



THE YEAR OF CZECH MUSIC- Creativity and Cooperation

PRESS RELEASE, 25 MARCH 2014

The Year of Czech Music 2014 (YCM) is a year-round network open project for the support of Czech music, which relies on the tradition of anniversaries of important Czech composers, interprets and organisations. It is the “feast of Czech music” with the engagement of promoters from various music genres as well as professionals and amateurs with projects where they use their own dispositions and opportunities. The conceptual recommendation of the YCM is to concentrate focus on the Czech repertoire (not necessary for anniversary composers), less frequently staged or authentically performed pieces, cycles, showcases and unusual forms of presentation using local specifics including the use of unusual spaces (site specific). The open concept has a reflexive and prospective function, i.e. it should reveal various possibilities, needs and establish “threads” for the upcoming period (this is a similar situation to what happened in 2004 when the Music Section of the ATI established promotional Czech-English website www.czechmusic.org), a number of Czech music anthologies (classical music, jazz, pop, promotional guides in English, regular presentations at foreign markets, coproduction of time-lapse documentaries etc). **The project focuses on artistic quality but it also fulfils educational and social-integration function especially in places with small cultural services. The aim is to contribute to the development of the Czech music “brand”.**

The IKC – IDU currently keeps a record of one thousand YCM events – performances, concerts, exhibitions, editions and lectures. Other applicants want to continually register; they are local or foreign promoters. The biggest project of one promoter with Czech production aimed abroad is *České sny/Czech Dreams* (22 countries with Concentus Moraviae dramaturgy) – they are partners to the YCM. The majority of participants is naturally from the Czech Republic (84%); other countries where Czech music is played frequently during the YCM are Germany, the USA, Great Britain, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium. Foreign promoters have been informed directly about the YCM since 2011 or with the help of international professional networks, markets, advertisements in professional newspapers and magazines. The majority of events take place in Prague (77%), in the South Moravian region, Moravian-Silesian region, Zlín region, Plzeň region and Pardubice region. Speaking of the type of events, concerts are the main ones (48%) followed by opera (23%) and educational programmes (15% - the figure is influenced by engagement of the music and basic schools in the YCM). **The common sign of the engagement in the YCM is the link to the “Year of Czech Music” and the triangle logo.** (The link is compulsory only for projects, which are directly funded from special grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture, a region or a town. The other subjects do not have to use them).

Résumé:

The Year of Czech Music 2014 is one of the programme priorities of the Ministry of Culture in 2014. The budgets of selected state-funded organisations are to be boosted as well as funding procedures for independent promoters to support projects in the field of professional and non-professional art and projects sent abroad. The programme is held in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (its own special funding procedure), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Regional Development (Czech Centres and Czech Tourism). Several towns and regions have also signed in for the programme in the form of preferential procedures (the city of Pilsen, South-Moravian region).

The “Year of Czech Music was officially opened by the concert of Czech Philharmonic with the performance of Magdalena Kožená and the orchestra version of Antonín Dvořák’s Love Songs (Jiří Těml) conducted by honorary chief conductor Jiří Bělohlávek. **January 7 welcomed the scenic opening in the Estates Theatre** with the performance of Mirandolina. **The YCM officially finishes with the gala concert on 17 December in the O2 Arena** with the orchestra consisting of players from various professional Czech orchestras conducted by Jakub Hrůša with singers Ana Maria Martinez, Eva Urbanová, Ramón Vargas and Adam Plachetka in arias by Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák (subject to change without notice). The promoter is the Czech Association of Music Festivals in cooperation with the Association of Symphony Orchestras and Choirs of the CR.

Impulses for the YCM: The years ending with number 4 are traditionally the Years of Czech Music because we celebrate anniversaries of more than sixty important Czech composers, interpreters and companies – not only Smetana, Dvořák, Janáček, Suk, Martinů, Novák, Foerster but also Kryštof Harant z Polžic a Bezdržic, František Ignác Tůma, František Míča, Bohuslav Matěj Černohorský, Václav Jan Tomášek, 20th century composers Oskar Nedbal, Rudolf Piskáček, Emil František Burian, Rafael Kubelík or Jan Novák. Important interpreters are Tereza Stolzová, Jarmila Novotná, Milada Šubrtová or Jan Páleníček. Prague Symphony Orchestra, Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava, National Theatre Brno, Prague Philharmonia and a number of chamber companies rank among the significant orchestras. The Years of Czech Music date back to 1924 when we celebrated the anniversary of Bedřich Smetana and Josef Suk and there was the festival of contemporary music ISCM with works by Leoš Janáček, Otakar Ostrčil and others. This ambiguity was perceived naturally because Smetana was understood as the founder of music modernism. More information <http://www.rokceskehudby.cz/vyroci> and http://www.rokceskehudby.cz/download/co_je_ceska_hudba.pdf

Personalia:

Artistic auspices: Sir Simon Rattle, Magdalena Kožená

Honorary President: Jiří Bělohlávek, Chief Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic

Political auspices President of the Czech Republic Miloš Zeman

Advisory board (representatives of important organisations engaged in the programme)

Mgr. Anýžová Vilma – Managing Director of Czech Centres,

Boháč Jaromír- President of the Czech Association of Music Festivals,

ing. Bondy Jan- Director of the Public Diplomacy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

ing. Čermáková Pavlína – Director of ARTAMA (NIPOS),

Dietz Roman – the Chairperson of the Association of Symphony Orchestras and Choirs of the CR,

PhDr. Dohnalová Lenka, Ph.D.- coordinator of the programme

PhDr. Dolanská Nora, MBA-Director of the Prague City Tourism

Dott. Gadaleta Emanuele- Director of the Czech Museum of Music, National Museum

Mgr. Hroncová Silvia – Director of the Opera of the National Theatre and the State Opera,

Mgr. Charalambidis Alexandros-authorized coordinator of the programme at the Ministry of

Education, Youth and Sports, the Department of High and College Education,

Kachlová Zdenka - Chairperson of the Czech Association of Arts Management

MgA. Mareček David – Managing Director, Czech Philharmonic

Moravčík Jiří-independent journalist (world music, alternative music, jazz, folk music)

PhDr. Ondrušková Vlasta-the Deputy Director of NULK

Ing. Petrová Pavla-Director of the Arts and Theatre Institute

Prokeš Zdeněk-Association of Professional Theatres of the Czech Republic

Raušer Jaroslav-Chairman of the Institute for Modern Music

PhDr. Mgr. Reissner Martin, PhD.-Director of the Moravian Museum

PhDr. Sedláková Eva-Director of the Prague Philharmonic Choir

Sobotka Daniel – Director of the Prague Symphony Orchestra (representing the City of Prague as its authority)

Ing. Vondruška Rostislav – Managing Director of Czech Tourism

Mgr. Zuzana Zahradníčková – OULK MK ČR

IKC Team

Lenka Dohnalová, coordinator, supervision, production

Lucie Bartoňová, production, promotion (since 9/2013)

Petr Vlha, monitoring of the projects + databases

Partners to the programme (in the alphabetical order)

Czech Tourism, Czech Centres, Czech Musical Council, Czech Dreams project, Dvořák Society, International Czech Club, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, festival Zlatá Praha 2014, NIPOS (the partner for non-professional activities), Prague City Tourism (to be specified)

Media partners

Czech Television (the main media partner), Czech Radio, Classic FM, Czech Music Quarterly, Czech Dialogue, Harmonie, i Prague, Kudy z nudy, Newspaper of Prague 1, Local Culture, Opus Osm, RVP.cz, Seniorum. Cz, Welcome to Prague (to be specified)

Function of the IKC – IDU

Proposal of the concept, coordination, information and advisory services, promotion

Note: The concept emphasizes active participation of organisers and journalists, who can pick up the “highlights” according to their point of view, which is different in the international, national or regional context as well as in the artistic, social or educative function. The essential thing is documentation of events by organizers and media, especially in the part dedicated to top personalities (interviews in various formats in media).

IKC – IDU provides

1) image promotion (spots, advertising, posters, PR articles and interviews) and
2) promotion of specific events (opening, closing etc.), periodical or thematic stretches. The second part also includes promotion through statements of significant people (see the videos of Sir Simon Rattle, Magdalena Kožená, Jiří Bělohlávek in cooperation with Czech Television, Jiří Nekvasil). The purpose of the segment is to collect a portfolio of short, two-minute statements confirming variability and deep interest in Czech music in the Czech Republic and abroad in professional music.

Products of the IKC – IDU in 2014

- *Time-Lapse Documentary of the Year of Czech Music*, coproduction with Czech Television
- Updating the exhibition of the *Czech Music Personalities from 2004* in language versions for Czech Centres and Czech organisers
- *Kytice /A Bouquet*– a dance performance of three generations of dancers (site specific) in coproduction with the Association for Dance and Performing Education with Bohuslav Martinů’s music. Choreography Eva Blažíčková, premiere 15 – 17 September, Malostranský hřbitov/Malá Strana Cemetery
- *České ucho/Czech Ear* – sound ecology project in cooperation with music and education partners and Musica Nova, production.
- Update of the Czech Music Guide – supplement *Talents of Czech Music* (working title).
- Expansion of the publication (in the electronic version) –*Národní identita/ v české hudbě/National Identity in Czech Music*
http://www.rokceskehudby.cz/download/co_je_ceska_hudba.pdf

The aim is to continue in the reflection of the topic on the national and international level.

- Discussions, conferences about the national identity (folklore, folklorism, world music) and music industry and its context

Examples of the projects

Various types from the point of view of the programme concept (subject to change without notice), more information www.rokceskehudby.cz

Cycles: Klenoty české komorní hudby/Gems of Czech Chamber Music (ČSKH), Marathon of Antonín Dvořák's Songs (1 May, NDM in cooperation with Czech Radio), Concept Art Orchestra&The Prague Six (six concerts of jazz production, Jazz Dock), Saxophones in Czech Music (saxophone works by Czech authors), the cycle of lectures of the EÚ AVČR The Year of Czech Music 2014 as a Challenge etc.

Scenic premieres: B. Martinů: Voják a tanečnice/Soldier and Dancer (25 January, J. K. Tyl Theatre Plzeň), L. Janáček: Příhody Lišky Bystroušky/Cunning Little Vixen (20 March, National Theatre Praha), O. Nedbal: Polská krev/Polish Blood (F. X. Šalda Theatre Liberec), Česká baletní symfonie II/Czech Ballet Symphony II (17 April National Theatre Praha), I. Medek, M. Dvořáková: Alice in Bed (7 May Reduta Brno), V. Patejdl, I. Hubač, E. Krečmar, M. Hrdinka: Don Juan! (10 May Municipal Theatre Brno), B. Smetana: Prodaná nevěsta/The Bartered Bride (7 June J.K. Tyl Theatre Plzeň), B. Smetana: Čertova stěna/The Devil's Wall (12 June Moravian Silesian Theatre Ostrava), M. Smolka: Sezame, otevři se!/The Infinity of Lists (26 June NODO Ostrava), J. B. Foerster: Eva (26 September, F. X. Šalda Theatre Liberec), Z. Fibich: Pád Arkuna/The Fall of Arkun (9 October, National Theatre Praha), L. Janáček: Věc Makropulos/Makropulos Affair (21 November National Theatre Brno), A. Hába: Nová Země/The New Land (12 December, National Theatre Praha), S. Bodorová: Legenda o Kateřině/The Legend about Catherine 19 December (F. X. Šalda Theatre Liberec).

Showcases: Czech Chamber Music Weekend (30 May – 1 June Prague Spring festival), showcase of Czech companies at Colours of Ostrava Czech Crossroads (16 July + panel discussion), showcases of amateur production (NIPOS-ARTAMA) and others.

Authentic interpretation: concerts of ensembles Musica florea, Ensemble Inegal, Collegium 1704, Collegium marianum etc.

Non-traditional spaces and formats: Concert of Czech Philharmonic with children from music schools (24 June, conductor J. Bělohlávek), České ucho/Czech Ear – a year-long project of sound ecology for children and youth (IDU), Opera Schrattenbach (neo Baroque opera in non-traditional space, Ensemble Damian-November/December), B. Martinů: Kytice/A Bouquet – a three-generation dance project (E. Blažíčková), A. Yin Svoboda: chamber opera Martin Středa (in non-traditional space, e.g. Bunkr Parukářka Praha 3) etc.

Events abroad: České sny/Czech Dreams festival (7 December 2014, 22 countries), A. Dvořák: Rusalka/The Water Nymph – premiere (National Theatre Brno, Oman, 8 and 10 May), the tour Czech Philharmonic – USA, China, Europe, Prague Philharmonia – USA, ČFS Brno – Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Natioanl Theatre MoravianSilesian – Slovakia etc.

Foreign interprets of Czech music: Motion Score, 10 pieces by Czech national composers, 10 Czech and foreign choreographers. Pro ART festival (6 August Divadlo na Orlí, Brno) etc.

Exhibitions: The Year of Czech Music in Plzeň (22 February – 14 March, Town Hall Plzeň), Zapomenuté časy opery/Forgotten Times of Opera (National Theatre, 1 March – 15 May), Česká opera v 21. století/Czech Opera in the 21st Century (1 March – 30 September National Theatre Praha), A. Dvořák: His Music and Life in Pictures (28.3.-30.4. Czech Centre Vienna), Vivat musica! (25 April – 2 November, National Gallery Praha), Co Čech, to muzikant/Every Czech is a Musician (10 May – 28 September, Municipal Museum and Gallery Polička), Poklady z regálů hud. archivu ND/Gems from the Music Archive of the National Theatre (15 May – 30 September, National Theatre Praha), Výstava technik psaní not pro nevidomé/The exhibition of writing notes for the visually impaired (from 28 May EÚ AVČR), E. Destinnová-Život snů je krátký/The Life of Dreams is Short (from 7 July Gustav Mahler's native home, Kaliště), Malování o hudbě/Painting about Music (1 August – 30 September, Paletka Gallery Plzeň – exhibition of children competition winners), Causa Nová Země/Causa New Land (1 September – 31 December, National Theatre Praha), Vážně nevážná hudební expozice/Seriously Shallow Music Exhibition (29 November – presentation of selected JAMU departments at the Janáčkovo Brno festival) etc.

Recordings, documentaries: a time-lapse documentary about recording of symphonies and A. Dvořák's concert – Czech Philharmonic, directed by B. Willis Sweete, a complete recording of A. Dvořák's symphonies, directed by Jiří Bělohlávek (with Czech Television), Antonín Dvořák: Alfred (the first recording in cooperation with Czech Radio, Arco Diva), Jan Dismas Zelenka: Lamentation (Collegium Marianum, Supraphon), J. Páleníček: Piano Concerts (J. Čechová + Triart Management), a time-lapse documentary on the Year of Czech Music (IDU) etc.

Conferences: Janáčkiána (29 – 30 May – topics: Janáček, regional culture, international conference Opera Europa (20 – 23 November, National Theatre Brno) etc.

Editions: E.F. Burian a jeho cesta za operou/ E.F. Burian and his Journey to Opera (Koniash Latin Press), J. Baťa: Kryštof Harant Opera Musica etc.

ld