

# CZECH MUSIC EVERYDAY

## EVENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

### IN THE SUMMER OF 2022

The summer is traditionally the season of music festivals presenting live music – including contemporary works – in many larger and smaller cities and townships across the Czech Republic. You can read about the NODO opera biennial in Boris Klepal's article in this issue of CMQ. As far as premieres at other festivals are concerned, Litomyšl saw the first performance of Emil Viklický's jazz melodrama and a new cantata by Jiří Gemrot, Broumov hosted Kryštof Marek's concerto for harp and orchestra, Zlín welcomed Tomáš Ille's symphonic melodrama, and Opava a new piece of sacred music by Martin Smolka. You will find information about other new chamber, choral, and solo pieces in the overview below. Works by Czech composers were also premiered abroad – worth mentioning are Jakub Rataj's *Air (give the people some)*, performed in the German city of Kassel, or Miroslav Srnka's *Standstill* for harpsichord and orchestra, which was first played in Cologne.

The beginning of the new concert season in Prague also provided concert-goers with several interesting opportunities. The highly theme of sexual abuse and trauma, highly resonant in society at the moment, was sensitively adapted in Slavomír Hořinka's opera *Tak tiše až (So Silent Till)*, presented by the Berg Orchestra and the dance theatre group Spitfire Company. The entire plot is narrated through the thoughts and feelings of the now-grown-up survivor, whose part was performed by mezzo-soprano Markéta Cukrová. Her younger self was played by the sixteen-year-old Sarah Alon. The opera, which was a success with both critics and audiences, will be repeated several times in October.

22 June 2022, atrium of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno. Dances in the Gardens. **Ondřej Šárek: Czech Suite for strings; Miloš Štědroň: Seconda prattica IV for strings; Filip Holacký: Scottish Serenade for bassoon and strings (world premieres)**. Pavel Horák – bassoon, Ensemble Opera Diversa, conductor: Patrik Červák.

23 June 2022, Church of St. John the Baptist, Kroměříž. Forfest. **Petr Vaculovič: Te Deum for solo viola and electronics (world premiere)**. Petr Vaculovič – viola.

24 June 2022, Castle Riding Hall, Litomyšl. Smetana's Litomyšl: Jazz Ride in the Riding Hall. **Emil Viklický: Reflections on Freedom**. A jazz melodrama with a libretto based on the texts and ideas of Václav Havel (such as *The Power of the Powerless, Audience, On Freedom*) and excerpts from a book by American historian Timothy Snyder *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* (world premiere). Jaromír Meduna, Tomáš Pavelka – recitation, Emil Viklický – piano, Jazz Dock Orchestra.

25 June 2022, Smetana House, Litomyšl. Smetana's Litomyšl. **Jiří Gemrot: The Burying of Light. A cantata for narrator, baritone, mixed choir, string quartet, and piano (world**



PHOTO: JAKUB HRAB

Slavomír Hořinka: *So Silent Till*

**premiere**). Libretto: Vojtěch Strítěský based on texts and poetry by Miloslav Bureš. Jan Šťastný – recitation, Roman Hoza – baritone, Matouš Zukal – piano, Zemlinsky Quartet, Martinů Voices, conductor: Lukáš Vasilek.

25 June 2022, monastery church of St. Adalbert, Broumov. Treasures of the Broumov Region.

**Kryštof Marek: *Memory Landscape. Concerto for harp and chamber orchestra (world premiere)***. Kateřina Englichová – harp, Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor: Andreas Sebastian Weiser.

25 June 2022, Labour Square, Zlín. Zlín žije – multi-genre festival celebrating 700 years since the first written mention of the town.

**Tomáš Ille: *The History of Great Zlín in Sounds and Words (world premiere)***. Marta Bačiková, Rostislav Marek – recitation, Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor: Leoš Svárovský.

26 June 2022, Antonín Dvořák Theatre, Ostrava. NODO. **Matouš Hejl: *Opera Ibsen X Ghosts (world premiere)***.

Libretto: Lucie Trmíková. Directed by: Jan Nebeský, music director: Bruno Ferrandis. Cast: Lucie Trmíková, Miloslav König, Igor Chmela, Petr Jeništa, Magdalena Malá, Jan Mikušek – cimbalom, Petr Tichý – bass guitar, Rostislav Pavlík – tuba, Antonín Procházka – percussion, Štefan Szabo – guitar, Ostravská banda.

26 June 2022, Co.Labs, Brno. **Miloš Štědroň: *Magnum Mysterium. Sacra et profana de vita***

**Gregori Mendeli (world premiere)**. Libretto: Miloš Štědroň. Director: Tomáš Studený, music director: Gabriela Tardonová. Cast: Tomáš Krejčí, Aleš Janiga, Michal Robotka, Lucie Kašpárková, Jana Vondrů, Ensemble Opera Diversa. Following performances: 21 Jul, Birth House of Johann Gregor Mendel, Hynčice; 24 Jul, Old Brno Monastery, Brno.

27 June 2022, Jiří Myron Theatre, Ostrava. NODO. **Petr Kotík: *Many Many Women (world premiere of staged version)***.

Libretto: Gertrude Stein. Directed by: Jo Fabian. Jen Wu, Ana Caseiro – soprano, Padraic Costello – countertenor, Felix Heuser – tenor, Harald Hieronymus Hein – bass baritone, Nicholas Hay – bass, Petr Kotík, Malgorzata Hlawsa – flute, Sam Jones, Adam Richter – trumpet, William Lang, Jen Baker – trombone.

28 June 2022, Museum of the Kroměříž Region, Kroměříž. Forfest. **Josef Adamík: *Structures of the Obsession (world premiere)***. Věra Kestřánková – bass clarinet.

28 June 2022, Antonín Dvořák Theatre, Ostrava. NODO. **Approximate. Experimental staged opera (world premiere)**. Music, directing: Lucie Páchová. Lucie Páchová, Jana Vondrů (voice, objects), Anežka Nováková, Kristýna Švihálková (percussion, voice).

28 June 2022, Dvořák Hall, Rudolfinum, Prague. **Ondřej Štochl: *Three Movements on Acceptance for Clarinet and Orchestra (world premiere)***. Karel Dohnal – clarinet, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, conductor: Pavel Šnajdr.