



General Partners



Centrum výzkumu Řež s.r.o.
Research Centre Rez



ICG-EAC conference dinner

Wednesday 9th April 2014
Kaiserstein palace
Prague

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Program

Bedřich Smetana: Skřivánčí píseň
(Lark Song – Barče's aria from the opera „The Kiss“)

Bedřich Smetana: Vendulčiny ukolébavky
(Vendulka's Lullaby – Vendulka's aria from the opera „The Kiss“)

Antonín Dvořák: Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém
(Song to the Moon – Rusalka's aria from the opera „Rusalka“)

Antonín Dvořák: Když mne stará matka
(Songs My Mother Taught Me – song from the cycle „Gypsy Songs“, Op. 55)

Antonín Dvořák: Dobrú noc, má milá
(Goodnight, My Darling – song from the cycle „In Folk Tone“, Op. 73)

Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884) was a famous Czech composer of the Romantic period. All his works sought to create a distinctive Czech musical style based on contemporary domestic and international stimuli. He is traditionally known as the founder of modern Czech national music.

His best-known compositions include the cycle of symphonic poems „My Country“ (Má vlast), which traditionally launches the Prague Spring international music festival.

His opera „The Kiss“ (Hubička, premiered in 1876), two arias from which are featured here, is a comic opera based on folk traditions and presenting the environment of the Czech countryside. Smetana thus devoted his melodic work to the people, with its broad spectrum and character tying into the highly successful opera „The Bartered Bride“. „The Kiss“ is Smetana's second most played opera after Bartered Bride, but it is also one of the most performed operas in the Czech Lands.

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) was one of the greatest composers of all time and is the world's most famous and most played Czech composer ever. Dvořák is the world's leading exponent of the classic-romantic synthesis.

One of Dvořák's most important works is undoubtedly his Symphony No. 9 in E minor, op. 95, also called the „Symphony from the New World“, which may be ranked among the world's best symphonic works of all time (this Symphony from the New World, for example, was the first song played after American astronauts landed on the moon.)

Rusalka is a romantic fairytale opera by Antonín Dvořák that falls into the composer's final period of life (premiered 1901). It is the story of a water nymph who pays with her life for her love to a human. Rusalka is widely recognized as Dvořák's most successful work for the stage, but many opinions hold that it is the composer's best work ever.

Gypsy Songs are among the highlights of the composer's song works. The songs' lyrics come from the first part of the collection „Poems“ from the poet

Adolf Heyduk (1835-1923). The most popular song of the cycle is the fourth, „Songs My Mother Taught Me“ captivating through a beautiful melodic line and a strong emotional charge. The song is one of the world's most frequently featured concert repertoire songs and exists in countless vocal and instrumental arrangements.

The cycle „In Folk Tone“ was initiated by Dvořák's main publisher Fritz Simrock. Dvořák takes just a few elements from the original folk tunes and develops them further. The songs are a prime example of Dvořák's mastery of the idealization of folk music, and their high stylization through all components of compositional techniques.

Libuše Voběrková studied singing at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts. She performs regularly, primarily in concerts of sacred music, devotes herself to teaching (DAMU Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, and the band TAP TAP at the Jedlička Institute in Prague), and works as a voice consultant with the ČVUT mixed choir and with certain Prague theaters.

Jiří Voběrek studied piano and conducting at the Prague Conservatory, then continued his conducting studies at AMU in Prague. He is the head of the accompanist department of the Duncan Centre Dance Conservatory in Prague, working as an dance accompanist with leading dance teachers. He acts as a choirmaster in the Prague choir Smetana and as the second choirmaster in the ČVUT mixed choir, and he is also a longtime member of the Swingband Tábor.