Conductor: Libor Pešek  
Permanent Guest Conductor: Kazuhito Komatsu (Japan)  
Director: Petr Polívka  
Full symphonic body: strings-21,15,13,11,9, harp-2, winds-5,4,1,5-5,7,5,1, perc-5, piano

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Prague Symphony Orchestra (PSO) was founded in the autumn of 1934 by the conductor and musical organiser R. Pekárek. He defined the new ensemble's fields of activity with the words Film-Opera-Koncert (i.e. Concert). The abbreviation FOK became part of the orchestra's title. By recording music for the majority of Czech films in the 1930s and performing regularly in live broadcasts of Czechoslovak Radio the FOK Orchestra made a name and its economic existence was assured. Main promoter from the very beginning was V. Smetáček. In 1952 the orchestra became the professional ensemble of the city of Prague as a Symphony Orchestra of the Capital City of Prague FOK. In 1957 the orchestra departed on



Smetana Hall of the Municipal House

its first foreign tours to Poland, Italy, Austria and Germany. After Smetáček's departure from the post of Chief Conductor, artistic leadership was taken over in succession by L. Slovák (1972-76), J. Rohan (1976-77), J. Bělohávek (1977-89), P. Altrichter (1990-92), M. Turnovský (1992-95) and G. Delogu (1995-98). As of 2001 the orchestra's Music Director - Chief Conductor is S. Baudo, while the post of Principal Conductor is held by P. Altrichter. The Principal Guest Conductor is L. Pešek, and K. Komatsu is also a Guest Conductor.

The orchestra has performed in most countries of Europe, repeatedly in Japan and the USA, and had also visited South America, Taiwan, Korea, Turkey, Israel and other countries.

Most of the commercial recordings have been made for the Supraphon label, orchestra's name appears on the recordings for BMG, Philips, Erato, Universal, Harmonia Mundi and others.

## SERGE BAUDO – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Serge Baudo is a worldwide renowned French conductor. Born in 1927, he studied conducting and composition with A. Honegger and percussion instruments. From 1954 he worked at Parisian radio. In 1962 he received an invitation from H. von Karajan to lead the opera *Pelléas et Mélisande* at Milan's La Scala. During the following ten years, he was a regular guest at the Aix en Provence Festival. Among his earliest engagements were the position of permanent conductor of the Opera de Paris, and Principal Conductor of the newly founded Orchestre de Paris. Between 1970-88 S. Baudo served as the Chief Conductor of the Orchestre National de Lyon. In 1979, S. Baudo founded the Festival Berlioz de Lyon. Serge Baudo has been the guest conductor of many prestigious orchestras and operatic ensembles, such as New York Metropolitan Opera and Staatsoper Wien, Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam, London's Symphonic Orchestra, Wiener Symphoniker, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and Moscow's and St. Petersburg's orchestras. He is Permanent Guest Conductor of the Yomiuri Nippon Orchestra and the Stockholm Orchestra. Starting from September 2001, Serge Baudo serves as the Chief Conductor of the Prague Symphony Orchestra. His voluminous discography includes recordings with London Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre National de Lyon, Prague Symphony Orchestra and Czech Philharmonic Orchestra – namely the memorable Honegger recordings. He is also renowned for his interpretation of modern and contemporary music, and has premiered compositions by a number of 20<sup>th</sup> century authors.



## PETR ALTRICHTER – PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

Born in 1951 in Czechoslovakia, he studied at the Conservatory in Ostrava and the Janáček Academy of Music in Brno from where he graduated in 1978. By the age of twenty-five he began to build his conducting career through his successful participation in the International Competition for Conductors in Besançon, France. In his native country he has held several important posts with a number of orchestras including Assistant to the late V. Neumann for three years with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, and Guest Conductor with orchestras in Brno, Zlín and Pardubice, of which he was Chief Conductor. In 1987 P. Altrichter became Principal Guest Conductor of the Prague Symphony Orchestra and by 1990 was appointed as the Chief Conductor, after he is a principal conductor of the orchestra. P. Altrichter has conducted with great success around the world, including concerts in Puerto Rico, Russia and all over Europe. As well as being the Principal Conductor in Liverpool, he has also been the Music Director of the Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie in Konstanz, Germany since 1993. In addition to this he has also conducted many other orchestras worldwide including Japan Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonie Krakow, Orchestra Milano, Symphony Orchestra Riga, Symphony Orchester RTL Luxembourg, SWF-Sinfonieorchester Baden-Baden, and Orquesta Filarmonica de Gran Canaria.



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## CHAMBER ORCHESTRAS

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### **AGON ORCHESTRA** **(ORCHESTRAGON)**

ADDRESS: Terronská 64, 160 00 Prague 6, CR

Phone/Fax: +420 233 312 459; E-mail: [agon.orchestra@post.cz](mailto:agon.orchestra@post.cz); <http://www.musica.cz/agon>

Permanent Conductor: Petr Kofroň

Manager: Ivan Bierhanzl

Orchestra body: 15-35 musicians, all kinds of classical & electronic instruments

#### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Agon Orchestra (originally The Agon Ensemble) was formed in 1983/85, as a platform for a group of young Czech composers and musicians whose activities developed outside the boundaries of the cultural establishment of that time (P. Kofroň, M. Smolka, M. Pudlák among others). Beside these Czech composers, Agon presented numerous Czech premieres of works by, for example, J. Cage, M. Feldman, A. Part, S. Reich or G. Scelsi. After 1989 Agon produced and performed several thematic cycles centred on avant-garde and cross-over tendencies in new music - from Micro-Interval Music and Beginnings of Dodecaphony, through Czech New Music of the 1960s and an Anthology of Czech and World Avant-Garde, to Graphic and Conceptual Scores; as well as the project Alternative, where Agon presented experimental works by Czech alternative-rock musicians, visual and performance artists. The members of Agon come from diverse backgrounds such as the Czech Philharmonic, State Opera or modern jazz and alternative rock circles. With the help of a combination of acoustic and amplified instruments the sound of Agon gains the aggressivity of a rock band together with the precision of a chamber ensemble performing classical music.

The Agon Orchestra has to date appeared both on domestic stages, and at many international festivals and venues abroad (in Austria, Belgium, Canada, England, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, USA & former Yugoslavia) and has produced a number of recordings for radio, TV, and record companies. In 1994 Agon received the Golden Harmony Award for the



best CD of Czech contemporary music (Czech New Music of the 1960s) and Czech Music Council Honorary Award for interpretation of Czech new music. It realised over 250 concerts in 16 countries.

Choice of discography: *Agon I* (Adamík, Kofroň, Pudlák, Smolka), CD F10018-2, Arta Records 1991; *Czech New Music of the 1960<sup>th</sup>* (Rychlík, Berg, Komorous, Vostřák), CD F10048-2, Arta Records 1994, *Agon-The Red & Black* {Graham, Kofroň, Šimáček}, double CD, Audio Ego 02-2/1-2, 1997, *Martin Smolka*, Audio Ego 03, 1998.

## PETR KOFROŇ – PERMANENT CONDUCTOR

Petr Kofroň works as a composer and conductor. Born in 1955 in Prague. After graduating from secondary school in 1974 he left Prague to study composition at the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno (under A. Piňos). At this time he was also a private student of M. Kopelent (1971-79). In the years 1980-88 he taught theory at the Pedagogical Faculty of The Charles University in Prague. In 1989 he worked for a short time as music editor at the publishing house Panton. From 1989 to 1996 he was working freelance. Since October 1996 he has been the director of the Pilsen Opera. As a composer Kofroň has worked since the beginning of the seventies - at that time his work proceeded from conceptualism (compositions examining the extremes of aural experiences, possibilities of the movement of sound through space etc.).

Since 1988 he has co-operated with a number of drama directors (J. Burian, O. Ševčík, J. Kališová, L. Engelová, H. Burešová) as a composer of incidental music (ca 50 stages).



## **BERG CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (ORCHESTR BERG)**

ADDRESS: Bílinská 494, Prague 9, CR

Phone: +420 604 205 937; Fax: +420 286 886 660; E-mail: [eva@berg.cz](mailto:eva@berg.cz); <http://www.berg.cz>

Chief Conductor, Artistic Director: Petr Vrábel

Manager: Eva Kesslová

Orchestra basic body: strings-8,6,4,4,2, winds-2,2,2,2,2,0,0, perc.-3

The number of instruments in the orchestra is augmented or reduced depending on the needs of the composition.



## ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Berg Orchestra was founded in 1995 on the initiative of the conductor Peter Vrábek. It consists of young talented musicians for whom work with the orchestra is a complement to their musical activities as chamber players and soloists. In this lies the orchestra's advantage: youth combined with the highest musical quality brings new creative impulses and is a permanent source of inspiration.

The orchestra focuses on music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century combined with earlier works. Its programs are of three main types: 1. program of 20<sup>th</sup> century music only 2. program combining contemporary with earlier music 3. popular series (concerts for children, special projects etc.). In the last four seasons it has presented an exceptional series of concerts with premieres commissioned specially for the orchestra. The very best Czech composers are involved in this project as well as selected young authors.

The concert activities of the orchestra include performances at international festivals and on important Czech stages – at the Prague Spring International Music Festival or in the prestigious series of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. Among other recent interesting projects we might mention an important benefit concert in the Cathedral of Aachen (Germany) or a successful debut in the prestigious IsSanat Hall in Istanbul. In the field of recording the orchestra made its debut with a world premiere recording of music by F. V. Krommer for the Studio Matous label. Last year the BCO participated in the recording of a new album by jazz pianist Frank Mantooth (USA). The orchestra has made many recordings for Czech Radio.

The orchestra has presented many Czech and world premieres (among others the world premiere of Martinů's *Czech Rhapsody* at Bohuslav Martinů International Music Festival 2001). The Berg Chamber Orchestra also devotes itself to promoting music among the youngest generation: for four years it has been presenting highly successful series of concerts for schoolchildren.



## PETER VRÁBEL - CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Born in 1969. P. Vrábek started his musical studies in his native country Slovakia. He studied conducting at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague under the guidance of conductors T. Koutník, R. Eliška, O. Dohnányi and F. Vajnar. He completed his musical education at the master courses with T. Bräm and R. Benzi. At the end of his studies he won the Gideon Klein Prize.

Already as a student he started his concert career and collaborated with numerous symphony and chamber orchestras and the Kühn



Children's Choir. In 1995 he founded the Berg Chamber Orchestra, which under his direction has become a respected performer of contemporary and twentieth-century music. He actively collaborates with the very best Czech composers and performers. During his relatively short career he has managed an exceptionally wide repertoire – he puts an emphasis on presenting contemporary and 20<sup>th</sup> century music in interesting juxtaposition with older works.

## **CZECH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** **(ČESKÝ KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)**

ADDRESS: Czech Chamber Orchestra, o.p.s., Slavíkova 9, 120 00 Prague 2, CR  
Manager-office: Předměřice 85  
Phone/Fax: +420 222 727 000; Mobile: +420 603 841 434  
Phone to Manager-office: + 420 326 313 195, Mobile: +420 608 332 830  
E-mail: cko@cko.cz; waldmann@seznam.cz; ada@cko.cz; ada.slivanska@telecom.cz  
<http://www.cko.cz>

Chief Conductor: Ondřej Kukul  
Artistic Director: Jana Vlachová  
Manager: Ada Slivanská  
Full string orchestra body: 15, 7, 4, 2

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Czech Chamber Orchestra (CCO) is the successor to the ensemble of the same name founded by V. Talich and active from 1946 to 1948. The members of the ensemble of that time included many leading instrumentalists and conductors for whom the orchestra represented a training-ground for the development of the highest skills and art of interpretation.

The first violin of that early ensemble was Talich's pupil and colleague, the founder and leader of the Vlach Quartet, Josef Vlach. Ten years later, in 1957, Vlach came back to Talich's idea, gathered around him twenty - four outstanding string players and became the teacher

and the director of this new orchestra. With Talich's blessing, the Czech Chamber Orchestra quickly established itself as a leading ensemble and very soon after its formation, it began to enjoy considerable success.



As part of his work as teacher, concert artist and conductor, Josef Vlach was responsible for bringing up a whole generation of young artists who now play in leading Czech orchestras and chamber groups. And it is precisely these pupils, together with the direct inheritors of Josef Vlach's ideas - The Vlach Quartet - who now continue in the interpretative tradition of V. Talich and J. Vlach.

The Artistic Director of the Czech Chamber Orchestra J. Vlachová and the ensemble's conductor O. Kukul take as the basic precept for their work the conviction that a chamber orchestra must be guided by the same principles as a string quartet.

The repertoire of the orchestra includes the compositions by J. S. Bach, S. Barber, B. Britten, C. Debussy, A. Dvořák, E. Elgar, E. Grieg, G. F. Haendel, J. Haydn, L. Janáček, I. Krejčí, O. Kukul, Z. Lukáš, B. Martinů, F. Mendelssohn-Barholdy, W. A. Mozart, H. Purcell, J. Rejcha, O. Respighi, J. Suk, G. Ph. Telemann, P. I. Tchaikovsky, J. K. Vaňhal, and A. Vivaldi.

## ONDŘEJ KUKAL – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Born in 1964 in Prague, where he graduated from the conservatory and the violin class of the Prague's Academy of Performing Arts under the guidance of his artistic mentor, Professor J. Vlach. His compositional studies (with J. Feld) culminated with a performance of his own violin concert, and as a conductor he led a performance of his own *Danse Symphonique* for large orchestra at the conclusion of his studies. As a student, Kukul was already conductor of the Prague Student Orchestra. From 1985 to 1995 he performed as a member of the New Vlach String Quartet. The concert and recording activities of this ensemble were an inspiration for his *First String Quartet*, op. 9, which was honored in 1989 in the "Generation" (Generace) composition contest.



In 1993 he became conductor of the Czech Chamber Orchestra, founded by V. Talich in 1946. Since 1996 he has been a regular conductor of the Czech Radio Orchestra, and in the same year he accepted a position as Concertmaster in the Prague Chamber Orchestra. Besides participating in the recording activities of this group, he prepared and conducted its concerts at New York's Lincoln Center, the Teatro Colón in Argentina, and Vienna's Musikverein. As a conductor he is often invited to collaborate with leading Czech orchestras - the Prague Symphony Orchestra, the Brno State Philharmonic, and the Janáček Philharmonic in Ostrava. In 1998 he was a guest with BBC Symphony Orchestra, which he conducted in a public recording of Czech repertoire. The Czech Philharmonic has also invited him to conduct two concerts in its 1998-99 subscription series.

Being a composer, conductor, and violinist simultaneously is natural for Kukul, but extraordinary in today's artistic world. In various ensembles he always finds sufficient motivation, inspiration, as well as the opportunity to have his works performed live, an essential element for a composer.

## PRAGUE PHILHARMONIA (PRAŽSKÁ KOMORNÍ FILHARMONIE)

ADDRESS: Krocínova 1, 110 00 Prague 1  
Tel.: +420 224 232 488; Fax: +420 224 235 118  
E-mail: pkf@pkf.cz; http://www.pkf.cz; www.praguephilharmonia.cz

Chief Conductor: Kaspar Zehnder  
Honorary Conductor: Jiří Bělohlávek  
Guest Conductor: Michel Swierczewski  
Director: Ilja Šmíd  
Full orchestra basic body: strings-8,6,5,4,3, winds-2,2,2,2- 4,2,1, timp  
Extra players and instruments are added to the orchestra when necessary.

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Prague Philharmonia (PP) was founded in 1994. Its basic instrumental profile is that of the Viennese classical orchestra, but according to need this is supplemented and altered. The orchestra plays works scored for a wide range of ensemble from small string and wind group to full symphony orchestra. In its repertoire, the orchestra focuses on masterpieces of the classical and romantic eras and on music of the twentieth century including neglected composers, little-played compositions, and new works by contemporary composers from both the Czech Republic and abroad. Since the orchestra's inception, its principal conductor has been its founder, J. Bělohlávek



The PP organizes four subscription cycles each year: Cycle A in Rudolfinum (home of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra), Cycle N – Cycle of Nationals in the Czech National Bank Hall, Cycle D for Children in the Rudolfinum and Cycle K – chamber concerts at the Philharmonia's own centre. Orchestra also regularly gives concerts for schools.

Famous soloists regularly work with the orchestra: pianists - I. Moravec, Y. Bronfman, A.s Schiff, M. Argerich, F. R. Duchable, E. Leonskaja, J. Simon, B. Davidovich, I. Ardašev, singers - R. Fleming D. Pecková, E. Urbanová, M. Kožená, J. Cura, Z. Kloubová, R. Janál, P. Mikuláš, violinists - S. Mintz, S. Chang, J. Suk, I. Ženatý, D. Sitkovetsky, cellists - R. Wallfish, D. Geringas, H. Schiff, J. Bárta and conductors - L. Pešek, M. Turnovský,

G. Cleve, D. Stern, Ch. Hogwood, Ch. Olivieri-Munroe, T. Hanus and Z. Müller.

The PP has participated in many important music festivals: Bergamo-Brescia, the Harrogate Festival, Radiofestival Montpelier, L'Epau Festival Le Mans, La Roque d'Antheron, in festivals Berlin, Leipzig, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Europalia, Mitte Europa, Jerash Festival, Prague Spring, Prague Autumn, Moravian Autumn, Bratislava Music Festivities, Janáček May and others. It has performed in 11 countries of two continents.

The orchestra's name appears on recordings for Supraphon, Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, BMG, Clarton, Lotos, Multisonic, Panton, Studio Matouš, Bohemia Music and others. The orchestra has won two gold discs (*Le belle imagini* with M. Kožená for Deutsche Grammophon and *Inspiration Clasiq*ue with Christian Abel in Canada).

#### KASPAR ZEHNDER – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

After high school graduation in ancient languages, Kaspar Zehnder studied flute with H. Indermühle and A. Nicolet and later also conducting at the Schweizerische Kapellmeisterschule with E. Körner, R. Weikert, H. Stein and W. A. Albert. K. Zehnder then worked as an assistant of Ch. Dutoit at the Orchestre National de France in Paris and as a Music Coordinator at the European Mozart Academy. In 1997 he was nominated artistic director of the orchestra of the Bern Music Academy, in 1999 he became Artistic Director of the Murten Classics Festival, since 2002 he is the principal guest conductor of the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra, since 2004 he works as a Music Director of the Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern.

As a Guest Conductor he appears regularly with leading ensembles such as Tchaikovski Symphony Orchestra Moscow, Cappella Istropolitana, Sinfonietta Cracovia, Berner Symphonie-Orchester, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Orchestre du Pays de Savoie.

Since 2003 K. Zehnder follows an extended activity in opera conducting (Stravinski: *Oedipus Rex*, Bizet: *Carmen*, Copland: *The Tender Land*, Dvořák: *Rusalka*, Verdi: *Rigoletto*, Britten: *The Turn of the Screw*).

His main fields of interest are music-theatre and contemporary music and their references to the classical repertoire.



## JIŘÍ BĚLOHLÁVEK – HONORARY CONDUCTOR

Born in 1946. A graduate of the Prague Conservatory and Prague Academy of Arts, he enjoyed a close association with S. Celibidache, with whom he studied for three years. In 1970, after winning the Czech National Conducting Competition, he became Assistant Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1971, he was a finalist in the Herbert von Karajan International Conducting Competition. During his collaboration with the Brno State Philharmonic Orchestra, (Conductor 1972-78), he undertook a number of major concert tours with the orchestra to Austria, Germany and the United States. One important chapter in his musical career was his 12-year association with the Prague Symphony Orchestra (Chief Conductor 1977-89). J. Bělohlávek significantly raised the artistic level of the orchestra. He toured frequently with the orchestra in Europe, in the USA and Japan, and made many important recordings.



J. Bělohlávek's relationship with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra began in 1973. He was a regular guest conductor of the CPO in Prague and abroad, became a Permanent Conductor of the Orchestra in 1981, and held the position of the Music Director from 1990 to 92.

In 1994, J. Bělohlávek founded the Prague Philharmonia and has been its Musical Direktor since then. From 1995 to 2000 J. Bělohlávek was the Principal Guest Conductor and since 2005 the Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London. Since 1995 he has been a Professor of the Prague Academy of Arts, and in 1998 he became the Guest Conductor of the Opera at the National Theatre in Prague.

J. Bělohlávek has enjoyed success as Guest Conductor with the world's greatest orchestras, having worked with the New York, Munich, Berlin, Japan and Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestras, the NHK Symphony in Tokyo, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig and the Staatskapelle in Dresden, and with the Boston, Sydney, Vienna, London and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestras. His conducting career to date has included performances at a large number of celebrated international music festivals including those at Tanglewood, Salzburg, Edinburgh, Montreux, Locarno, Perth, Schleswig-Holstein, Lucerne, and the Berliner Festspiele, the Prague Spring Festival and others. Currently, J. Bělohlávek is in great demand for guest conducting engagements worldwide, and he enjoys ongoing relationships with Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, Washington National Symphony, and others. He was appointed Chief Conductor of BBC Symphony Orchestra.

J. Bělohlávek's activity in opera dates from 1979, when he was a Permanent Guest of the Komische Oper Berlin, conducting performances of Smetana's *The Secret* and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. He conducted the new production of Martinů's *The Greek Passion* in The National Theatre of Prague in 1984, Martinů's *The Miracles of Mary* in Janáček's Opera in Brno in 1990 and Janáček's *Jenůfa* in Seattle in 1985. His return to the National Theatre of Prague with the new production of Janáček's *Jenůfa* in 1997 was a great success, as were also his further productions in the house - Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Dvořák's *Rusalka* (both in 1998) and Bizet's *Carmen* in 1999. In December 2001 J. Bělohlávek conducted a new production of Smetana's *The Devil's Wall*

(David Pountney directing) and prepared Janáček's *Fate* (with director Robert Wilson - 2002 ). J. Bělohlávek's musical achievement in the production of Janáček's *Jenůfa* at the Glyndebourne Festival (UK) in June 2000 (with director N. Lehnhoff) earned him a Barclay Theatre Award.

A prominent place in J. Bělohlávek's extensive discography is occupied by recordings of the complete orchestral works by J. Brahms with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and the set of sixteen CDs on Chandos label with mostly Czech music, two of which were awarded the prestigious Diapason d'Or prize in Paris. J. Bělohlávek's recording of Smetana's *My Country* with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra was awarded the Supraphon Golden Disc in 1995, and in May 1999 the conductor received a further Supraphon Golden Disc for his recordings and promotion of works by Bohuslav Martinů.

The recordings he has made in recent years with the Prague Philharmonia are of particularly fine quality, for here Bělohlávek draws on his many years of conducting experience, combining that experience with the high performance standards of his own orchestra to attain his interpretational ideal. This has resulted in exemplary recordings including Dvořák's *Legends* and *Czech Suite*, Dvořák's and Suk's *Serenades for Strings*, and Novák's *Slovak Suite*.

#### MICHEL SWIERCZEWSKI - PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR

Born in 1955 in Paris. M. Swierczewski made his debut as a conductor in 1976, studying under J.-C. Hartemann in Paris and Sir Ch. Mackerras in Vienna. An enthusiast for 20<sup>th</sup> century music, Swierczewski directed the Ensemble Musique Oblique from 1981 to 1985, becoming assistant to P. Boulez at the Ensemble InterContemporain in 1983. With C. Abbado at Milan's La Scala and Georges Pretre at the Paris Opera (1985-86), he acquired the international experience that opened the doors for him to some of the greatest orchestras: in France, the Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Opéra de Lyon, Ensemble InterContemporain, National Orchestras of Lyon, Lille, Bordeaux, Strasbourg and Pays de Loire. Elsewhere, among others, the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Stockholm Royal Philharmonic, Bamberger Symphoniker, Berliner Sinfonie Orchester, München Rundfunk Orchester, Bremen Staatsphilharmonie, Tonkünstler Orchester Wien, Grazer Symphonisches Orchester, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Flanders Royal Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, and the Symphony Orchestra of the MDR Leipzig with whom he has collaborated intensively for almost 8 years. At present, his principal collaboration is with Prague Philharmonia.



Since 1991, Swierczewski's work at the Opera Festival of the Imperial Theatre of Compiègne had earned new recognition for some of the most important French operas: *Gustave III* (Auber), *Christophe Colomb* (Milhaud), *Le Déserteur* (Monsigny), *Une Education Manquée* (Chabrier), *Le Songe d'une Nuit d'Été* (Thomas), *Le Domino Noir* (Auber) and *Médée* (Cherubini).

Swierczewski's recordings with the Gulbenkian Orchestras, first with Ades, and then Nimbus Records, have been internationally acclaimed and won several awards (Grand Prix de l'Académie du Disque Français, Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros, Laser d'Or RTL, Sunday Times Record of the Year, Prix Massenet de l'Académie du Disque Lyrique). M. Swierczewski is currently recording the complete orchestral works of Russian composer Alexander Lokshin for Bis Records and has just completed a compact disc for Deutsche Grammophon with M. Kožená.

Swierczewski is Flunder, Chaiman and Artistic Director of ClassicAll Network Ltd, an Internet company based in London. With licenses for CD distribution, downloads and streaming capabilities, coupled with an Internet Radio, Internet Television and a multimedia Magazine used for promotion, ClassicAll Network's Internet Site [www.ludwigvanweb.com](http://www.ludwigvanweb.com) is rapidly growing as one of the important classical music components of the Web.

## **PRAGUE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (PRAŽSKÝ KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)**

ADDRESS: Prague Chamber Orchestra, Černokostelecká 6, 100 00 Prague 10, CR  
Phone: +420 274 772 697; E-mail: [pkoagent@login.cz](mailto:pkoagent@login.cz); <http://www.pko.cz>

Concert Masters: Antonín Hradil, Ondřej Kukul  
General Manager: Svatoslav Gosman  
Full orchestra body: strings-6,5,4,4,2, winds-2,2,2,2-2,2,0,0, timp-1

Prague Chamber Orchestra (PCO) boast a unique position among ensembles, for similar formations are quite rare even worldwide as performing music without a conductor requires a special rapport of all orchestra members. Each relates not to the conductor's baton but to the ensemble as a whole, assuming the role of a chamber music player even though the instrumentation is much larger, stemming from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century peak Classicist period practice.

It was the initiative of the players as performers of solo parts that has been making the PCO's history ever since its beginnings when first players of the indi-





vidual instrument sections of the Czechoslovak Radio Symphony Orchestra got together to start a smaller ensemble better suited for their new programming, then focused largely on older Bohemian music, as attested by the ensemble's very first recording, *Orchestral Quartet* by Karel Stamic, cut in October 1951. The appearance at the prestigious Prague Spring Festival a year later then rocketed the orchestra among the most-demanded Czech ensembles, a status much enhanced also by the growing tendency to abolish the former practice of full instrumentation of older music.

The repertoire of this type of ensemble therefore stems mainly from the Classicist heritage (Haydn, Mozart, early Beethoven) but finds much inspiration also in the High Baroque (Bach, Händel, Vivaldi). The instrumentation practised by the orchestra, however, can be found in music of the early Romantic period (Mendelssohn, Schubert) a quite frequently in works by 20<sup>th</sup> century composers (Britten, Honegger, Prokofiev, Stravinski). An inseparable part of the repertoire is naturally made up by scores composed by older Bohemian masters comprising names such as Michna, Zelenka, Stamic, Benda, Dušek, Mysliveček, Vaňhal, Koželuh, Vranický, Rejcha, Jírovec, Voříšek etc. While the orchestra's favourites naturally include also Dvořák, Janáček and Martinů, the ensemble performs also music by a number of contemporary composers many of whom write directly for the orchestra.

The PCO became independent in 1965. The impressive half a-century long performance of PCO has left a distinguished mark on both the domestic and international concert scene. On the average, the ensemble plays some 80 concerts annually. The Czech audience has a chance to subscribe to a series of 5-6 concerts held in the Rudolfinum's Dvořák Hall or to hear the orchestra at one of its guest appearances around the country. Apart from that, it has long been a regular performer at the two major Czech music festivals, Prague Spring and Prague Autumn.

However, some four-fifths of all concerts take place abroad. Apart from frequently appearing around Europe including festivals such as Biarritz, the Rheingau Festival or the Mozartfest in Würzburg, the orchestra also travels overseas and has been on six extensive tours to Latin America, fourteen to the United States and Canada and six to Japan. Recently it has played to great acclaim in the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Singapore.

Throughout the 50 years of its existence the ensemble has recorded a great many scores for Supraphon, Denon, BMG, Decca, Telarc and other labels and its extensive discography boasts a number of prestigious prizes such as Supraphon's Golden Disc, the Wiener Flötenuhr or the Grand Prix du Disque Académie Charles Cros.

Despite its name and the prevailing mode of performing music, however, Prague Chamber Orchestra does not shun working with a conductor, and namely so in the recording studio, as attested by the ensemble's very successful cooperation with V. Neumann and G. Albrecht, or a long-term project to record all of Mozart's symphonies conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras. For many soloists, playing with PCO is a challenge to try - apart from playing their particular score - leading the orchestra. However, when a soloist is not given to this mode of playing, quite common in the past, the key role of the orchestra's coordinator passes to the concert master. This is why the players select him very carefully as he gives the whole ensemble's performance the definite expression. At present, the orchestra's concert masters are A. Hradil and O. Kukul.

## SUK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (SUKŮV KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Suk Chamber Orchestra, Ltd., Ludmila Vybíralová, Lupáčova 805/10, 130 00 Prague 3, CR  
Phone/Fax: +420 222 718 441; Mobile: + 420 602 255 858; E-mail: lvybiralova@iol.cz;  
<http://www.sukchamberorchestra.cz>

Chief Conductor: none  
Guest Conductors: Wilhelm F. Walz, Gudni A. Emilsson (Germany); Sakae Sakakibara (Japan)  
Artistic Leader of the Orchestra: Martin Kos  
Manager: Ludmila Vybíralová (violinist)  
Full (string) orchestra: strings: 4,3,3,2,1, harpsichord-1

Incorporated Ensembles  
MLADOTA ENSEMBLE (string quintet and piano)  
Resident Guests Soloists: Susan Kagan – piano (USA), Štěpán Kos (piano), Jana Boušková and Kateřina Englichová (harp)

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Orchestra was founded in 1974. The rich repertoire developed during the 30 years of its existence includes works ranging from Baroque style to contemporary music composed by Czech and world composers. The orchestra plays more than 35 concerts annually. Performances in the framework of the annual International Cycle of Chamber Concerts Musical “Jewels from Prague through Europe to the World” are organized under the moral support of UNESCO.

Since 1974 the Orchestra cooperated with many conductors as J. Vlach, J. Suk, H. Farkač, P. Škvor, F. Vajnar, Ch. Benda (Switzerland), A. P. de Bavier (Italy), and soloists - J. Suk, H. Holliger, A. May, R. Firkušný, M. Andre, I. Oistrach, S. Kagan, M. Kumamoto, Y. Oshima, H. Hahn, S. Milenkowitch, D. Herzog, M. Ulewitz, B. Trubin, I. Ženatý, P. Šporcl and others artists.

It participated in many important international festival: Prague Spring Festival, Prague Winter Festival, Easter Festival Prague, The Spring of Josef Suk (composer) Festival Days, Festival of Chamber Music Český Krumlov, Prague Music Festival, Salzburg Festival, Vienna Festival Weeks, Schleswig-Holstein Festival, Festival Euradié Netherland, Salzburger Festspiele, International Festival Macau, International Festival Bath



(GB), Salzburger Festspiele, International Festival of Music Verona, Mozart Festival Augsburg (Fronhof castle); Celebrations of Czech culture around the world: Peru, Brazil, Chile, Equador, Phillipines, and many other countries.

SCO has recorded more than 35 CDs of classical works by known and also less known composers, with many significant soloists and conductors, including recordings of chamber music by the Mladota Ensemble.

## VIRTUOSI DI PRAGA

ADDRESS: Artistic Agency LUPULUS Ltd., Pod Nový lesem 9/408, 162 00 Praha 6, CR  
Phone: +420 602 344 924, Fax: +420 235 364 674, e-mail: d.vlckova@volny.cz  
Artistic Chief, soloist : Oldřich Vlček  
Principal Guest Conductor: Alfonso Scarano  
General Manager: Dagmar Vlčková  
Incorporated Ensembles: Full (string) orchestra

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The world renowned orchestra has been led from the very beginning by conductor and violin virtuoso O. Vlček, who after 1990 built from a formerly small orchestra, an ensemble, which today is a sought-after partner for world stars such as P. Domingo, I. Oistrach, M. Rostropovich, J. Cura and others. The ensemble has a wide repertoire, consisting of the works of Vejvanovský, Mozart, Mysliveček, Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Rossini, Stravinski, Grieg, Elgar, Roussel as well as the works of 20th century world music and also has the courage to support the contemporary works of Czech composers.

The orchestra worked under the baton of V. Neumann, A. Rahbari, Ch. Benda, A. Scarano, N. Tsouchos, N. Athinaios, P. Schreier, P. Meyer H. Griffiths, H. Rilling, J. Swoboda etc. The list of soloists with whom the orchestra has had the pleasure to play includes such renowned names as P. Domingo, J. Cura, B. Hendricks, M. Rostropovich, I. Oistrach, P. Kogan, M. Vyskvorkina and others.

The orchestra cooperates very often also with prominent Czech choirs, like Prague Philharmonic Choir or Prague Chamber Choir and perform together such compositions like Haydn's *Creation*, Händel's *Messiah*, *Acis and Galatea*, Bach's *Mass in B*, *St. John Passion* etc.

The Orchestra recorded over one 170 CDs, produced for various labels including Supraphon, Orfeo, Discover, Claves and Koch International and is holder of two platinum Discs from Supraphon for the most successful recordings in the field of classical music in the nineties and Gold Discs from the Discover, Lupulus and Supraphon companies.



Virtuosi di Praga in Rudolfinum

The orchestra has regularly 8-10 concerts per year in Prague, about 30 in Czech and Slovak Republic and about 30-40 guest performances in European countries (Germany, Italy, Spain, Greece, Austria, Belgium, Holland, France) in Japan, Australia, USA and Latin America. Orchestra is regular performer at the major Czech music festival - Prague Spring. It is the residential orchestra of Pontes International Music Festival.

#### OLDŘICH VLČEK – ARTISTIC CHIEF, CONDUCTOR, SOLOIST

Studied at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts violin in the class of N. Grumlíková and conducting under the leading of V. Neumann. From 1980 he was a concert master and conductor of Prague Chamber Orchestra. In 1990 he established the new chamber orchestra Virtuosi di Praga. From the beginning of his professional career he combines solo performing with the post of leader/conductor of orchestra. As a soloist, he has worked with P. Domingo, J.Suk (with whom he made a recording of among others Vivaldi's *Double concertos*), A. Meneses, B. Hendricks, I. Oistrach, P. Kogan, P. Schreier, Sir Charles Mackerras (under his baton he recorded Handel's *Concerti Grossi*), M. Rostropovich and number of other outstanding artists.

Besides Prague Chamber Orchestra and Virtuosi di Praga he conducted several other orchestras like are Florence Sinfonietta, Milano Classica, Seoul Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Philharmonia, Festival Orchestra Pontes, Slovak Philharmony, Orchestra of Prague Opera House (Mozart's operas - *Figaro's Marriage*, *Cossi fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni*, *Rossini - Barber from Sevilla*), Cześćochowa Philharmonic etc. He toured the whole Europe, the United States, Latin America, Far East, performed in several world international festivals - Salzburg, Dresden, Bregense, Santa Cecilia etc. He is founder of the International Music Festival Pontes.



#### ALFONSO SCARANO – GUEST CONDUCTOR

Born in 1968 in Italy, he studied conducting at the Umberto Giordano Conservatory in Foggia, Choral Music at the Niccolò Piccinni Conservatory in Bari, Trumpet at the Tito Schipa Conservatory in Lecce.

Since January 2000 Alfonso Scarano is regular Guest Conductor of the Virtuosi di Praga performing concerts in Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Greece. He is a winner of the V. International Conducting Competition Bottega 1993 in Teatro Comunale di Treviso, IV. European Community Conducting Competition Franco Capuana 1997 in Roma and the project Young European Conductors 2003 in Scuola di Musica di Fiesole..

He has conducted many orchestras including Filarmonia Veneta, Orchestra di Teatro Sperimentale di Spoleto, Kiev RTV Orchestra, Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, Matáv Hungarian Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Orchestral de Paris and operas including *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Rigoletto*, *Traviata*, *Nabucco*, *Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *Don Pasquale*, *Sonnambula*, Gluck's *Le Cinesi*.



## BRNO

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### **BRNO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** **(STÁTNI FILHARMONIE BRNO)**

ADDRESS: The Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, Komenského nám. 8, 602 00 Brno, CR  
Phone: + 420 542 214 255; Ticket office: + 420 542 214 563  
Orchestra manager for abroad: +420 542 214 563; E-mail: [info@sfb.cz](mailto:info@sfb.cz); <http://www.sfb.cz>

Chief Conductor: Petr Altrichter  
Honorary Conductor: Caspar Richter  
Permanent Guest Conductor: Christoph Campestrini  
Permanent Guest Conductor: Mischa Damev  
Assistant to Chief Conductor: Lubomír Mikeska  
Full orchestra body: strings-18,15,13,11,10, harp-1, winds-5,5,5,4-7,5,5,1, perc.-5, piano

Affiliated Children Choir: CANTILENA (Kantiléna)  
It has been founded in 1956. E-mail: [sedlacek@kantilena.cz](mailto:sedlacek@kantilena.cz), <http://www.kantilena.cz>

Artist Manager: Ivan Sedláček  
Choirmaster: Jakub Klecker

#### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Brno Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) was established through the efforts of the young L. Janáček. Later, a student of Janáček, B. Bakala, succeeded in forming a high-quality symphony orchestra at Brno Radio, which served in 1956 as the foundation for today's Philharmonic Orchestra. The artistic profile of the orchestra has been shaped by many excellent conductors; in addition to the work of resident conductors B. Bakala, O. Trhlík, J. Waldhans, J. Bělohlávek, J. Pinkas, F. Jílek, P. Altrichter, P. Vronský, L. Svárovský, the orchestra has also hosted some of the world's greatest conductors, such as Ch. Munch, K. Ančerl, V. Neumann, V. Smetáček, Sir Ch. Mackerras, R. Kubelík, K. Masur, S. Baudo, G. Rozhdestvensky, L. Pešek, G. Delogu, Y. Menuhin and others.



At home with its ten annual concert series and its participation in the Brno International Music Festival, the Philharmonic is a pillar of Brno's musical life. In initiating its own festival at Špilberk as the only exclusively orchestral, or choral-orchestral festival in the Czech Republic, it is endeavoring to enrich its home-

town's summer season and enliven its cultural tourism in the new millennium. The Orchestra is also a regular guest at the Prague Spring Festival. It is an invited guest artist at festivals in Berlin, Innsbruck, Bratislava, Munich, Antwerp and Santiago de Compostela, to name but a few. Most of the five to eight foreign tours undertaken annually are by and large to European countries, although we have also performed in Japan, the USA, South Korea, Argentina, Uruguay, Vietnam, Philippines and Taiwan.

The discography of the orchestra after more than forty years of studio work is very extensive: it reflects, however, a general concentration on 20th century production and on Czech music as a whole, containing complete symphonic works of several Czech composers including Janáček, Novák and Martinů. Especially noteworthy are works by Janáček recorded under B. Bakala (posthumously awarded the Czech Grammy Classic), the operas of Martinů with Sir Ch. Mackerras, a CD *Menuhin Conducting Czech Music*, the three-part collection of Janáček's complete symphonic works with F. Jílek (Grammy Classic '93) and a double set, *Unknown Janáček*, with Leoš Svárovský.

List of chief conductors of the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra in 1956-2006: 1956-58 B. Bakala (1897-1958), 1959-62 J. Vogel (1894-1970), 1962-78 J. Waldhans (1923-95), 1978-83 F. Jílek (1913-93), 1983-91 P. Vronský (\*1946), 1991-95 L. Svárovský (\*1961), 1995-97 O. Trhlík (\*1922), 1997-2000 A. Ceccato (\*1934), since 2002 P. Altrichter (\*1951).

#### PETR ALTRICHTER – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

See in the chapter The Prague Symphony Orchestra FOK.

#### CASPAR RICHTER – HONORARY CONDUCTOR

Born in 1944 in Lübeck. He studied conducting, piano, percussion, and composition at the College of Music in Hamburg. In 1970 he became assistant to L. Maazel at The German Opera in Berlin; from 1972 to 1983 he was conductor there and also the guest of The Berlin Philharmonic and the radio orchestras in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Stuttgart. In 1978-82 he was the Music Director of The Berliner Festspiele. In 1983-87 he was conductor and colleague of Maazel at The Vienna State Opera, and also the Artistic Director for The Volksoper in Vienna. Since 1987 he has been the Music Director of The United Theatres in Vienna. In Vienna he also founded an independent orchestra for musicals, pop, rock, and jazz. He is regularly invited to perform with The State Opera in Dresden, Comic Opera in Berlin, New Westphalia Philharmonic, and Innsbruck Summer Festival.



During a quarter-century of working with The Brno Philharmonic Orchestra he has consistently focused on the difficult repertoire of Mahler and Bernstein, and come up with innovative presentations of the music of Strauss. In 1991 he was named permanent Guest Conductor in Brno, and Honorary Conductor in 2002. He was one of the initiators of The Špilberk International Music Festival.

## CHRISTOPH CAMPESTRINI - PERMANENT GUEST CONDUCTOR

Born in 1968, Linz. He studied piano at The Bruckner Conservatory, and quickly gained a reputation at home as an excellent pianist at domestic and international competitions and in concert. He began his conducting career as assistant conductor for The Bruckner Orchestra. In 1985 he went off to study conducting and composition at the famous Julliard School in New York, and continued his studies at Yale University, where he worked with L. Maazel, W. Sawallisch, and K. Sanderling. In 1989 he became head conductor with The Schubert Philharmonic in the USA. Since returning to Europe in 1992 he has conducted leading European orchestras, and performed all over the world. He has been a Permanent Guest Conductor for The Brno Philharmonic Orchestra since 2003.

## MISCHA DAMEV – PERMANENT GUEST CONDUCTOR

Born in 1963. He graduated in conservatory as a pianist in his hometown of Sofia, Bulgaria, then studied piano at The Academy of Music in Zurich and then at the College of Music in Basel. After he studied with A. Weissenberg in Paris and N. Magaloff in Geneva. As a soloist he appeared in Germany, Great Britain, France, Canada, Italy, Bulgaria, and Switzerland. In 1993 he broke off his career as a pianist to study conducting with Prof. K. Österreicher in Vienna. Over the following years he worked closely with M. Jansons, Chief Conductor of The Oslo Philharmonic, and with The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted Slovenia Philharmonic in Ljubljana, Zagreb Philharmonic, Sophia Soloists, Sophia Radio Orchestra, State Opera in Sophia, and Moscow's Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky Orchestra.

## SOUTH BOHEMIAN CHAMBER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

(JIHOČESKÁ KOMORNÍ FILHARMONIE ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE)

ADDRESS: The South Bohemian Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra České Budějovice  
Kněžská 6 (Otakar Jeremiáš Hall), 370 21 České Budějovice, CR  
Tel: +420 386 353 560, Tel/Fax: +420 387 311 554  
E-mail: [filharmonie@music-cb.cz](mailto:filharmonie@music-cb.cz); [jkf.director@music-cb.cz](mailto:jkf.director@music-cb.cz); <http://www.music-cb.cz>

Chief Conductor: Stanislav Vavřínek  
Director: Vlastimil Ochman  
Full orchestra company: strings-7,6,5,4,2,1, winds-2,2,2,2-2,2,0,0, timp.

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The orchestra was established in 1981 under the name of The *South Bohemian State Orchestra* (SBCP). The orchestra currently has 36 members and it is the only professional philharmonic orchestra in the distinct of South Bohemia. J. Vodňanský, the conductor responsible for the establishment of this orchestra, was the head conductor until the late 1980s. The following period under the leadership of O. Kukul as Head Conductor and B. Novotný - the first violinist of the Prague Quartet - as conductor, could be considered as a significant stage in the orchestra's growth in quality and professionalism.

The orchestra's core repertoire consists of interpretations of classical music. However, the dramaturgy of the concert seasons is varied and ranges from baroque to contemporary music.

Such well-known conductors as V. Smetáček, M. Munclinger, J. Vlach, V. Válek, V. Barsov and W. Hügler have cooperated with the SBCP orchestra, as have a number of significant soloists such as J. Suk, I. Moravec, V. Hudeček, E. Indjic and others.



The Building of Otakar Jeremiáš Hall



## STANISLAV VAVŘÍNEK – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

S. Vavřínek studied the flute and conducting at the Brno Conservatory. While still a student, he was for four years a member of the Brno Conservatory Wind Quintet, which received an invitation, in 1989 and 1990, to perform at the International Youth Festival in Bayreuth, both as a chamber ensemble and as members of Bayreuth Festival Youth Orchestra. He later continued studying at the Prague Academy of Music, in the conducting classes of Prof. Eliška, Vajnar and Stych. He finished his training at the master class of R. Benzi in Switzerland.

He was recommended by R. Benzi as a Guest Conductor of the Durban Symphonic Orchestra. Between 1994 and 1998, he was the principal conductor of the Prague Student Orchestra which received a number of awards under his leadership, First Prize (along with the top prize of the contest "Suma cum laude") in the 1995 Nerpelt International Competition, and First Prize in the Concerto Bohemia radio competition (1995-96). In 1997 it was the Absolute Winner prize in the same competition for the performance of Shostakovich's *Chamber Symphony* op. 110. S. Vavřínek made several radio and TV recordings and concert tours abroad. In 1998, the International Youth Orchestra played under his baton at the final gala concert at the Shizuoka Festival in Japan. He has guest-conducted more than thirty symphonic and chamber orchestras, including Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra Ostrava, the State Philharmonic Orchestra Brno, the Prague Philharmonia, Prague Symphony Orchestra and the Gdansk Philharmonic Orchestra. He has appeared on stages with prominent soloists such as I. Moravec, E. Indjic, I. Kusnjer, V. Hudeček, D. Pecková and P. Šporcl. He has been host at prestigious international festivals in Shizuoka, Brno, at the Prague Autumn and Prague Spring Festivals, to name just a few. He has made seven CDs with music by Mozart, Haydn, Dvořák, Tchaikovsky, Sternwald, Bartók, and Shostakovich. During the current season, he has been invited to work with the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra in Bratislava. Since 1999 he is the Chief Conductor of the South Bohemian Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra České Budějovice.



### PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ (FILHARMONIE HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ)

ADDRESS: Philharmonic Orchestra Hradec Králové, Eliščino nábřeží 777, 500 03 Hradec Králové, CR  
Phone: +420 495 211 375; E-mail: fhk@fhk.cz; <http://www.fhk.cz>

Chief Conductor: Ondřej Kukul  
Honorary Conductor: František Vajnar  
Permanent Conductor: Miriam Němcová  
Director: Václav Derner  
Permanent Soloist: Lukáš Vondráček-piano  
Full orchestra body: strings - 13,12,11,11,6; wind - 4,6,4,4-7,2,5,1; percussion - 4

#### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Philharmonic Orchestra Hradec Králové (POHK) is one of the leading symphony orchestras in the Czech Republic, and is the only professional orchestra in this particular region. The POHK was founded in 1977 as a state orchestra, and currently performs approximately 90 concerts every year both in the Czech Republic and abroad. Its dramaturgy includes symphonic and oratorio pieces from all periods, as well as contemporary multimedia produc-



tions. The POHK performs old symphony music as well as compositions by contemporary composers, and makes recordings for radio and television broadcast and CDs.

In addition to the three concert cycles in Hradec Kralové, the POHK regularly performs concerts in the famous Rudolfinum Music Hall in Prague (about 15 concerts annually), and in other towns and cities throughout the Czech Republic. The orchestra also gives concerts in many European countries (Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, just to name a few). The POHK has been conducted by a number of significant Czech and foreign conductors including V. Neumann, L. Pešek, P. Altrichter, P. Vronský, D. Bostock, M. Turnovský, and O. Dohnányi.

From 1991 to 2001, leading Czech conductor, F. Vajnar (\*1930) was its chief conductor, and the current conductors of the orchestra are now O. Kukul and M. Němcová. The POHK cooperates with a young wonderful solo pianist, L. Vondráček (\*1986), and with him performs concerts including works by Mozart,

Beethoven, Grieg, Tchaikowsky, Gershwin, and Rachmaninov.

In the 2004/5 season, the orchestra's building and music hall are undergoing the restoration.

ONDŘEJ KUKAL – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

see in the chapter the Czech Chamber Orchestra

MIRIAM NĚMCOVÁ – PERMANENT CONDUCTOR

see in the chapter the Prague Conservatory Symphony Orchestra

## KARLOVY VARY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR KARLOVY VARY)

ADDRESS: Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, I. P. Pavlova 14, 360 01 Karlovy Vary, CR  
Phone: +420 353 228 707; Mobile: +420 777 744 890; E-mail: kso@kso.cz; www.kso.cz

Conductor and Director: Miloš Formáček

Honorary Chief Conductor: Jiří Stárek

Full orchestra body: strings - 10,8,6,6,4; harp - 1; winds - 3,3,3,3-5,3,3,1; percussion - 3

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

J. Labický founded the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra (KVSO) in 1835 as a seasonal spa orchestra. Forty years later Labický's son, August, transformed it into a permanent symphony orchestra performing numerous activities and having a universal repertoire. It was this orchestra that performed the European premiere of Dvořák's *New World Symphony* in 1894. During the period of 1911 to 41, R. Manzer appeared as the head of the orchestra, raising the orchestra to a remarkable artistic level and began working with famous celebrities of European music, including P. Casals and R. Strauss.



After 1945, the KVSO played an important role in the city of Karlovy Vary when J. Bartl became the artistic leader. During every concert season (from October to June), the orchestra performs a series of concert cycles, special and opera concerts, as well as educational concerts for children. During the main spa season, the orchestra participates in all traditional music events in Karlovy Vary: the Mozart and Beethoven Festival in Karlovy Vary, the Young Stage Festival and Dvořák's Autumn Festival.

A number of renowned artists have worked with the KVSO over the past years. The list of individuals include: conductors J. Bělohlávek, D. Dixon, A. Chatchaturjan, Z. Košler, Ch. Mackerras, and L. Pešek; piano players E. Gilels and I. Moravec; violinists D. Oistrach, V. Hudeček, G. Kremer and J. Suk; cellist M. Rostropovitch; cymbalist Z. Růžicková; and vocalists M. Hajjossyová and E. Urbanová. V. Neumann, V. Matěj, J. Hercl, R. Eliška, D. Bostock from Great Britain during the period from 1991 to 98 have been the long-term conductors who have had an important influence on the profile of the orchestra.

The KVSO is a regular guest on the concert stages throughout the Czech Republic (Prague Spring Festival) and abroad, especially in Germany and other European countries. The orchestra appears not only in symphony programs, but also at opera festivals (Oviedo), ballet performances (Bregenz), international competitions (Zaragoza), and even cantata concerts (Antwerp, Bonn, Karlsruhe, etc.).

The repertoire of the orchestra dramaturgy includes all the main works from the Classic and Romantic periods, as well as some works from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An important part of the orchestra repertoire contains Czech music. Much of their musical works is suitable for popular open-air concerts, films and musicals, operas and operettas, as well as many famous instrumental concertos.

### MILOŠ FORMÁČEK – CONDUCTOR

Born in 1956 in Prague, Formáček studied piano, composition and conducting at the Prague Conservatory. He graduated from the Prague Academy of Music Arts under the direction of Prof. V. Neumann. He also studied under Prof. J. Veselka, conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Ensemble, and took private lessons from Prof. Z. Košler. In 1980, he became the head conductor of the Prague Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, and later the Symphony Orchestra AUS VN. From 1988 to 1994, he led the Karlin Music Theatre Orchestra in Prague. At the same time, he was a guest conductor for many orchestras in the Czech Republic and abroad. From 1984 to 1994, he was a professor at the Prague Conservatory, and then later gave lessons at the Pedagogical Faculty of the Charles University. In June 2002, he became a conductor, and then later Chief Conductor of the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra. In September 2002, he was appointed to the position of Director of the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra.



### JIŘÍ STÁREK – HONORARY CONDUCTOR

On June 1<sup>st</sup> 2003, the Honorary Chief Conductor of the KVSO completed his conducting studies at the Prague Academy of Music under the guidance of V. Talich and K. Ančerl. From 1953 to 1968, he worked as a conductor on the staff of the Czechoslovak Radio Prague (in 1964, he became the Chief Conductor). Since 1968, he has continued developing his international career that has taken him throughout Europe, USA, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East. He has made radio recordings for RIAS Berlin, SWR Stuttgart, BBC London, BBC Scotland, BBC Belfast, Radio Oslo, Radio France Paris, ORF Vienna and others and has appeared at many leading international music festivals including Salzburg, Berlin, Schleswig - Holstein, and Prague.



From 1976 to 1980, J. Stárek was the Chief Conductor of the Sinfonietta Rias Berlin, from 1981 to 1984, the Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Norwegian SO Trondheim in 1988, the Principal Guest Conductor of the West Australian SO Perth, the General Music Director of the Pfalztheatre in Germany during the 1989/90 season, and the Chief Conductor of the State Opera Prague during the 1996-97 and 1998-99 seasons.

Stárek's pedagogical activities are closely connected with the Music Academy in Frankfurt/Main. After 22 years, J. Stárek returned to the Prague concert stages in 1990, and since that time he has been conducting all outstanding Czech orchestras.

**WEST BOHEMIAN PHILHARMONY MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ  
(ZÁPADOČESKÝ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ)**

ADDRESS: West Bohemian Philharmonic Mariánské Lázně, o.p.s., Hlavní 47, 36301 Mariánské Lázně CR  
Phone: +420 354 622 141; Fax: +420 354 625 641; E-mail: havel@zso.cz; www.zso.cz

Chief Conductor and Music Director: Michael Roháč  
Marketing Director: Jan Havel  
Full orchestra body: strings-8,6,5,4,2, winds-2,2,2,2-4,2,3,0, timp-1

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

Mariánské Lázně and its orchestra have had a symbiotic relationship since the orchestra's creation in 1821. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was growing interest in spa recreation in the West Bohemian region, and therefore the demand for spa orchestras lead to the creation of many such ensembles. The birth of a permanent orchestra in Mariánské Lázně was made possible by the owner and founder of the spa, the superior of the Tepel monastery, K.K. Reitenberger, who established regular musical performances on the Promenade.



The relatively small band played at the springs several times a day, greeted guests and played during evening balls. An increasing number of promenade concerts and café concerts lead to an increase in size of the orchestra, which made symphonic concerts possible by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. From the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the focus of the orchestra distinctly shifted towards symphonic music, all the while continuing to serve its traditional role on the Promenade. This ability to cope with a wide range of repertoire earned the orchestra international acclaim. Composer and conductor G. Spontini often visited the orchestra as a guest conductor, L. Spohr was inspired by the orchestra to compose his *Waltz* op. 89 *Errinerung an Mariánské Lázně* and R. Wagner dedicated a part of his score of the opera *Rienzi* to the orchestra.

A significant and unique fact in the history of the Mariánské Lázně orchestra is that the continuity of its musical tradition was never interrupted by any social or political changes. The orchestra's performances were not stopped by any war or post-war events.

In connection with the fundamental change in the spa's operations in the 1950's, the orchestra combined its function as a spa band with that of a permanent symphony orchestra. Besides promenade concerts it organized regular symphonic concerts and took part in musical festivals such as the renowned F. Chopin Festival, of which it was a co-founder. Since 1971 the orchestra bears its present name, the "West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra".

Presently, the orchestra produces a standard subscription-concert season from September until May and a summer Promenade season from June through August. Several performances during the year are devoted to young audiences, in the form of family concerts and school concerts. The orchestra often tours in nearby German cities such as Furth-im-Wald, Tirschenreuth, Bad Wörishofen and Nürnberg. Young rising Czech musical talents are given many opportunities to appear as soloists with the orchestra, alongside with established Czech soloists such as E. Urbanová and I. Ženatý. The orchestra also regularly cooperates with the Conservatory in Pilsen, Academy Performing Arts in Prague, Hochschule für Musik Weimar, Hochschule für Musik Zürich, Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg in organizing courses for young conductors.

#### MICHAEL ROHÁČ – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

The current Music Director and Chief Conductor, M. Roháč, was born in Toronto Canada to Czech parents. He is presently re-establishing the standard orchestral repertoire of Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Schubert and Brahms in the WSO, which had been neglected in previous years. M. Roháč also plans to create a cycle of concerts that feature contemporary Czech, European and Canadian composers.



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**MORAVIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
**(MORAVSKÁ FILHARMONIE OLOMOUC)**

ADDRESS: Moravian Philharmonic, Horní nám. 23, Olomouc, CR  
Phone: +420 585 206 520; Fax: +420 585 220 124; E-mail: mfo@mfo.cz; www.mfo.cz

Chief Conductor: Petr Vronský

Director: Vladislav Kvapil

Full orchestra body: strings-13,11,9,7,5,5, winds-4,3,5,3,3-6,3,5,3,5,1-perc.-3,5

Affiliated ensembles: CAMERATA MORAVIA- string chamber orchestra with harpsichord

GAMAVILLA QUARTET - string quartet

OLOMOUC BRASS QUINTET

ARION QUINTET- brass quintet

ACADEMIC CHOIR ŽEROTÍN

## ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1945, the Moravian Philharmonic (MP) ranks among the foremost and oldest symphony orchestras in the Czech Republic. The orchestra is located in the ancient university town of Olomouc, the historical capital of Moravia, an important education, and cultural and artistic centre of the entire Central Moravia. After the division of the Czech Republic into regions, Olomouc became the centre of Olomouc region.



Important personalities of Czech music could be seen at the head of MP, and behind the conductor's podium leading world conductors have also appeared, including O. Klemperer, A. Janson, Y. Menuhin, V. Neumann, L. Pešek and others. Prominent instrumentalists have also been guests of the orchestra: S. Richter, I. Oistrach, G. Kremer, S. Ishikawa, P. Fournier, D. Šafrán, A. Navarra, J. Suk, V. Hudeček, J. Carreras, A. Baltsa, and many others.

Over the course of its activities of more than 50 years, the MP has created an exceptionally large and varied repertoire. The orchestra pays attention to important world composers of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Of course, the MP is an authentic interpreter of the Czech classical music of A. Dvořák, B. Smetana, L. Janáček and B. Martinů.

The MP intensively promotes contemporary Czech and world musical creation, and has introduced more than 250 new pieces. The orchestra has recently specialized on the CD recordings of contemporary authors.



The MP has found favour in most European countries, returning annually regularly to many cities thanks to the outstanding acceptance of the foreign public and critics. The orchestra has taken part in important international musical festivals in foreign countries such as Greece, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, and Austria.

The MP is a cultural institution participating in the organisation of the artistic and concert life in the city of Olomouc. It is the organiser of Dvořák's Olomouc Music Festival and the International Organ Festival, that take place annually in precious and architecturally significant churches in Olomouc. The Moravian Philharmonic also regularly organises the International conductorship courses.

## PETR VRONSKÝ – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Born in 1946, Vronský belongs to the group of leading Czech conductors who have also received success on foreign concert stages. He began his career as an opera conductor, but relatively soon began to devote himself to the symphony repertoire, primarily as a conductor but later as the head conductor of the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, with whom he has performed a great number of foreign concert tours (Japan, Germany, France, Spain) and has also released a number of recordings for radio and CD. He was successful in many European conducting competitions, including the Besançon in 1971 and the Karajan Competition in Berlin in 1973.



Vronský has conducted many symphony orchestras all over the world (Philharmonic Orchestra Ankara, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Antwerp, Berliner Symphoniker, Philharmonisches Orchester Dortmund, Dresdner Philharmonie, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Nürnberger Symphoniker, Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra). He has developed a regular collaboration with the finest Czech orchestras, including Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Brno Philharmonic Orchestra and Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra Ostrava. (Taiwan 1997, Japan 1999, and Spain 2001). He has also worked with prominent opera houses in the Czech Republic - the National Theatre Prague (Janáček: *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Verdi: *Don Carlos*) and the State Opera Prague (Janáček: *Jenůfa*) as well as with theatres from abroad (Chamber Opera Vienna, Dance Theatre Haag). In 1999, he collaborated with Z. Mácál in a series of performances of Smetana's *Bartered Bride* at the Opera Monte Carlo.

In September 2002, he was appointed to the position of Chief Conductor of the JPO in Ostrava. He has also taught conducting at the Janáček Academy in Brno since 1983. Petr Vronský is a type of a highly temperament conductor with a very sensible feeling for the composition of the interpretation. His broad repertoire includes more than 200 classical and modern symphonic works and operas.

## CAMERATA MORAVIA

is one of the most representative permanent chamber orchestras in the Czech Republic, founded in 1987 as a chamber orchestra by the best performers from the Moravians Orchestras. It has toured Europe extensively since then, giving concerts in Spain, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark and Austria. It has taken a part in international festivals, namely at the Festival in Reims, having been conducted

by Y. Menuhin there. The chamber orchestra cooperates with renown soloists of world standing, e.g. with the French clarinetist P. Cuper. A number of concerts have been given at home as well. The orchestra has recorded 10 CD and performed in a number of radio and TV studios.

The composition of the orchestra and the strings open a possibility for a wide repertoire, from the Early Baroque masters to 20<sup>th</sup> century music, though it has not been neglecting contemporary composers either.

Camerata Moravia is rather active in the city of Olomouc itself, which is one of the most important cultural centres in the Czech Republic, hosting the International Organ festival, International Dvořák Festival, the International Festival of Children Choirs etc. The orchestra participates in the International festivals in Czech republic - Prague Spring, Janáček May Ostrava, Dvořák Olomouc and Bratislava Music Festivities in Slovakia.

## OSTRAVA

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### **JANÁČEK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA OSTRAVA** **(JANÁČKOVA FILHARMONIE OSTRAVA)**

ADDRESS: Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra Ostrava, 28. října 124, 702 00 Ostrava, CR  
Phone: + 420 597 489 504; Mobile: +420 603 221 967 (director); E-mail: office@jfo.cz; www.jfo.cz

Chief Conductor: Theodor Kuchar  
Guest Conductors: Leoš Svárovský, Charles Olivieri–Munroe  
Director: Peter Krajniak  
Full orchestra body: strings-8,13,10,11,8, harp-1, winds-4,4,4,4-5,4,4,1, perc.-4

Affiliated Chamber Ensembles: CAMERATA JANÁČEK, BRASS QUINTET JFO, JANÁČEK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Affiliated Soloists: Jiří Hanousek (cello), Martina Bačová (violinist), Jiří Vodička (violinist), Ivan Ženatý (violinist)

#### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The orchestra was founded in 1954 as one of state symphony orchestras, and is one of the most must important orchestras in the Czech Republic. Many famous conductors have stood at the head of the organization: O. Pařík, J. Waldhans, O. Trhlík, D. Burkh, C. Arming, P. Vronský, and in the role of guest conductors, we can also find V. Smetáček, J. Bělohlávek, L. Pešek S. Baudo, and C. Mackerras, just to name a few.

Over the course of one year, the orchestra realises between 120 to 140 concerts, and participates regularly in many international festivals: Janáček May, Janáček Hukvaldy, Dvořák Olomouc, Smetana Litomyšl, Špilberk Festival in Brno, and Autumn Festival of Spiritual Music.

The Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra (JPO) has cooperated with many famous soloists: J. Carreras (tenor), E. Indjic (piano), as well as V.E. von Monteton (piano) from the younger generation.

To commemorate the anniversary of A. Dvořák, the orchestra prepared a three CD set containing the compositions of A. Dvořák (Brilliant Classics - 92297). Since 2001, the orchestra has also been working with the Ostrava Centre for New Music and its international courses for composers Ostrava Days (founded by composer P. Kotík). The cooperation with this Centre is based on the interest of interpreting contempo-



rary music. In 2004, the orchestra participated in the prestigious festival MaerzMusik with *Ordinary Matter*, a composition of three contemporary composers (Neuwith, Kotik, Wolff).

## THEODOR KUCHAR – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Born in 1960. His musical career began on the violin, and later the viola. He attended the Cleveland Institute of Music and served as principal violist of leading orchestras of Cleveland and Helsinki.

In 1980 Kuchar was awarded the Paul Fromm Fellowship from the Boston Symphony Orchestra to undertake advanced study and performance at Tanglewood, where he worked with L. Bernstein, C. Davis, S. Ozawa and A. Previn, and in Cleveland where he worked under the guidance of L. Maa-zel. Subsequently, he appeared as a guest conductor with the leading symphony orchestras.

Soon after his Australian debut (1987) Kuchar was appointed Music Director of the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra in Brisbane, whilst also serving as Music Director of the West Australian Ballet in Perth until 1993.

From 1994 until 2001 Kuchar was appointed Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (1994), Principal Guest Conductor of the Ukrainian State Symphony Orchestra (1992), Artistic Director of The Australian Festival of Chamber Music (1990), Music Director and Conductor of the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra (1996), Music Director of the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra (2001).

During the past several seasons, guest conducting engagements have taken him to major musical centers including Amsterdam, Chicago, Helsinki, Hong Kong, London, Madrid, Prague and Sydney.

In 2004 Kuchar conducted a three-week European Tour and in February 2005 conducted a three-week United States Tour with the Berliner Symphoniker (Berlin Symphony). In the season 2005/6 he will start in the function of Chief Conductor of Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra Ostrava.

T. Kuchar is one of the most prolifically recorded conductors of the past decade, having recorded over 70 CDs for the Naxos and Marco Polo labels.



## PARDUBICE

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### **CZECH CHAMBER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PARDUBICE (KOMORNÍ FILHARMONIE PARDUBICE)**

ADDRESS: Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice, Sukova tř. 1260, 530 21 Pardubice, CR  
Phone: + 420 466 535 683; E-mail: [kfpar@pce.cz](mailto:kfpar@pce.cz); <http://www.chamberphilpar.cz>

Chief Conductor: Leoš Svárovský  
Guest Conductor: Douglas Bostock (USA)  
Director: Ludvík Kašpárek  
Full orchestra body: strings-7,7,4,4,2, winds-2,2,2,2-2,2,0,0, timp-1

#### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice (CCPOP) is very similar to that of a smaller Haydn-Mozart type of symphonic ensemble. The orchestra was founded in 1969 under its original name of the *East Bohemian State Chamber Orchestra Pardubice*. Since its inception, the orchestra has continued developing with high-quality prospects, initially under the guidance of the famous personality, Chief Conductor L. Pešek.

Over the course of its thirty-five subscription concert seasons, an entire myriad of exceptional conductors, both Czech and foreign, have taken their turns behind the conducting dais. From the Czech conductors, apart from the Chief Conductors L. Pešek, P. Altrichter, L. Hlaváček, P. Škvor, R. Stankovský and L. Svárovský, we should name F. Vajnar, V. Válek, J. Vlach, J. Stárek, O. Kukul, B. Kulínský, T. Koutník, P. Vronský, J. Krček, S. Macura and others. Those conductors from abroad include, first and foremost the permanent Guest Conductor D. Bostock, as well as P. Feranec, I. Dénes, E. Khachaturian, T. Bräm, U. Schneider, A. Rosen, J. Domarkas, A. Katz, G. Oskamp, M. Lebel, H. Griffiths, V. Lukas and many others.

The repertoire of the CČPOP is primarily integrated with its precise orientation toward the Classical orchestral ensemble and, secondly, to its original Classicist component, which always demands a deliberate and carefully planned choice of repertoire. As an example, one can mention the Baroque compositions of J. S. Bach, G. F. Händel, A. Vivaldi, J. D. Zelenka, Fr. I. Tůma, J. I. Biber, and P. J. Vejvanovský, as well as the superb Classic symphonic works of Ch. W. Gluck, J. Haydn, W. A. Mozart and L. v. Beethoven. It also includes the compositions of J. V. Stamic and his sons, F. and J. Benda, J. Mysliveček, A. Rejcha, J. L. Dusík, P. and A. Vranický, J.



K. Vaňhal, J. V. H. Voříšek and F. X. Brixi. The CCPOP also brings out outstanding orchestral heritage of the Romantics and the heritage of the 20<sup>th</sup> century classics, as well as some rather contemporary authors, including J. Hanuš, L. Sluka, J. Feld, Z. Lukáš, V. Riedlbauch, I. Kurz, S. Bodorová, M. Kubička, and J. Krček.

The orchestra has recorded a great variety of successful albums and CDs, beginning with the repertoire from the Baroque to the present. Its radio and TV performances, and in particular its numerous concert tours within the Czech Republic and to all other continents except Australia, cannot be forgotten either.

On the home stage, the ensemble most importantly presents its annual subscription cycles of ten programmes on average (always repeated at least three times), primarily in Pardubice, as well as Hradec Králové and Chrudim (about 50 concerts per years). An additional thirty concerts have been performed for other producers, including those for tours to other countries.

Throughout the entire period of its artistic activity, the orchestra has performed at major musical festivals at home (Prague Spring, Janáček May in Ostrava, Moravian Autumn, Festival of Spiritual Music in Olomouc, Talich Beroun, Smetana Litomyšl, B. Martinů Festival in Polička, etc), as well as abroad (Bodensee Festival, Festival Mitte Europa, and others). The ensemble also collaborates with Czech and renowned foreign soloists, including L. Berman, V. Pikajzen, S. Milstein, S. Ishikawa, E. Indjic, and E. Rauti. The Czech musicians with whom they have cooperated include violinists J. Suk, V. Hudeček, and G. Demeterová, cellists M. Fukačová, M. Jerie, J. Bárta and J. Páleníček, pianists J. Simon, B. Krajný and I. Moravec, and organists V. Rabas and V. Uhlíř.

## LEOŠ SVÁROVSKÝ – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Born in 1961. He is one of the foremost Czech conductors of the middle generation. He studied flute at Prague Music Conservatory, and achieved his fame as an excellent soloist. Between 1981 and 1987, he studied conducting at the Music Academy under prof. V. Neumann. In 1985, he commenced his conducting as an assistant of Z. Košler, who was at that time the head of the opera department of the National Theatre in Prague. In 1991, he participated in the H. von Karajan courses in Salzburg, where he was an assistant to Sir G. Solti during the Salzburg Summer Plays. As head conductor, he collaborated with the outstanding Czech and Slovak orchestras: the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra and Slovak Sinfonietta Žilina. From September 1997, he was the Chief Conductor of the Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice, with which he toured a number of foreign countries including Spain and Germany. During the 2001/02 season, he was the Principal Conductor of the National Theatre ballet in Prague.



Led by the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, L. Svárovský has worked with many other Czech and Slovak orchestras, as well as with a number of orchestras of other countries, including the Bach Collegium Munich, the Soul Philharmonic Orchestra, the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, the Munich Radio Orchestra, Beethovenhalle Bonn Orchestra, Residentie Orkest den Haag, RTL Symphony Orchestra Luxembourg, North Irish BBC Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra Beijing, Wiener Kammerorchester, Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, and many others. Many countries in Europe, and by USA, Japan and Korea have hosted him as a Guest Conductor.

## PILSEN

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### PILSEN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (PLZEŇSKÁ FILHARMONIE)

ADDRESS: Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra, o.p.s., nám. Míru 10, Pilsen 301 00  
Phone: +420 377 423 257, Mobile: +420 602 486 635 (Director), E-mail: jiri.malat@volny.cz,  
<http://www.plzenskafilharmonie.cz>

Chief Conductor: Jiří Malát  
Full orchestra body: strings-10,8,6,4(6),3(4), winds-2,3,2,5-3(4),2,3, perc.-2

#### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) was established in 1919 as a semi-professional orchestra. Since February 1946, it has existed as a fully professional orchestra, named the Radio Symphony Orchestra Pilsen. The ensemble is one of the leading ensembles in West Bohemia and has also won a wide recognition abroad. The orchestra makes regular recordings for the Czech Radio that include selections ranging from Baroque to contemporary



works, and also releases CDs for foreign partners. In addition to recording, the orchestra is also engaged in giving concert performances. They offer two large cycles of symphony performances exclusively for the subscription audiences in the city of Pilsen, as well as numerous concerts in other cities throughout the Czech Republic and abroad. In recent years, the PPO has repeatedly organized many successful concert tours in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, France, Spain and Portugal. It is currently preparing its first overseas tour in the US.

Throughout its existence, the orchestra has had the opportunity of cooperating with a number of outstanding conductors (V. Talich, A. Khachaturian, R. Benzi, J. Bělohlávek, L. Pešek, Sir Ch. Mackerras, H. Rilling, S. Baudo, J. Stárek, A. Katz), as well as world-renowned soloists (R. Kerer, L. Kogan, G. Kremer, I. Oistrach, M. Rostropovic, R. Vargás, M. Caballé) Thanks to its excellent interpretation skills, together with its reliability and flexibility in rendering Czech and world symphony music, the PPO is a welcome guest at

concerts and festivals, and is sought after as a partner for its cooperation with leading foreign choirs, instrumental soloists and conductors.

Current Chief Conductor of the PPO is J. Malát

## JIŘÍ MALÁT – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Upon graduating from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague where he studied with V. Neumann, J. Malát was invited to become the Music Director of the Pilsen Opera. During his tenure, he conducted more than 30 different operas, assumed the position of Head Conductor of the Pilsen Radio Symphony Orchestra with whom he recorded more than 200 works, and guest conducted in Germany, Switzerland and the former Soviet Union. In 1986, he became the Music Director of the Ostrava Philharmonic and in 1988 took the position at the National Theatre in Prague where he conducted many fundamental pieces from the opera repertoire. J. Malát has resided in Germany since 1992 when he took over the directorship of the Mannheim Chamber Orchestra (he retained this post until 2002). In recent years, he has guest conducted in Washington D.C., Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Regina, Zürich, Winterthur, Paris, Berlin and Prague. In 1998, he became a regular guest conductor of the State Opera Prague. A tour to the United States with the Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra was scheduled for 2004. His recordings include: Arte Nova, Aurophon, Bayer Records, Centaur Records, Das Beste, Mediaphon, Koch Classics, Hänssler Classic, Panton, Supraphon, Czech Radio and TV, and Südwestrundfunk Stuttgart-Mainz.





## TEPLICE

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### **NORTH BOHEMIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA TEPLICE (SEVEROČESKÁ FILHARMONIE TEPLICE)**

ADDRESS: The North-Bohemian Philharmonic Orchestra Teplice, Mírové nám. 2950, Dům kultury, 415 28  
Teplice, CR  
Phone: +420 417 533 103, E-mail: sev.filharmonie@iol.cz, <http://www.severoceskafilharmonie.cz>

Chief Conductor: Charles Olivieri-Munroe (Canada)

Director: Roman Dietz

Full orchestra body: strings-11,9,6,6,5, harp.-1, winds-4,5,3,4-5,5,3,1,perc.-3

#### ABOUT THE ORCHERSTRA

The Teplice Orchestra was officially founded in 1831, and is one of the oldest Czech orchestras. The spa of Teplice was once known as “the salon of Europe” and has been visited by many leading cultural figures including J. W. Goethe, L. van Beethoven, R. Wagner, F. Chopin, F. Liszt, R. Schumann and B. Smetana. At the end of the century, the Teplice



Orchestra was already presenting symphonic cycles on a regular basis. Such notable personalities as E. d' Alembert and R. Strauss were guest conductors of the orchestra.

Today the orchestra performs approximately 100 concerts over the course of the year, of which about one half are performed abroad, primarily in countries such as Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and Spain. The orchestra is organizing the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Ludvig van Beethoven Music Festival in Teplice.

Currently its Chief Conductor is Ch. O. Munroe.

#### CHARLES OLIVIERI-MUNROE – CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Canadian conductor Ch. Olivieri-Munroe has at the age of 35 accumulated a unique wealth of experience on the orchestral podium. During the early 1990's as a student of conducting in Czechoslovakia (under O. Trhlík, J. Bělohlávek) he immersed himself in the country and its music, absorbing the musical tradition of Central Europe. Following his studies Olivieri-Munroe distinguished himself in several international conducting competitions. He was awarded also 1<sup>st</sup> Prize



in the prestigious 2000 Prague Spring International Music Festival Conducting Competition launching an international career.

As a Guest Conductor Olivieri-Munroe has worked with many world orchestra (i.e. Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra, Budapest Symphony, Prague Philharmonia, Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, the New Japan Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and others).

Since 1997 Ch. Olivieri-Munroe has been the Chief Conductor of the North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra which has been completely revolutionized and enjoys the top status among regional Czech orchestras today. Highlights of this relationship include several high profile tours across Europe. A special project of recordings for EMI is planned for the near future.

With the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra Bratislava Olivieri-Munroe held the position of Chief Conductor from 2001 until 2004. This period was notable for several recordings of works by Saint-Saens plus a complete Mendelssohn Symphony cycle. The last few years Olivieri-Munroe has also been Principal Guest Conductor of the Janáček Philharmonic in Ostrava and continues a close relationship with the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra. He was formerly also Permanent Conductor with the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra (1995-97), and the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra (1993-95).

In November 2001 the young Canadian conductor made his Berlin opera debut conducting a revival production of Verdi's *Falstaff* at the Komische Oper Berlin. This was immediately followed by debut performances at Il Teatro Fenice in Venice. From 1992-94 as Permanent Conductor with the Brno Chamber Opera he led such diverse productions from Handel's *Acis and Galatea* to the Czech composer Ilya Hurník's *Diogenes*. In March 2005 he will conduct a new opera production of New Yorker Gary Papach's *The Last Leaf*.

ZLÍN

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## **BOHUSLAV MARTINŮ PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (FILHARMONIE BOHUSLAVA MARTINŮ)**

ADDRESS: Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic, nám. T. G. Masaryka 2570, 760 27 Zlín, CR  
Phone: +420 577 005 730, Fax: +420 577 005 745, E-mail: fbmzlin@fbmzlin.cz, <http://www-fbmzlin.cz>

Chief Conductor: Jakub Hrůša

Director: Josef Tkáčik

Full orchestra body: strings-14,12,10,8,6, harp-1, winds-4,4,4,4-6,4,4,1, perc.-4

Affiliated ensembles: ANTONÍN DVORÁK COLLEGIUM

STRING QUARTET

BRASS ORCHESTRA

BRASS QUINTET

QUARTETO CANZONE

CHAMBER DUO

RAUTQUARTET

### ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra (BMPO) was originally established in 1946 under the name Symphony Orchestra n.p. Baťa. The orchestra performed in Zlín and in South Eastern Moravia, and collaborated with a number of outstanding conductors such as R. Kvasnica, R. Týnský, E. Fischer, Z. Bílek, R. Hališka, P. Altrichter, S. Macura, K. Trevor and T. Koutník.

In 1988, the orchestra adopted the name, the BMPO, and since that time has regularly performed the works of one of the greatest Czech composers in Zlín, at the same time bringing an awareness to his works at home and abroad.

The orchestra has participated in several radio and television recordings, and since 1991, has released more than 60 discs. The Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic toured to Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Holland, Spain, Greece, Denmark, Poland and the USA.

The brilliant young Czech conductor, J. Hrůša, has regularly collaborated with the BMPO since 2004. The main function of the orchestra is to perform concerts in Zlín and throughout South Eastern Moravia. The centre of its activities includes a total of 21 concerts including the subscription concerts in Zlín, two cycles of symphony concerts, one cycle of popular music and one student cycle. Every year, the orchestra gives 50 concerts for schools. It also performs approximately 40 extraordinary concerts in addition to the subscription concerts, as well as 10-15 concerts abroad. The BMPO organizes the Festival of Young Concert Artists Talentinum, the Autumn Festival of Church Music Harmonia Moraviae and performs during the Summer International Conductor's Courses.



## JAKUB HRŮŠA – CHIEF DIRECTOR

Born in 1981, J. Hruša began conducting as a member of the Symphony Orchestra at the Brno School of Music where he played the trombone and keyboard instruments, and also performed as a solo pianist. He studied under Prof. J. Bělohávek, Prof. R. Eliška and L. Svárovský at the Academy where he graduated in 2004. During his studies he collaborated with many Czech professional orchestras and choruses. Since 2001, he has worked as the Principal Conductor of the Prague Student Orchestra, who won first place and the „Summa cum laude“ Award at the international competition in Neerpelt (Belgium). He also received first prize in the radio competition Concerto Bohemia. Every year, he organizes the International Festival of Student Orchestras in Prague with this orchestra. Since 2001, he has also worked as conductor of the Czech Student Orchestra, whose Chief Conductor is O. Kukul. Under J. Hruša's leadership, the Czech Student Orchestra successfully completed the Young Euro Classic international festival in Konzerthaus in Berlin, the home of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra has performed the greatest pieces of Czech composers (Janáček, *Taras Bulba*). In 2000, J. Hruša participated in the International Conductor's Competition during the Prague Spring, and received the Jury's Honourable Mention as well as another two prizes. In 2003, he became the laureate at the International Conductor's Competition Lovro von Matačić in Zagreb and performed in a concert with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra.



J. Hruša also dedicates himself to the opera. In 2001, he conducted the world premiere of the opera *The Maiden and Death* by Marek Ivanovič, which received an award during the Opera 2003 Festival. He has also collaborated with the National Theatre in Prague, where he is currently conducting Marcel Mihalovici's work, Krapp's *Last Tape* with I. Kusnjer as soloist, and will conduct the performance of Janáček's opera *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

During the 2002/3 season, Jakub Hruša was appointed Assistant to Principal Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra V. Ashkenazy, and continues to work as Assistant conductor under Z. Mácal.

## ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA COLLEGIUM

In 1997 twenty years elapsed since the time several top musicians of the Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra started to play chamber music intensely in their free time. At first as a chamber orchestra of the Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra, then, since 1994, after the permission of A. Dvořák's heirs, as a group named after the great composer, they have given concerts all over the Czech Republic and Slovakia. At that time it was conductors M.A. Machek, R. Hališka and E. Fischer, who cooperated with the orchestra. Organizers abroad have started to show an interest in this chamber group since 1989 when their cooperation with German conductor P. Lücker began. The chamber group gave a series of concerts in Germany, toured France in 1992 and Spain in 1993. Radio recordings and CDs were made. Within the years 1995 - 1997 the orchestra toured Sweden every year and played under I. Ohlsson. These days conductors J. Vodňanský and P. Pololáník also cooperate with this chamber group. The repertoire consists of all major chamber compositions for

string instruments by Vivaldi, Händel, Bach, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Janáček, Respighi, Britten and other composers. There play 17 string instruments, which are often completed with the woodwinds, which creates so called sinfonieta, and thus the repertoire of the orchestra can be extended. In this way the performance can be enriched with e. g. symphonies by Haydn and Mozart as well as with instrumental and vocal compositions.

## BRASS ORCHESTRA

This chamber group consisting of top musicians of Zlín's orchestra gave their first concert in 1992. Since then they have prepared for their audience over one hundred performances. They focus on programmes for evening concerts, Christmas concerts held in churches and also programmes specially designed for various social events (the town of Zlín award ceremony, the opening ceremony of the Film Festival for Children held in Zlín, the best teacher award ceremony in Zlín region, and many other events). Performances during the summer season in Luhačovice spa have become a tradition. This group does not play only in this region and country, but also abroad. They have performed in Austria, Germany and France. The sextet's repertoire includes compositions of various composers from different periods. The brass orchestra plays renaissance music (Otto, Pezelis, Gabrielli, Franck), baroque music (Händel, Albinoni, Martini, Purcell, Vivaldi), classical music (Mozart), romantic music (Brahms, Bizet, Smid), and also works of composers from the 20th century (Hindemith, Martinů, Gerschwin) and contemporary composers (Pavlorek, Liška, Pavel, Eben, Staněk). In the list of compositions you can also find adapted jazz (Joplin, Ježek) and popular (Beatles) compositions. Last but not least are educational concerts for young people focused on making them acquainted with brass instruments.



# DIRECTORY OF OTHER ORCHESTRAS

## I. CASUAL PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRAS

PRAGUE

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### CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PRAGUE SYMPHONISTS

(KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR PRAŽSKÝCH SYMFONIKŮ)

ADDRESS: MUSA s.r.o., Škroupovo nám. 4, 130 00 Prague 3

Phone: 222 711 398; Mobile: 724 029 525; E-mail: [info@musa.cz](mailto:info@musa.cz); <http://www.musa.cz>

Manager: Petr Pýcha

Art Manager: Pavel Peřina

### CZECH PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

(FILHARMONICKÝ KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Nad Ostrovem 7, 147 00 Praha 4

Phone: +420 241 430 538; Mobile: +420 603 21 357; E-mail: [prantl@czn.cz](mailto:prantl@czn.cz); <http://www.ppproduction.cz>

Art Manager: Pavel Prantl

### DVOŘÁK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(DVOŘÁKŮV SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Agency KATE, Slezská 130, 130 00 Prague 3;

Phone: +420 272 732 694; E-mail: [k.friedova@volny.cz](mailto:k.friedova@volny.cz)

Art Manager: Bohuslav Brázda

### EUROPEAN JANÁČEK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

(EVROPSKÝ JANÁČKŮV FILHARMONICKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Babylonská 273, 198 00 Prague 14 – Kyje

Mobile: +420 603 269 229; +420 777 269 229 (D. Kapras), +420 602 434 026, +420 777 333 415 (F. Preisler);

E-mail: [kapras.okv@volny.cz](mailto:kapras.okv@volny.cz); [preislerfr@volny.cz](mailto:preislerfr@volny.cz)

Manager: Dalibor Kapras

Conductor: František Preisler

### GUSTAV MAHLER ORCHESTRA

(ORCHESTR GUSTAVA MAHLERA)

ADDRESS: Agency Lupulus, Korunní 60, 120 00 Prague

Phone: +420 235 363 200, Fax: +420 235 364 674; E-mail: [d.vlckova@volny.cz](mailto:d.vlckova@volny.cz); [lupulus@lupulus.cz](mailto:lupulus@lupulus.cz);

<http://www.lupulus.cz>

### **MUSICI DI PRAGA**

ADDRESS: Jan Šrámek, Olšanská III/78, 273 41 Brandýsek  
Phone: +420 312 283 870; E-mail: syfinx@volny.cz  
Conductor: Jan Šrámek

### **ORCHESTRA PUELLARUM PRAGENSIS**

ADDRESS: Miluše Kaudersková, Trachtová 2, 150 00 Prague 5  
Mobile: +420 724 221 610; <http://www.puell>  
Art Manager: Miluše Kaudersová

### **PRAGUE METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

(PRAŽSKÝ METROPOLITNÍ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Hečkova 8, 142 00 Prague 4;  
Phone: +420 241 726 818; Mobile: +420 603 440 682;  
E-mail: sporka@clavisagency.com; <http://www.clavisagency.com>  
Manager: Richard Sporka  
Conductor: Jan Valta

### **VIRTUOSI PRAGENSES**

ADDRESS: Ondříčkova 44, 130 00 Prague,  
Phone: +420 222 723 262, E-mail: virtuosi@seznam.cz; hana.hlavackova@tiscali.cz;  
<http://www.sweb.cz/virtuosi>  
Manager: Hana Hlaváčková  
Art Manager: Milan Lajčík

### **ZDENĚK FIBICH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

(FILHARMONIE Z. FIBICHA)

ADDRESS: Sluhy 155, p. Mratín, 250 63 Prague-East  
Mobile: +420 606 402 681 (M. Buzek), +420 602 266 089; E-mail: agency.anny@worldonline.cz;  
[musilv@centrum.cz](mailto:musilv@centrum.cz); <http://www.fzf.cz>  
Director: Jan Bíner  
Chief Manager: Vladimír Musil  
Chief Conductor: Jaromír Krygel

**BRNO CHAMBER SOLOISTS**

(BRNĚŇSTÍ KOMORNÍ SÓLISTÉ)

ADDRESS: Art Petra Agency, Klicperova 7, 628 00 Brno

Phone: +420 544 230 644

Art Manager: Jiří Besperát

**CZECH VIRTUOSI**

ADDRESS: Studená 20, 638 00 Brno

Phone: +420 548 526 451; Mobile: +420 603 480 697; Fax: +420 541 237 097;

E-mail: czechvirtuosi@volny.cz; <http://www.czechvirtuosi.cz>

Manager: Miloslav Vávra

Art Manager: Karel Procházka

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**ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE**

**PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE**

(FILHARMONICKÝ ORCHESTR ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE)

ADDRESS: Kraus-Concert , Česká 7, 370 01 České Budějovice

Phone: +420 380 331 559, Mobile: +420 603 514 671; E-mail: kraus.koncert@quick.cz;

<http://www.krauskoncert.cz>

Manager: Milan Kraus

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**FRANTIŠKOVY LÁZNĚ**

**FRANTIŠEK LÁZNĚ ORCHESTRA**

(ORCHESTR FRANTIŠKOVY LÁZNĚ)

ADDRESS: Americká 7, 351 01 Františkovy Lázně

Phone: +420 354 542 523; E-mail: orchestr@seznam.cz

Managers: Petr Slaviček, Oldřich Kylich

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**HLUBOKÁ NAD VLTAVOU**

**JINDŘICHŮV HRADEC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

(JINDŘICHOHRADECKÝ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Masarykova 974, 373 41 Hluboká nad Vltavou

Phone: +420 387 966 170, Mobile: +420 603 457 269; E-mail: hluboka.sinfonie@raz-dva.cz;

<http://sinfonie.hyperlink.cz>

Manager and Conductor: Petr Píša



## **JIHLAVA**

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### **CHAMBER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA VYSOČINA**

(KOMORNÍ FILHARMONIE VYSOČINA)

ADDRESS: Vrchlického 7, 586 01 Jihlava

Mobile: +420 603 741 771, +420 736 125 855; E-mail: [manager@kfv.cz](mailto:manager@kfv.cz); [info@kfv.cz](mailto:info@kfv.cz);

<http://www.kfv.cz>

Managers: Vladimír Holeš, Vlastimila Navrkalová

Chief Conductor: Lubomír Šrubař

Conductor: Jiří Jakeš

## **II. STUDENT ORCHESTRAS**

### **PRAGUE**

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#### **CZECH STUDENT ORCHESTRA**

(ČESKÝ STUDENTSKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: U krbu 4, 100 00 Prague 10, Phone: +420 274 770 248; Mobile: +420 606 304 053 (M. Jesenská), +420 606 862 553 (M. Škampa); E-mail: [psocentrum.cz](mailto:psocentrum.cz); <http://www.hudebni.mladez.cz/psocentrum.cz>

Manager: Martina Jesenská

Art Manager: Mirko Škampa

Chief Conductor: Ondřej Kukul

#### **MÍČKA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

(MÍČKŮV KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Conservatory Prague, Na rejdišti 1, 110 00 Prague

Mobile: +420 732 204 770, +420 776 861 347; E-mail: [josef\\_spacek@seznam.cz](mailto:josef_spacek@seznam.cz); [sedlacek\\_michal@seznam.cz](mailto:sedlacek_michal@seznam.cz)

Concert Master and Director: Josef Špaček

### III. NON-PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRAS

## PRAGUE

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#### **BACH COLLEGIUM**

ADDRESS: Culture Club Poštovka, Zahradníčkova 2, 150 00 Prague 5

Phone: +420 257 218 932

Manager: Jan Novák

#### **BUM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRAGUE**

(BUMŮV KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR PRAHA)

ADDRESS: Stanislav Jirucha, Petrohradská 37, 101 00 Prague 10

Mobile: +420 603 265 695, +420 607 766 745

Manager: Zuzana Hlavičková

Conductor: Petr Werner

#### **EMAUZY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

(EMAUZSKÝ KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Josef Vojtíšek, Dolská 2211, 193 00 Horní Počernice

Mobile: +420 776 294 093

Manager: Josef Vojtíšek

#### **JAN NERUDA HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

(SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR GYMNAZIA JANA NERUDY)

ADDRESS: Komenského nám. 9, 130 00 Prague 3

Mobile: +420 605 802 169

Director of the School: Filip Magram

Conductor: Ladislav Cigler

#### **CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

(AKADEMICKÝ KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Academy of Sciences, Národní 3, 110 00 Prague 1

Mobile: +420 605 451 775 (P. Hryzák)

Manager: Miroslav Bašta

Conductor: Pavel Hryzák

#### **MUSICA ACADEMICA PRAHA**

ADDRESS: Roman Michálek, Ovčáarská 421, 108 00 Prague 10

Phone: +420 274 887 173; Mobile: +420 723 668 712

Manager: Roman Michálek

Art Manager: Jiří Portych

## **MUSICA OEKONOMICA PRAGENSIS**

ADDRESS: Kateřina Blažková, Nad Krocínkou 84, 190 00 Prague 9

Mobile: +420 602 282 081

Conductor: Haig Utidjan

## **QUATTRO CORDE**

ADDRESS: Kateřina Klusoňová, Křížkovského 13, 130 00 Prague 3

Mobile: +420 602 955 249

Manager: Kateřina Klusoňová

Conductor: Jiří Kubík

## **SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE**

(SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR ČVUT)

ADDRESS: Ivo Kraupner, Jungmannova 12, 110 00 Prague 1

Phone: +420 224 946 960

Manager: Ivo Kraupner

## **ČESKÝ KRUMLOV**

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### **ČESKÝ KRUMLOV STRING ORCHESTRA**

(SMYČCOVÝ ORCHESTR ČESKÝ KRUMLOV)

ADDRESS: Lubomír Braný, Latrán 27, 381 01 Český Krumlov

Phone: +420 380 714 112; E-mail: lubomir.brany@tiscali.cz

Manager: Lubomír Braný

Conductor: Martin Peschik

## **DOMAŽLICE**

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### **CHAMBER ORCHESTRA DOMAŽLICE – FURTH IM WALD**

(KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR DOMAŽLICE-FURTH IM WALD)

ADDRESS: Václav Cibulka, Dukelská 44, 344 01 Domažlice

Phone: +420 279 778 866

Conductor: Václav Cibulka

## FRÝDEK-MÍSTEK

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### **FRÝDEK-MÍSTEK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

(SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR FRÝDEK-MÍSTEK)

ADDRESS: Jiráskova 491, 738 01 Frýdek-Místek

Mobile: +420 742 739 (M. Klimánek), +420 604 284 134; E-mail: martin.klimanek@email.cz;  
javurek@janackuvmaj.cz

Manager: Martin Klimánek

Conductor: Jaromír Javůrek

## HODONÍN

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### **HODONÍN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

(HODONÍNSKÝ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Horní Valy 2, 695 00 Hodonín

Mobile: +420 737 441 038; E-mail: hso.sps@seznam.cz

Manager: Zdenka Pimková

Conductor: Jan Nosek

## JESENÍK

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### **JESENÍK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

(KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR MĚSTA JESENÍK)

ADDRESS: ZUŠ, Zdeňka Kainarová-Krpelíková, ul. 28. října, 790 01 Jeseník

Mobile: +420 603 156 241; E-mail: zusjes@jes.cz

## KLADNO

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### **KLADNO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

(KLADENSKÝ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Hana Tepříková, Benešovská 3157, 272 01 Kladno 2

Mobile: +420 604 745 265

Manager: Hana Tepříková

Conductor: Vlastimil Mareš

## LITOMYŠL

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### LITOMYŠL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(LITOMYŠLSKÝ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Okružní 238, 570 01 Litomyšl

Phone: +420 972 325 082; Mobile: +420 723 523 431; E-mail: vaclav.knettig@volny.cz

Manager: Václav Knettig

Conductor: Jan Fajfer

## OLOMOUC

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### IŠA KREJČÍ CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

(KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR IŠI KREJČÍHO)

ADDRESS: Josef Dvořák, Jánského 16, 779 Olomouc

Mobile: +420 603 373 035

Art Manager: Josef Dvořák

## PARDUBICE

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### PARDUBICE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

(PARDUBICKÝ KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Culture House Dubina, J. Zajíce 983, 530 12 Pardubice

Mobile: +420 775 639 495; E-mail: info@kdubina.info; <http://www.kddubina.info>

Art Manager: Marie Dobášová

Conductor: Otakar Tvrď

## PÍSEK

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### PÍSEK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

(PÍSECKÝ KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Svatava Kramerová, Otavská 1793, 397 01 Písek

Mobile: +420 604 289 365

Manager: Zdeněk Vitus

## **PŘÍBRAM**

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### **PŘÍBRAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

(PŘÍBRAMSKÁ FILHARMONIE)

ADDRESS: Milan Boušek, Školní 74, 261 05 Příbram

Phone: +420 318 520 790; +420 603 274 960

Manager: Milan Boušek (older)

Conductor: Milan Boušek (younger)

## **ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM**

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### **BENDA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

(BENDŮV KOMORNÍ ORCHESTR)

ADDRESS: Spartakiádní 17, Ústí nad Labem

Mobile: +420 608 337 790; E-mail: [bko@volny.cz](mailto:bko@volny.cz); <http://www.volny.cz/bko>

Conductor: Michal Vodák

## **ZLÍN**

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### **CAPELLA BAROCA**

ADDRESS: Miroslav Bubeníček, Jiráskova 394 24 Hulín

Phone: +420 537 334 050

Conductor: Miroslav Bubeníček

Deadline: 15. 6. 2005

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## CZECH ORCHESTRAS

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