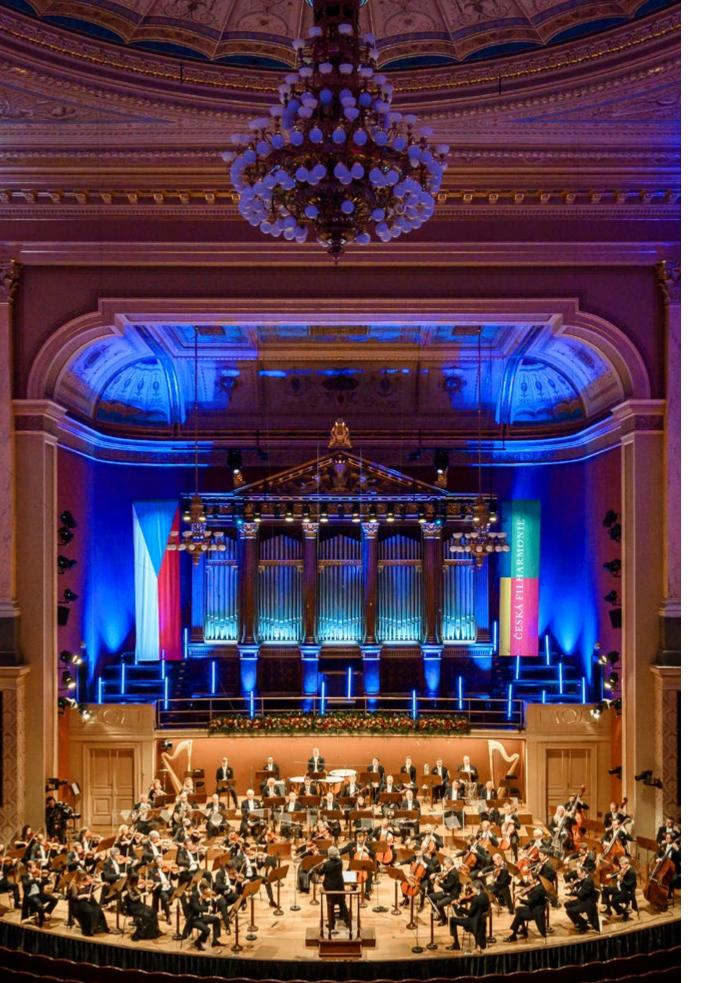


### OPUS 85

The Czech Philharmonic Fundraising Campaign

Let's Reach the Summit of European Music Together

Czech Philharmonic



## CONTENTS

Artistic Vision | 5
The Essential Czech Orchestra | 19
Our Journey to Excellence | 25
Financials | 46
We Can Make It Happen Together | 52
How You Can Get Involved | 56
Notes | 60



## ALLOW YOURSELF A MOMENT TO DREAM AND IMAGINE A FUTURE THAT IS WITHIN OUR REACH.

The Czech Philharmonic has a firm place at the top of international musical excellence, and it is selling out the most prestigious concert halls.

Semyon Bychkov

Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Czech Philharmonic

Czech music is celebrated throughout the world and the leading Czech orchestra guarantees the highest quality of musical experience.



Helena Šulcová Violin, Member of the Czech Philharmonic



For music enthusiasts from around the world, a visit to the Rudolfinum is a special occasion and an established part of their cultural calendar.

For the world's most talented artists,
performing with the Czech Philharmonic is a
chance to work with a trend-setting orchestra
with a velvet sound.



Gautier Capuçon
Cello



Musical masters from around the world aspire to share their artistry with our rising talents.

Sir Simon Rattle Conductor, Artist in Residence of the 127th Season

Our children recognize the power of classical music, learning about the traditions, values and treasures of our culture.





Becoming one of the three best European orchestras doesn't have to just be just a dream.

Together, we can make that dream a reality thanks to our fundraising campaign OPUS 85.



## OUR MUSIC UNDERSCORES MOMENTS RECORDED IN HISTORY

**January 4, 1896** – Antonín Dvořák conducts his Symphony "From the New World" at the Czech Philharmonic's very first concert

October 30, 1918 – A concert in honor of the new Czechoslovak Republic under the baton of Václav Talich

**June 21, 1945** – "Thanksgiving Concert" given by the chief conductor Rafael Kubelík, honoring the liberation of Czechoslovakia

**January 23 and 24, 1969** – A memorial for Jan Palach performed during the philharmonic concerts

**November 1989** – Members of the orchestra join the general strike in the Velvet Revolution

**June 9, 1990** – Having returned from emigration, Rafael Kubelík conducts the "Concert of Mutual Understanding" dedicated to all Czechoslovaks

**September 6, 1997** – The Czech Philharmonic plays at Václav Havel's inaugural Forum 2000 conference

October 2012 – After over two decades, the chief conductor and artistic director Jiří Bělohlávek returns to lead, starting another golden era of the orchestra

October 2018 – Semyon Bychkov becomes the chief conductor and musical director, further raising the orchestra's artistic quality

Our potential, however, reaches much further. Let's take full advantage of this and strike out for the top in the musical world together.

#### Václav Havel

President of Czechoslovakia (1991–1992) and the Czech Republic (1993–2003)



# WE ARE THE ESSENTIAL CZECH ORCHESTRA

Our mission is to carry and expand the tradition of Czech music that has lasted over a century and represent our country abroad as the ambassador of Czech culture. We educate, cultivate and motivate the Czech nation – everyone from small children to professional musicians – and we bring home the best from the world of classical music.

Every year, we offer over 40 million listeners from every generation the chance to stop for a moment, disconnect from the worries of their everyday life, and have a purely authentic experience. Be it at concerts both home and abroad, on television, or online.

We proudly represent the Czech art and perform works from the most important Czech composers thanks to whom Czechia is one of the five world musical superpowers.

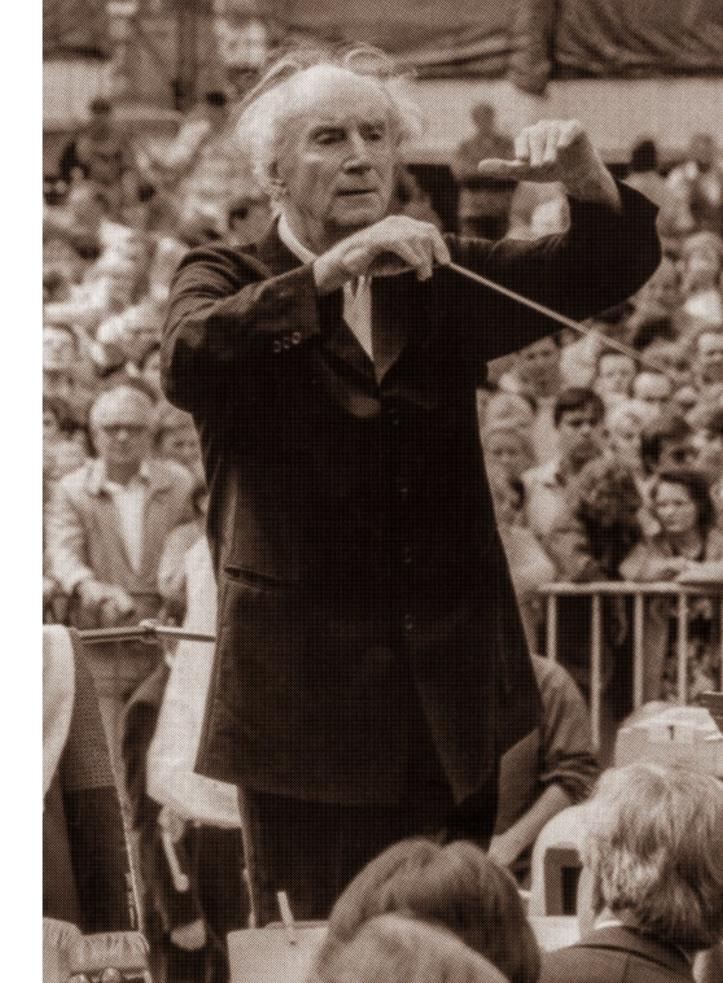
Josef Špaček

Violin, Viola, Artistic Partner of the Czech Philharmonic

"As a small nation, we cannot succeed abroad unless we present ourselves to the world as a nation of high artistic culture. That is something we can do this with a clear conscience. With our music, we can play one of the leading parts. Being a bearer of culture – that is our nation's mission in the world."

#### Rafael Kubelík

Chief Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic 1942-1948





# LET'S SET OUT FOR THE SUMMIT OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

"To me, it is very important that people in the Czech Republic take pride in our work and the name of the Czech Philharmonic has a strong and distinct sound around the world.

Therefore, we must not be afraid of great goals, and I believe that by the year 2032, we can stand side by side with the Berlin and Vienna philharmonics as one of the three best European orchestras.

I see our vision as the ambition of tenacious mountain climbers. The Czech Philharmonic is high up at the last camp, and the summit is within our reach. With our players' profound musicianship, I have no doubt we can get there.

We must always be facing new artistic challenges to reach beyond our comfort zone, perform on the most prestigious stages and collaborate with world-class conductors. We must not become complacent.

To arrive there, we need appropriate conditions and facilities, which is often unrealistic for a public institution. That is something we want to change.

I promise that the orchestra and I will do everything we can to achieve this.

I look forward to setting out on this journey with not only all the players of the Czech Philharmonic, but also with you, our friends and supporters."

#### Semyon Bychkov

Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Czech Philharmonic

## MAPPING THE JOURNEY



## THE OVERTURE 2022 - 2024

We set out on the path to the summit of musical excellence

We launch OPUS 85, the first fundraising campaign.

We offer unforgettable experiences, perform on prestigious stages and support young talent as the Rudolfinum becomes an internationally recognized destination for quality music.

We have a wide, stable community of supporters.

## THE **MILESTONE** 2024

The year of Czech music.

We aim to become one of the three best orchestras in Europe.

We fulfill the goals of the fundraising campaign OPUS 85



## THE MILESTONE 2032

Together with Berlin and Vienna, we are one of the three best European orchestras.



#### THE SUMMIT 2032+

We become a trend-setter and secure our place among the best orchestras in the world.

## THE PILLARS OF THE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN OPUS 85

Our journey to become one of the three best orchestras in Europe rests on four pillars, each focusing on a different area:

# I

## THE RUDOLFINUM BECOMES A GLOBAL DESTINATION FOR EXCELLENT QUALITY

Creating better conditions for the members of the orchestra
Cooperating with distinguished conductors
Cultivating the image of Czech Philharmonic and the Czech
Republic on the world stage

# H

## TOGETHER, WE OFFER BREATHTAKING MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

Opera in our repertoire

Artists in residence and guest stars

The new summer home for the Czech Philharmonic

# III

## TOGETHER, WE TRAVEL THE GLOBE AND STRENGTHEN THE PRESTIGE OF CZECH MUSIC

Asia Europe USA

# IV

# TOGETHER, WE OPEN THE HEARTS OF A NEW GENERATION OF MUSIC LOVERS AND DEVELOP THEIR TALENT

Supporting the Czech Student Philharmonic Orchestra Creating experiences that help children discover music Working with Roma children in underserved communities

## THE WHOLE WORLD WILL COME TO THE RUDOLFINUM FOR ITS EXCELLENCE

True mastery is the result of a systematic effort – there are no shortcuts when a symphony orchestra of over 120 musicians performs classical music. That is why we need to provide our players with the best possible conditions: enough time to rehearse and work with the best conductors (who can't replace other forms of preparations) including our world-renowned chief conductor, Semyon Bychkov.

We will improve the conditions for our musicians. We will raise the pay for our Philharmonic musicians to correspond with the demands of the leading Czech orchestra. By 2024, we aim to increase our player's average salary to 120% of that of a university-educated employee (their current average pay matches 100%). At the same time, we will motivate a select group of our artistically most important players who are integral to the orchestra's performance. From the 2024–25 season, we will increase rehearsal time for certain more complex pieces from two to three days.

We will secure collaborations with important titular conductors. Our musicians will be able grow thanks to artistic challenges brought by collaboration with world-class conductors. We will deepen our productive relationship with Jakub Hrůša, who is already building an exceptional international career despite his youth. We'll come to an arrangement with one of the most sought-after conductors in history to take a headline position. From the list of the 15 most interesting conductors for the next three seasons, we look forward to Antonio Pappano (Royal Opera House in London), Yannick NézetSéguin (Metropolitan Opera in New York), Kirill Petrenko (Berlin Philharmonic) and Christian Thielemann (Saxon State Orchestra of Dresden).

We will strengthen the name of the Czech Philharmonic and consequently, the Czech Republic throughout the world. We will secure an even stronger place on the world stage with live broadcasts from our 4K studio. In addition to the current broadcasts on international TV channels (Mezzo, Arte, Medici, NHK) we will add six streams on the brand new online platform Symphony. Throughout the year, we will work with international PR offices in cities with the highest potential impact on the reputation of the Czech Philharmonic: London, Berlin, Vienna, and Paris.

We can only achieve these ambitious goals with your help!

Yuja Wang

Artist in Residence for the 126th Season of the Czech Philharmonic



"The Czech Philharmonic reflects the best of our country's musical traditions. The greatness of its musicians and the importance of its mission were at the very beginning of my own musical journey, and they have stayed with me ever since. I am very grateful for this. Whenever I reflect on the future of music around the world, my thoughts almost always turn to the leading Czech orchestra and its past, merits, plans, and dreams."

Jakub Hrůša

Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic



# TOGETHER, WE WILL OFFER BREATHTAKING MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

Every evening spent with the Czech Philharmonic should be a special musical and social experience. We will continue to expand our repertoire, securing artists in residence and guest performances by exceptional musicians. We want to collaborate not only with world-class instrumentalists, but also with singers, as the human voice refines the orchestra's sound.

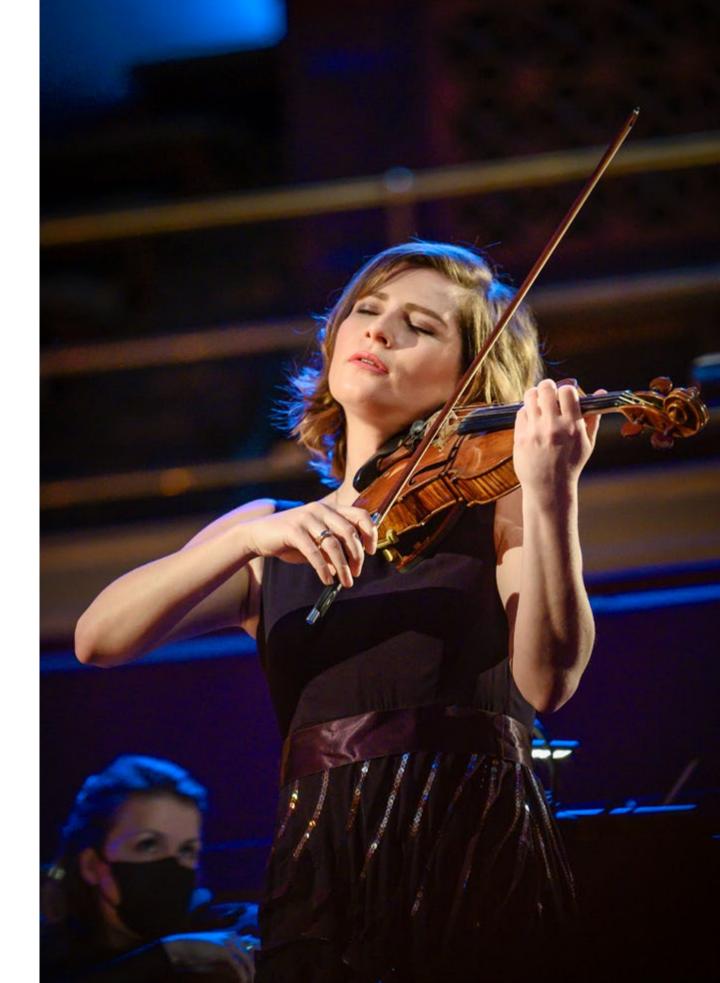
We will expand our repertoire to include operas, which are currently missing from our regular dramaturgy. With guest conductors, experts in opera production, we will perform concert versions of Czech operas which until now have not been presented on the Czech stage: *Libuše* with Jakub Hrůša (2024), or *The Cunning Little Vixen* with Sir John Eliot Gardiner (2024). At the Concert for Freedom and Democracy (2023), we will present the opera *Il prigioniero* under the baton of Antonio Pappano, one of the most respected opera conductors of our time. And from the 2022–2023 season, we will include a large vocal/instrumental work as a part of our program at least once per year.

We will secure artists in residence and virtuoso guest soloists who regularly perform all over the world including at the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics. From the current list of the 30 most prestigious soloists (10 singers, 10 violinists and 10 pianists), our invitation to perform with us over the next three seasons was accepted by the baritone Matthias Goerne (2023), the violinist Janine Jansen (2023) and pianists Daniil Trifonov (2023), András Schiff (2023, 2024) and Emanuel Ax (2024). In the past years, we were joined by guest stars of contemporary dramaturgy at most four times per season. From the 2024–25 season we will have them twice as often.

We will present projects outside of the walls of the Rudolfinum. The international festival Smetanova Litomyšl will become our second home. We've already started working on the above mentioned opera *Libuše* with Jakub Hrůša and Dvořák's Stabat Mater with Tomáš Netopil (2024), and a Smetana gala on the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth (2024), which will be broadcast internationally.

Together, let's prepare something totally unique!

Lisa Batiashvili Violin



"I always love returning to the Czech Philharmonic. Singing with them is always a joy. They have a singular sound and a declared Slavonic warmth which you don't feel with other orchestras. Moreover, literally the entire Rudolfinum is charged with positive energy, from the musician's dressing rooms to the offices of the Philharmonic's team."

Magdalena Kožená

Artist in Residence, 127th Season of the Czech Philharmonic



# TOGETHER, WE WILL CONQUER THE WORLD STAGE AND STRENGTHEN THE REPUTATION OF CZECH MUSIC

We want the rich legacy of Czech music to assume its rightful place in the world.

To mark the 120th anniversary of the death of Antonín Dvořák, 2024 will be another "Year of Czech Music". In his honor, we are planning an ambitious tour of the world's most prestigious concert venues. The expenses for the tour to Asia have mostly been covered, unlike our tours of Europe and the USA, where our endeavors are a question of international prestige.

We're preparing the following world tours:

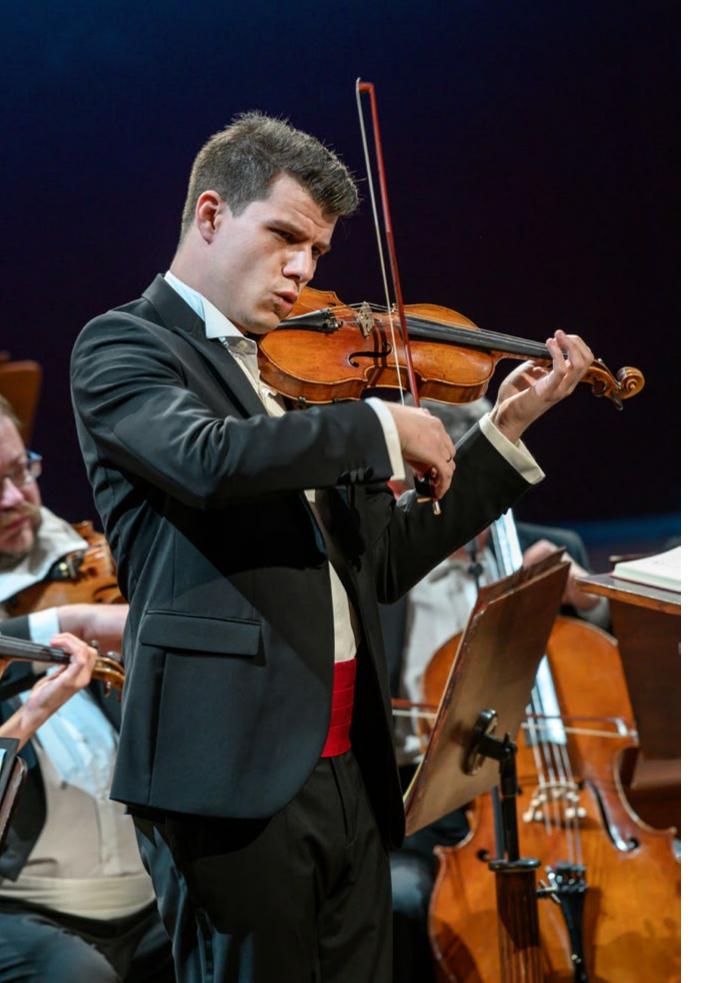
Asia 2023 (Japan, Taiwan, with more stops in the planning stages) Visiting this epicenter of classical music is a joy for every orchestra and an integral part of the task of spreading the fame of Czech music in Asia. The Czech Philharmonic is headed for Suntory Hall, the most prestigious concert hall in Asia.

**Europe 2024** (Vienna, Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Hamburg, with more cities to come) We are striving to arrange multi-day residencies in major European cities including the most distinguished European concert halls such as the Musikverein, where we want to appear for the second time in a prestigious three-day residency.

USA 2024 (New York, with more cities to come) Six years after the last tour of the USA, we are planning to return in top form with your support. Success in America is essential for building the orchestra's renown among classical music lovers and experts all around the world. This will also help inspire the interest of top soloists to collaborate with us and will allow us to negotiate the best terms for appearances abroad. For the first time in history, the Czech Philharmonic will take up a three-day residence on the stage of New York's Carnegie Hall, which only hosts the very best performers.

Together we will show the world that the Czech Republic is a musical superpower!





"As concertmaster of an orchestra with such a long and celebrated tradition, I feel an enormous pride and honor not only to be a part of it, but also to spread the Czech musical heritage on the domestic and world stages. At every concert, I find it hugely satisfying to look out at the audience from the orchestra and see their eyes dazzled by the music. I strongly believe that our audiences are exhilarated listening to our musical offerings, and they share their excitement with the members of the Czech Philharmonic, who deliver their artistry to audiences across the world with the deepest professional dedication"

#### Ian Mráček

Concertmaster of the Czech Philharmonic, Head of the 1st Violins Section

# TOGETHER, WE WILL GIVE THE NEXT GENERATION A CHANCE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH MUSIC AND DEVELOP THEIR TALENT

As a leader in the arts, we want to expand our excellence at home in both Bohemia and Moravia. Passing on our traditions and cultural values is essential for building confidence of the up-and-coming generation. We teach our children creativity, concentration, and stress relief through the medium of music. Moreover, we plan to do more to develop talents at home and help them on their career path. At the same time, we will open children's hearts to the love of music and help them cultivate their determination to face new challenges and seek out the best in themselves.

We will prepare members of the Czech Student Philharmonic, working alongside the Czech Philharmonic, for the professional demands of a major orchestra. This will help the youth orchestra truly nurture talented young players from Czech music schools. The Czech Student Philharmonic is an organization which offers educational symphonic concerts. From the 2022–2023 season, for the first time, the orchestra performances will be offered as part of our subscription series giving the Czech Student Philharmonic the opportunity to work with top conductors like Semyon Bychkov, Jakub Hrůša, and Giovanni Antonini (Il Giardino Armonico). We'll also arrange more informal meetings between student orchestra members and these inspirational figures who will open their eyes to new perspectives and have the potential to become their role models.

We will offer children experiences of discovering music. We will expand the dramaturgy for schools with programs following the subscription series of concerts, which could motivate them attend more performances. We will organize meetings with teachers and exchange our experience with deep listening to help them teach music with more confidence. For the next three seasons, we are preparing new programs in the series of concerts with commentary, active workshops for (grand) parents with kids, and free audiovisual formats for students and teachers, which will also be available on social media.

We will support the talent of Roma children from the Čhavorenge choir. We will continue our work with Ida Kelarová's project, which targets disadvantaged Roma children, offering them a way to escape the vicious circle of settlements and ghettos and enter a world where they are motivated to become whoever they choose to be. Together with your help, we can give them the confidence that they can believe in something and succeed and become a role model for their communities. Our project helps the wider community overcome their stereotypes about the Roma people.





"From the very first seconds, I enjoyed working with the Czech Student Philharmonic for many reasons, one being the depth of their musicianship. When conducting and listening to these young people, I said to myself – they are so incredibly musical, they are Czech musicians! The Czechs are very musically gifted, as I can see in my philharmonic and now in this generation as well."

#### Semyon Bychkov

Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Czech Philharmonic

## TOGETHER WE CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING! LET'S GET TO IT!

The Czech Philharmonic is a part of the Czech musical heritage. As such, it receives yearly grants from the Czech Ministry of Culture. Thanks to this stable support, which makes up 58% of the yearly budget, the members of the orchestra along with the whole Philharmonic team can work full-time all year round. Unfortunately, not even this generous yearly grant from the Ministry of Culture is enough to support our journey to musical mastery. This journey aspires to reach the absolute artistic excellence of the best European and world philharmonic orchestras.

The only way to get there is to complement this stable financial support with the contributions from private donors.

That is why we ask for your support. Without you, the journey to the musical summit will not be possible.

We need to raise 85 000 000 CZK during 2022–2024 to set off on our journey to excellence.

"The Czech Philharmonic is one of the best and most significant representatives of our country. I wholeheartedly wish it all the success in its artistic plans, and I support its innovative fundraising campaign. On behalf of the Ministry of Culture, one of its founders, it is my pleasure to say that we are proud of the Czech Philharmonic. The Czech Philharmonic will always be among the great priorities of the Czech Republic."

#### Martin Baxa

Minister of Culture, Czech Republic

Eva Krestová

1st Chair and Viola Section Leader, Member of the Czech Philharmonic



## HOW DO WE COMPARE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD?

The budget of the Czech Philharmonic is noticeably lower than that of other world-class orchestras.

The Berliner Philharmoniker, for instance, has a budget almost 3.5 times that of the Czech Philharmonic.

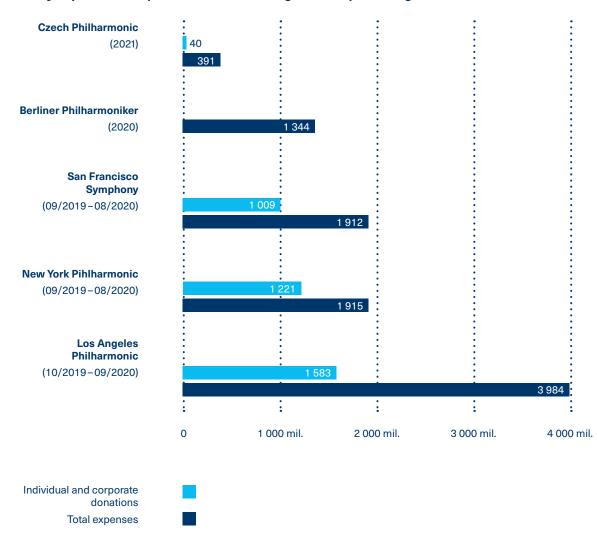
The private support of foreign orchestras is also much larger – the amount of individual and corporate sponsorship of the Czech Philharmonic today is just a fraction of the support for other world orchestras. In 2021, mostly small donors contributed 2.5 million CZK, approximately 0.6% of our total budget.

The goal of the fundraising campaign OPUS 85 is to raise the amount of individual sponsorship within three years to 85 million CZK.

#### Our ambition for individual sponsorship

2022-2024	85 million CZK
•••••	•••••
2019-2021	6 million CZK

#### Yearly expenses compared to income from gifts and sponsoring in millions of CZK

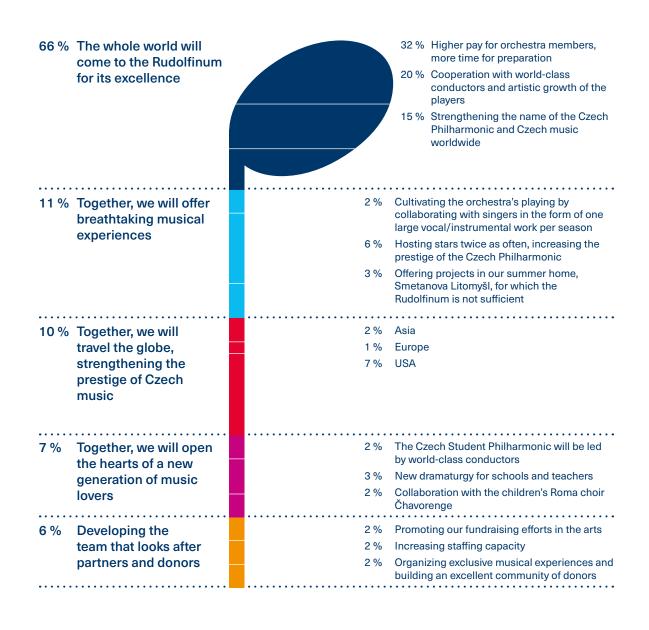


Note: No sponsorship data on the Berliner Philharmoniker and the Wiener Philharmoniker is publicly available. Sources: ProPublica, Czech Philharmonic, the Berliner Philharmoniker budget for the fiscal year 2020/2021.

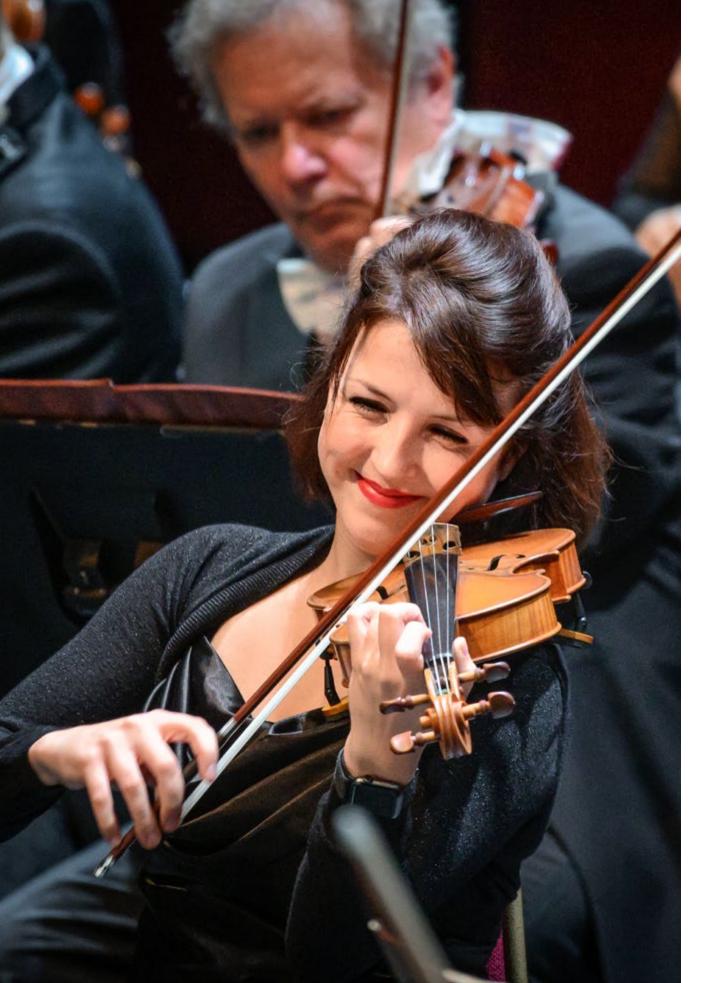
OPUS 85: FINANCIALS | 48

# HOW WILL WE USE YOUR DONATIONS?

Goal: 85,000,000 CZK by June 2024







# WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS TOGETHER!

"Bychkov and his orchestra have clearly shown why they are the most qualified interpreters of Dvořák's legacy." **Andrew Lightman**, *Hill Rag* 

"The Czech Philharmonic is an ensemble with a clear artistic as well as national importance ... It was an integral part of my development." **Adam Plachetka**, *baritone* 

"I always recognize that wonderful, round sound of the Czech Philharmonic. ... It has always inspired and guided me, not only when I was a child, but also later when I started doing music professionally." **Kateřina Kněžíková**, *soprano* 

"It's wonderful to return to the Czech Philharmonic. It has always been my favorite orchestra." **John Eliot Gardiner**, *conductor* 

"The Czech Philharmonic is simply our central European tradition with an original sound, which we need in a time when orchestras are losing their originality and often sound very similar." **Rudolf Buchbinder**, *pianist* 

"One of the five best orchestras in the world ... in my opinion, they are all located in Continental Europe." **David Nice**, *The Arts Desk* 

"The distinctive sound quality of the Czech Philharmonic – the pulsating bows, the powerful and at the same time velvety brass section – transformed a mere musical experience into a feast." **Neil Fisher**, *The Times* 

"To hear the Czech Philharmonic play Dvořák is without a doubt one of the biggest delights in classical music." **Ben Hogwood,** *Arcana.fm* 

"With its all-embracing, dark velvety tone, the orchestra instantly owned the sold-out concert hall." **Jessica Duchen**, *The i* 

"Not a single musician stands out from the tutti: just a perfect harmony and a velvety smooth sound." **Sandra Fleck,** *Wiener Zeitung* 

#### Milena Kolářová

Violin, Member of the Czech Philharmonic

#### WE BELIEVE WE MUST AIM HIGH

That's why we set such an ambitious goal – to become one of the three best orchestras in Europe by the year 2032. We want to offer masterful quality at home in the Rudolfinum, to conquer prestigious podiums and promote a relationship between the young generation and music by raising awareness as well as supporting talent.

We want to become a true symbol of national pride and inspire every one of us to pursue big goals. We believe that together, we can accomplish these goals, and not only compete with the best in the world with our mastery, but also set new trends for others.

No world-class orchestra has ever touched excellence with public funding alone. They were helped on the most difficult part of the journey by private supporters. And so, we too are looking for donors who are in harmony with our vision – new members of the Philharmonic family, such as yourself.

The 85,000,000 CZK we need to raise by June 2024 will help us set off on a journey to become one of the three best orchestras in Europe.

That money is specifically intended for activities that will lead to completing our vision and cannot be realistically funded from public sources.

No one has ever completed a journey to excellence alone, and that is why we need you, a generous donor.

Please contribute to OPUS 85, the first fundraising campaign of the Czech Philharmonic. Let us set off on a journey to the summit of musical excellence together!

Thank you.

**Semyon Bychkov** *Chief conductor and Musical Director* 

**David Mareček** General Manager



#### WARM UP WITH US!

## WHAT DO OUR CURRENT PATRONS SAY ABOUT US?

#### By deciding to join us:

- You become a part of the Philharmonic family for patrons closest to our ambitions and vision
- You'll be in a club of people who care about cultural values and the continuation of Czech traditions. People who meet regularly in the Rudolfinum as well as outside of it.
- Along with us, you'll learn what it's like to represent Czechia on the most prestigious world stages
- We will experience unique evenings full of music and inspirational meetings with guest artists and members of the Czech Philharmonic
- Together, we'll experience the first successes of a new generation of our young talents
- You will be a part of the first fundraising campaign of its kind in the Czech Republic

"It's not possible to take culture as something non-essential. Culture sustains a healthy and fresh soul and the more complex the times, the more we need it."

Jakub Kocmánek, subscriber and donor

"Music elevates every part of our being and that is the biggest gift you give us." **Dana Komínková**, *subscriber and donor* 

"I would like to thank you for yesterday's concert. In today's world full of worries, frustrations, and stresses, it was like a transmission from another planet."

Jiří Kejval, *subscriber* 

"In the past, we almost never heard of concepts like fundraising, benefactor, and donor, so it was hard to imagine what it actually meant. We hope that, in the future, these won't be unknown words for us or our children. It's good to know that when I'm a fan of something, I can actively support it as well."

Hana Dvořáková, subscriber and donor

"I find it significant that we're losing awareness of the fact that 'art' originally denoted a practical skill, and not just in culture. I'm not talking about the ability to shock, direct someone's attention to oneself, or confuse the artistic license with lack of skill or an aggressive provocation … The Czech Philharmonic displays such excellence that the mere virtuosity of the bows is awe-inspiring. One can only imagine how much hard work and dedication lies behind such lightness." Dalibor Tureček, subscriber and donor

#### Do you have any questions about the OPUS 85 philanthropic campaign? Call us!



David Mareček

General Director



Robert Hanč General Manager



Michal Medek
Sales Director



Ondřej H. Matyáš Economic and Operations Director



Dagmar Caspe
Head of Partnerships and Donor Care
dagmar.caspe@ceskafilharmonie.cz
+420 776 202 908



Jiří Hašek Major Donors Ambassador jiri.hasek@ceskafilharmonie.cz +420 603 400 162



Kateřina Tichá
Donor Care Coordinator
katerina.ticha@ceskafilharmonie.cz
+420 731 881 690



Filip Tomášek

Corporate Partnerships Manager
filip.tomasek@ceskafilharmonie.cz
+420 776 129 012



Radka Bacíková Fundraising & Major Donor Care radka.bacikova@ceskafilharmonie.cz +420 775 930 097



Jana Štumpová Konicarová Partnership Ambassador jana.s.konicarova@ceskafilharmonie.cz +420 602 608 125

