Czech Philharmonic

128th SEASON
2023 | 2024

SEASON GUIDE

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Semyon Bychkov
Chief Conductor and Music Director

Czech Philharmonic

Established by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
www.ceskafilharmonie.cz

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A WORD FROM THE CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Dear Friends of the Czech Philharmonic,

It feels like only yesterday that I welcomed you to our 127th season, but the moment has already come for me to invite you to our next, 128th season. Why time flies so fast, no one can understand but, what all of us at the Czech Philharmonic do know is that sharing the dreams of our next season's projects with you renews a very deep and special connection between the orchestra and its audience. This connection goes back to the very beginnings of the Czech Philharmonic when it was conducted by Antonín Dvořák. Since the orchestra's creation, the idea that neither the orchestra nor its audience can exist happily without challenging and stimulating each other has been reaffirmed every year; with you, our public, receiving and taking home the music that is our raison d'être, while we, the musicians, take home your vibrations, your emotions, your affection. If one thinks of all the generations of artists and their audiences that lived in this time, shared what they had to offer and received what spoke to their minds and hearts, what made them grateful to be alive, 128 years is a significant period of history.

2023/2024 season carries a promise of being vibrant and spiritually enriching. This promise will be kept due to the exceptional musicality and human goodness of our orchestra as well as your presence in our life.

Semyon Bychkov
Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Czech Philharmonic

A WORD FROM THE CEO

Dear Subscribers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When we opened our 127th season last autumn, we had many reasons to be joyful and optimistic. Semyon Bychkov, just announced as Conductor of the Year by the magazine Musical America, extended his contract with the Czech Philharmonic until the year 2028, thereby fulfilling a precondition for the orchestra's further artistic development. Our principal guest conductor Jakub Hrůša has accepted the position of music director of London's Royal Opera, greatly enhancing the reputation of the Czech Republic in the world of culture. The Pentatone label released the orchestra's highly acclaimed recording of Mahler's Fifth Symphony, and there was also an extraordinarily successful European tour.

In order to maintain the favour of our audience, for the 128th season we have again invited illustrious artists. Besides our in-house conductors Semyon Bychkov, Jakub Hrůša, and Tomáš Netopil, returning to the orchestra will be Simon Rattle, and Giovanni Antonini, while Antonio Pappano and Tugan Sokhiev will be making their debuts. Once again, we will welcome such soloists as Yuja Wang, Janine Jansen, and András Schiff from abroad as well as Czech artists including Josef Špaček and Lukáš Vondráček. While we will continue to realise our Mahler CD cycle with Semyon Bychkov, we will also be recording Antonín Dvořák's last three symphonies with him, and we will be representing our country on tour in Europe and Asia with all-Dvořák programmes.

None of these activities would have been possible without the strong, long-term support of the Czech Ministry of Culture and of our many partners. Among them, I would like to point out in particular the ČEZ Group, which has signed a general partnership agreement with us for another three years, the PPF Group, which has joined us recently, and our traditional partners the bank Česká spořitelna and Škoda Auto, with which we will be opening our 30th season together this autumn. The Progresus investment group has become an important partner for supporting young talents. All of them deserve our appreciation, as do other donors who belong to the Dynamic Club of the Czech Philharmonic in constantly increasing numbers.

Ladies and gentlemen, we wish you a season full of beautiful artistic experiences and lovely gatherings at the Rudolfinum. We look forward to seeing you!

Yours faithfully,

David Mareček
CEO of the Czech Philharmonic

CZECH PHILHARMONIC

"Another great European ensemble, with a heritage that stretches back to 1896 when Antonín Dvořák, no less, conducted the first concert. With some legendary names among its chief conductors, the Czech Philharmonic is now in the excellent care of Semyon Bychkov, a fine conductor and someone who understands the orchestra's traditional colours and style. Their partnership has given us distinctive Tchaikovsky and just a couple of months ago an impressive Mahler Fourth – inaugurating a symphony cycle for Pentatone – enshrining playing our critic described quite simply as 'wonderful'."

Gramophone,
Orchestra of the Year 2022 Nomination

On 4 January 1896, the 128-year-old Czech Philharmonic gave its first concert in the famed Rudolfinum Hall in the heart of Prague. Conducted by Antonín Dvořák, the programme featured the world première of his Biblical Songs, Nos. 1–5. Renowned for its definitive interpretations of the Czech repertoire, the Orchestra also has a special relationship to the music of Brahms and Tchaikovsky – both friends of Dvořák – and to Mahler who in 1908 conducted the Orchestra in the world première of his Symphony No. 7.

As festivals, orchestras and presenters across the Czech Republic gear up to celebrate the Year of Czech Music in 2024, the Czech Philharmonic's 128th season launches in September with a series of concerts dedicated to Dvořák led by Chief Conductor and Music Director Semyon Bychkov. As well as the concerts in Prague, Bychkov and the Orchestra will take Dvořák to South Korea and Japan in the autumn, and to the major European capitals including Madrid, Vienna and Paris in the spring. Following the success of Bychkov's concert performances of Rusalka at the 2022 Dvořák Prague International Festival, the Orchestra's Principal Guest Conductors Jakub Hrůša and Tomáš Netopil will lead performances of Martinů's Ariadne and Smetana's Libuše. Libuše is presented in collaboration with the Prague Spring International Music Festival and Smetana's Litomyšl Festival as part of Smetana's bi-centenary celebrations.

This season marks the beginning of Semyon Bychkov's second 5-year term as Chief Conductor and Music Director. The focus at the time of his appointment was on Tchaikovsky's symphonic works which culminated in The Tchaikovsky Project – a series of concerts, residencies and recordings for Decca Classics. More recently the focus has turned to Mahler and, a new complete symphonic cycle Pentatone. The first of the cycle, Mahler's Symphony No. 4 was released in April 2022, followed by the release of the Fifth and Second Symphonies. During the 128th season, Bychkov will conduct the Czech Philharmonic in performances of the Third Symphony in Prague and Baden-Baden, prior to recordings for Czech Phil media.

Over the three years since its launch in 2020, the Czech Philharmonic's annual concert honouring the Velvet Revolution of 17 November 1989 has been conducted by Bychkov, Hrůša and Sir Simon Rattle. This November, the Orchestra has invited Sir Antonio Pappano, making his Czech Philharmonic debut, to conduct Janine Jansen in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and Dvořák's Slavonic Dances. Former Artists-in-Residence Yuja Wang (2021/2022) and Sir Simon Rattle (2022/2023) return later in the season with music by Rachmaninoff and Bruckner; and this season's Artist-in-Residence, Sir András Schiff, will perform at home and on tour with the Orchestra, and as a guest of the 2023 Dvořák Prague International Festival.

The Czech Philharmonic's extraordinary and proud history reflects both its location at the very heart of Europe and the Czech Republic's turbulent political history, for which Smetana's My Country has become a potent symbol. The Orchestra gave its first full rendition of My Country in a brewery in Smíchov in 1901; in 1925 under Chief Conductor Václav Talich, My Country was the Orchestra's first live broadcast and, five years later, it was the first work that the Orchestra committed to disc. During the Nazi occupation, when Goebbels demanded that the Orchestra perform in Berlin and Dresden, Talich programmed My Country as an act of defiance, while in 1945 Rafael Kubelík conducted the work as a 'concert of thanks' for the newly liberated Czechoslovakia. In 1990, My Country was Kubelík's choice to mark Czechoslovakia's first free elections, a historic event which was recognised 30 years later when Bychkov chose the occasion of the first Velvet Revolution concert to perform the complete cycle at the Rudofinum.

Throughout the Czech Philharmonic's history, two features have remained at its core: its championing of Czech composers and its belief in music's power to change lives. Defined from its inauguration as an organisation for the enhancement of musical art in Prague, and a pension organisation for the members of the National Theatre Orchestra in Prague, its widows and orphans, the proceeds from the four concerts that it performed each year helped to support members of the orchestra who could no longer play and the immediate family of deceased musicians. As early as the 1920's, Václav

Talich (Chief Conductor 1919–1941) pioneered concerts for workers, young people and other voluntary organisations including the Red Cross, the Czechoslovak Sokol and the Union of Slavic Women and, in 1923 gave three benefit concerts for Russian, Austrian and German players including members of the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras.

The philosophy is equally vibrant today. Alongside the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Orchestral Academy and Jiří Bělohlávek Prize for young musicians, a comprehensive education strategy engages with more than 400 schools enabling all ages to visit the Rudolfinum – some travelling as many as four hours – to hear concerts and participate in masterclasses. An inspirational music and song programme led by singer Ida Kelarová for the extensive Romany communities within the Czech Republic and Slovakia has helped many socially excluded families to find a voice. In addition to its annual education exchange with the Royal Academy of Music in London, last year at the invitation of the Czech Philharmonic, Alfred Brendel and Boris Giltburg gave masterclasses and lectures to launch the Ivan Moravec Academy in honour of the Czech pianist and teacher (1930–2015).

An early champion of Martinů's music, the Czech Philharmonic premièred his Czech Rhapsody in 1919 and, its detailed inventory of Czech music, undertaken by Václav Talich included the world premières of Martinů's Half Time (1924), Janáček's Sinfonietta (1926) and the Prague première of Janáček's Taras Bulba (1924). Rafael Kubelík was also an advocate of Martinů's music and premièred Field Mass (1946) and Symphony No. 5 (1947), while Karel Ančerl conducted the première of Martinů's Symphony No. 6 Fantaisies symphoniques (1956). Fantaisies symphoniques has also featured twice in the Orchestra's programmes at the BBC Proms, first in 1969 under Chief Conductor Václav Neumann and again in 2010 under Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

Prague has long been favoured by composers, not least Mozart who, following performances of Le Nozze di Figaro and Don Giovanni in Prague, from Vienna to première La Clemenza di Tito in 1791. Five years later, Beethoven made two trips to Prague, returning in 1798 to give the première of his Piano Concerto No. 1. His Seventh Symphony was composed in the spa town of Teplitz (now Teplice). Mahler's ties ran even deeper. Born in the Bohemian village of Kaliště, now part of the Czech Republic, Mahler was 23 when he conducted at the Royal Municipal Theatre in Moravia and first travelled to Prague to conduct at the Neues Deutsches Theatre before returning to give the world première of his Symphony No. 7 with the Czech Philharmonic in 1908.

Mahler, however, was not the first composer of renown to conduct the Czech Philharmonic. Edward Grieg conducted the Orchestra in 1906; Stravinsky performed his Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra under Václav Talich in 1930; Leonard Bernstein conducted the European première of Aaron Copland's Symphony No. 3 at the Prague Spring in 1947; Arthur Honegger conducted a concert of his own music in 1949; Darius Milhaud gave the première of his Music for Prague at the Prague Spring Festival in 1966; and, in 1996, Krzysztof Penderecki conducted the première of his Concerto for Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra.

Their names are joined by the many luminaries who have collaborated with the Orchestra over the years: Martha Argerich, Claudio Arrau, Evgeny Kissin, Erich Kleiber, Leonid Kogan, Erich Leinsdorf, Lovro von Matačić, Ivan Moravec, Yevgeny Mravinsky, David Oistrakh, Antonio Pedrotti, Sviatoslav Richter, Mstislav Rostropovich, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Wolfgang Schneiderhan, George Szell, Henryk Szeryng, Bruno Walter and Alexander Zemlinsky.

"The Czech Philharmonic and its Music Director, Semyon Bychkov, set the Paris Philharmonie on fire. The Orchestra offered Parisians two exceptional concerts, confirming that it remains one of the world's greatest orchestras, and that it is therefore unfair not to mention it as such when it comes to listing the most significant international ensembles."

Bruno Serrou Blog, 19 October 2022

SEMYON BYCHKOV

Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Czech Philharmonic

"The quality of technical realization is indispensable during the time of preparation. Yet in a live performance it is its spirit, its emotional intensity, that are decisive in order to touch the listeners and justify inviting them to the performance. An occasional accident only serves to remind us that we are human after all, and will never undermine the value of an event, music itself being far above those who try to serve it."

Semyon Bychkov

Now at the beginning of a new 5-year contract as Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Czech Philharmonic, Semyon Bychkov's relationship with the Orchestra has become noticeably deeper with extraordinary performances of the great Czech masters running in parallel with a much-acclaimed Mahler cycle recorded for Pentatone, and memorable performances of Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Strauss, Schumann, and Beethoven.

Bychkov's inaugural season with the Czech Philharmonic in 2018 was celebrated with an international tour that took the Orchestra from performances at home in Prague to concerts in London, New York, and Washington. Dvořák is a major focus throughout the 128th season – in addition to being featured in the season launch and the opening subscription concerts, Bychkov and the Czech Philharmonic take Dvořák to audiences in South Korea and Japan, reprising the East Asia tour originally planned for 2020. Later in the season, the Orchestra will bring Dvořák to the major European capitals in celebration of 2024's Year of Czech Music.

For the past three seasons, Bychkov's work with the Czech Philharmonic has focused on the music of Gustav Mahler, with performances of the symphonies at the Rudofinum, on tour and ultimately committed to disc. Pentatone's Mahler Cycle launched in spring 2022 with the release of Mahler's Symphony No. 4, followed by recordings of Mahler's Symphony No. 5 in October and, most recently Symphony No. 2. This season Mahler's Symphony No. 3 will be performed at the Rudolfinum and in Baden-Baden.

Other major projects during Bychkov's tenure include the commissioning of 14 new works – nine from Czech composers and five commissions from international composers. The symphonies of Detlev Glanert and Julian Anderson were both inspired and named after Prague, Bryce Dessner composed a tone poem inspired by the nature of the Basque Coast where Bychkov

lives, and Thierry Escaich and Thomas Larcher composed piano concertos. Bychkov's first major initiative with the Czech Philharmonic was The Tchaikovsky Project – a 7-CD box set devoted to Tchaikovsky's symphonic repertoire released by Decca and a series of international residencies. Last September, after giving the official concert to mark the Czech Republic's Presidency of the EU, Bychkov and the Orchestra started the season as guests of the Dvořák Prague International Music Festival, where they gave three concert performances of Dvořák's Rusalka.

In common with the Czech Philharmonic, Bychkov has one foot firmly in the culture of the East and the other in the West. Born in Leningrad 1952, Bychkov emigrated to the United States in 1975 and has lived in Europe since the mid-1980's. Singled out for an extraordinarily privileged musical education from the age of 5, Bychkov studied piano before winning his place at the Glinka Choir School where, aged 13, he received his first lesson in conducting. He was 17 when he was accepted at the Leningrad Conservatory to study with the legendary Ilya Musin and, within three years had won the influential Rachmaninoff Conducting Competition. He left the former Soviet Union in 1975, having been denied his prize of conducting the Leningrad Philharmonic.

By the time Bychkov returned to Leningrad in 1989 as the Philharmonic's Principal Guest Conductor, he had enjoyed success in the US as Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra and the Buffalo Philharmonic. His international career, which began in France with Opéra de Lyon and at the Aix-en-Provence Festival, took off with a series of high-profile cancellations which resulted in invitations to conduct the New York and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras and the Concertgebouworkest. In 1989, he was named Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris; in 1997, Chief Conductor of the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne; and the following year, Chief Conductor of the Dresden Semperoper.

Bychkov's symphonic and operatic repertoire is wide-ranging. He conducts in all the major opera houses including La Scala, Opéra national de Paris, Dresden Semperoper, Wiener Staatsoper, New York's Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Teatro Real. While Principal Guest Conductor of Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, his productions of Janáček's Jenůfa, Schubert's Fierrabras, Puccini's La bohème, Shostakovich's Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk and Mussorgsky's Boris Godunov each won the prestigious Premio Abbiati. New productions in Vienna have included Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier and Daphne, Wagner's Lohengrin and Parsifal, and Mussorgsky's Khovanshchina; while in London, he made his operatic debut with a new production of Strauss' Elektra, and subsequently conducted new productions of Mozart's Così fan tutte, Strauss' Die Frau ohne Schatten and Wagner's Tannhäuser. Recent productions include Strauss' Elektra at the Paris Opera, Dvořák's Rusalka at Covent Garden and Wagner's Tristan and Isolde at Teatro Real in Madrid.

On the concert platform, the combination of innate musicality and rigorous Russian pedagogy has ensured that Bychkov's performances are highly anticipated. In the UK, in addition

to regular performances with the London Symphony Orchestra, his honorary titles at the Royal Academy of Music and the BBC Symphony Orchestra – with whom he appears annually at the BBC Proms – reflect the warmth of the relationships. In Europe, he tours with the Concertgebouworkest and Munich Philharmonic, as well as being a frequent guest of the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Orchestre National de France and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia; in the US, he can be heard with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Symphony, Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras.

Bychkov made extensive recordings for Philips with the Berlin Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio, Concertgebouworkest, Philharmonia, London Philharmonic and Orchestre de Paris. His 13-year collaboration (1997–2010) with WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne produced a series of benchmark recordings that included works by Strauss (Elektra, Daphne, Ein Heldenleben, Metamorphosen, Alpensinfonie, Till Eulenspiegel), Mahler (Symphony No. 3, Das Lied von der Erde), Shostakovich (Symphony Nos. 4, 7, 8, 10, 11), Rachmaninoff (The Bells, Symphonic Dances, Symphony No. 2), Verdi (Requiem), a complete cycle of Brahms Symphonies, and works by Detlev Glanert and York Höller. His recording of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin was recommended by BBC's Radio 3's Building a Library (2020); Wagner's Lohengrin was BBC Music Magazine's Record of the Year (2010); and Schmidt's Symphony No. 2 with the Vienna Philharmonic was BBC Music Magazine's Record of the Month (2018). Of The Tchaikovsky Project released in 2019, BBC Music Magazine wrote: "The most beautiful orchestra playing imaginable can be heard on Semyon Bychkov's 2017 recording with the Czech Philharmonic, in which Decca's state-of-the-art recording captures every detail."

Bychkov was the first musician to express his position on the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, since when he has spoken in support of Ukraine in Prague's Wenceslas Square; on radio and television in the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Austria, the UK and the USA; written By Invitation for The Economist; and appeared as a guest on BBC World's HARDtalk.

In October 2022, Semyon Bychkov was named Musical America's Conductor of the Year Worldwide. Earlier in the year he received an Honorary Doctorate from the Royal Academy of Music and, in 2015 he was named Conductor of the Year by the International Opera Awards.

JAKUB HRŮŠA

Principal Guest Conductor

Born in the Czech Republic, Jakub Hrůša is Chief Conductor of the Bamberg Symphony, Music Director Designate of The Royal Opera, Covent Garden (Music Director from 2025), Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic, and Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia.

He is a frequent guest with the world's greatest orchestras, including the Vienna, Berlin, Munich and New York Philharmonics; Bavarian Radio Symphony, NHK, Chicago and Boston Symphonies; Staatskapelle Dresden, Orchestre de Paris; Leipzig Gewandhaus, Royal Concertgebouw, Mahler Chamber and The Cleveland Orchestras. He has led opera productions for the Salzburg Festival (Káťa Kabanová with the Vienna Philharmonic in 2022), Vienna State Opera, Royal Opera House, and Opéra National de Paris. He has also been a regular guest with Glyndebourne Festival and served as Music Director of Glyndebourne On Tour for three years.

His relationships with leading vocal and instrumental soloists have included collaborations in recent seasons with Daniil Trifonov, Mitsuko Uchida, Hélène Grimaud, Behzod Abduraimov, Anne Sofie Mutter, Lisa Batiashvili, Joshua Bell, Yefim Bronfman, Rudolf Buchbinder, Gautier Capuçon, Julia Fischer, Sol Gabetta, Hilary Hahn, Janine Jansen and others.

As a recording artist, Jakub Hrůša has received numerous awards and nominations for his discography. Most recently, he received the Opus Klassik Conductor of the Year nomination and the ICMA prize for his recording of Bruckner's Symphony No. 4, and the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik for his recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 4, both with Bamberg Symphony. In 2021, his disc of Martinů and Bartók violin concertos with Bamberg Symphony and Frank Peter Zimmermann was nominated for BBC Music Magazine and Gramophone awards, and his recording of the Dvořák Violin Concerto with the Bavarian Radio Symphony and Augustin Hadelich was nominated for a Grammy Award.

Jakub Hrůša studied at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, where his teachers included Jiří Bělohlávek. He is President of the International Martinů Circle and The Dvořák Society. He was the inaugural recipient of the Sir Charles Mackerras Prize, and in 2020 was awarded both the Antonín Dvořák Prize by the Czech Republic's Academy of Classical Music, and – together with Bamberg Symphony – the Bavarian State Prize for Music.

TOMÁŠ NETOPIL

Principal Guest Conductor

An inspirational force in Czech music, Tomáš Netopil holds the position of Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic. In early Spring 2018 he led the orchestra on an extensive UK tour, and conducted My Country in the opening concert of the 2018 Prague Spring Festival, which was televised live. In the 2020/2021 season, his engagements with them included conducting at the Smetana's Litomyšl Festival in June 2021.

Tomáš Netopil celebrated his tenth and final season as General Music Director of the Aalto Musiktheater and Philharmonie Essen in 2022/2023. This season featured Wagner's Tannhäuser, Kampe's Dogville and Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro and also a production of Janáček's Káťa Kabanová at Grand Théâtre de Genève.

In Summer 2018 Tomáš Netopil created the International Summer Music Academy in Kroměříž offering students both exceptional artistic tuition and the opportunity to meet and work with major international musicians. In Summer 2021, in association with the Dvořák Prague Festival, the Academy established the Dvořákova Praha Youth Philharmonic with musicians from conservatories and music academies, coached by principal players of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

Operatic highlights beyond Essen include Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden (La clemenza di Tito, Rusalka, The Cunning Little Vixen, La Juive, The Bartered Bride, and Busoni's Doktor Faust), Vienna Staatsoper (his most recent successes include Idomeneo, Der Freischütz, and a new production of Leonore) and for Netherlands Opera (Jenůfa). His concert highlights of recent seasons have included Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich as well as engagements with Orchestre de Paris, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Orchestra Sinfonica della RAI.

Tomáš Netopil's discography for Supraphon includes Janáček's Glagolitic Mass (the first ever recording of the original 1927 version), Dvořák's complete cello works, Martinů's Ariane and Double Concerto, and Smetana's My Country with the Prague Symphony Orchestra. During his tenure in Essen, he has recorded Suk Asrael and Mahler Symphonies No. 6 and 9.

He studied violin and conducting in his native Czech Republic, as well as at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm under the guidance of Professor Jorma Panula. In 2002 he won the 1st Sir Georg Solti Conductors Competition at the Alte Oper Frankfurt.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE FOR THE 128th SEASON OF THE CP

András Schiff *piano*

We began the tradition of artists-in-residence in our 126th season, and this time we are going back to having a pianist by inviting Sir András Schiff, a world-famous British artist of Hungarian origin. The bulk of his repertoire consists of Baroque, Classical, and Romantic works, but he also devotes himself to music of the 20th and 21st centuries. He first appeared with the Czech Philharmonic in 1984 on an American tour, but his present engagement is his first here in a very long time.

During a season-long residency, closer ties and more intensive collaboration with selected artist bring significant enrichment to the Czech Philharmonic. Artists-in-residence appear repeatedly during the season in a variety of formats and in diverse repertoire. We will see András Schiff with the Czech Philharmonic in a dual role as pianist and conductor at the Dvořák Prague International Music Festival, in October at subscription concerts with chief conductor Semyon Bychkov, and in February with the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra as part of the Czech Chamber Music Society's season. Then in March he will join the Czech Philharmonic for concerts in Vienna, Hamburg, and Munich as part of the orchestra's European tour.

CONCERTS WITH THE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

22 Sep. 2023

DVOŘÁK PRAGUE FESTIVAL

Johann Sebastian Bach
Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, BWV 1052

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Piano Concerto No. 27 in B flat major, K 595

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 55 "Eroica"

Czech Philharmonic
András Schiff *conductor, piano*

11–13 Oct. 2023

SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT A1

Antonín Dvořák
Carnival Overture, Op. 92

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "From the New World"

Czech Philharmonic
András Schiff *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

5 Feb. 2024

CONCERT OF THE CYCLE I5

Antonín Dvořák
Serenade for winds, cello, and double bass in D minor, Op. 44

Ludwig van Beethoven
Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Symphony No. 38 in D major, K 504 "Prague"

Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra
András Schiff *piano, artistic director*

11 Mar. 2024

KONZERTHAUS
Vienna, Austria

13 Mar. 2024

ELBPHILHARMONIE
Hamburg, Germany

17 Mar. 2024

ISARPHILHARMONIE
Munich, Germany

Czech Philharmonic
András Schiff *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

ANDRÁS SCHIFF

piano

Sir András Schiff is acclaimed around the world as a pianist, conductor, pedagogue, and instructor. He inspires both audiences and critics, bringing mastery and intellectual insight to his interpretations. He was born in Budapest in 1953 and studied piano there at the Franz Liszt Academy under Pál Kadosa, György Kurtág, and Ferenc Rados and in London under George Malcom. His complete performances of the Beethoven sonatas and of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Joseph Haydn, Franz Schubert, and Béla Bartók have been an important part of his performing career.

He has collaborated with the world's top orchestras, but he is now focusing mainly on solo recitals, conducting at the piano, and unique conducting projects. His Bach concerts have become a yearly highlight at the BBC Proms, and he also appears regularly at the festivals in Verbier, Salzburg, and Baden-Baden as well as at London's Wigmore Hall. For the 2022/2023 season, he was the artist-in-residence of the New York Philharmonic.

Vicenza is the home of Cappella Andrea Barca – Schiff's own chamber orchestra consisting of international soloists, chamber players, and friends, which he founded in 1999. With them, he has appeared at Carnegie Hall, the Lucerne Festival, and the Mozartwoche in Salzburg, and there is a coming concert tour of Asia and a European series of Bach piano concerts. The orchestra is the curator of the festival at the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza.

Sir András has close ties to the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, with which he accepted the role of Associated Artist in 2018, affirming his interest in playing period keyboard instruments.

He continues to support new talent, especially through the series Building Bridges, which arranges performances for talented young artists. He also teaches at the Barenboim-Said Academy and in Kronberg, and he gives frequent lectures and masterclasses. In 2017, Bärenreiter published his book Music Comes Out of Silence, with essays and interviews with Martin Meyer.

Sir András Schiff has received many honours including a Gold Medal from the International Mozarteum Foundation (2012), Germany's Great Cross with Star of the Order of Merit (2012), the Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal (2013), British knighthood for service to music (2014), and an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Music (2018). The Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University honoured him with the 2021 Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano Performance.

THE ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTORS
Semyon Bychkov
chief conductor and music director
Jakub Hrůša *principal guest conductor*
Tomáš Netopil *principal guest conductor*

VIOLINS I
Jan Mráček *concertmaster, section leader*
Jiří Vodička *concertmaster*
Jan Fišer *concertmaster*
Irena Jakubcová *1st deputy*
Magdaléna Mašlaňová *2nd deputy*
Ota Bartoš
Luboš Dudek
Marie Dvorská
Jan Jouza
Bohumil Kotmel
Jiří Kubita
Lenka Machová
Viktor Mazáček
Pavel Nechvíle
Aida Shabuová
Helena Skopová
Zdeněk Starý
Jindřich Vácha
Milan Vavřínek
Miroslav Vilímec
Zdeněk Zelba

VIOLINS II
Petra Brabcová *section leader*
Ondřej Skopový *1st deputy*
Markéta Vokáčová *2nd deputy*
Václav Prudil *3rd deputy*
Xenie Dohnalová
Zuzana Hájková
Petr Havlín
Pavel Herajn
Jitka Kokšová
Milena Kolářová
Marcel Kozánek
Veronika Kozlovská
Jan Ludvík
Vítězslav Ochman
Jiří Ševčík
Helena Šulcová
Libor Vilímec

Josef Špaček
guest artist, leads the orchestra as the concertmaster at selected subscription and special concerts of the Czech Philharmonic

* Auditions for these positions are scheduled to take place after the publication of the Season Guide.

VIOLAS
Eva Krestová *section leader*
Pavel Ciprys *1st deputy*
Dominik Trávníček *2nd deputy*
Jaroslav Pondělíček *3rd deputy*
Pavel Hořejší
Ondřej Kameš
Jaroslav Kroft
Jan Mareček
Ondřej Martinovský
Jiří Poslední
Jiří Řehák
Jan Šimon
René Vácha
Lukáš Valášek

CELLOS
Václav Petr *concertmaster, section leader*
Ivan Vokáč *1st deputy*
Jan Keller *2nd deputy*
Josef Špaček *3rd deputy*
Jakub Dvořák
Josef Dvořák
Jan Holeňa
František Host
Tomáš Hostička
Peter Mišejka
Marek Novák
Eduard Šístek
vacant position*
vacant position*

DOUBLE BASSES
Adam Honzírek *section leader*
Petr Ries *1st deputy*
Gonzalo Jiménez Barranco *2nd deputy*
Tomáš Karpíšek *3rd deputy*
Ondřej Balcar
Jaromír Černík
Martin Hilský
Roman Koudelka
Pavel Nejtek
Jiří Vopálka

HARPS
Jana Boušková *section leader*
Barbara Pazourová *deputy*

FLUTES
Andrea Rysová *section leader, principal player*
Naoki Sato *principal player*
Jan Machat
Roman Novotný
Petr Veverka

OBOES
Jana Brožková *section leader, principal player*
vacant position* *principal player*
Vladislav Borovka
Vojtěch Jouza
Jiří Zelba

CLARINETS
Jan Mach *section leader, principal player*
Lukáš Dittrich *principal player*
Jan Brabec
Tomáš Kopáček
Petr Sinkule

BASSOONS
Ondřej Roskovec *section leader, principal player*
Jaroslav Kubita *principal player*
Tomáš František
Martin Petrák
Ondřej Šindelář

FRENCH HORNS
Jan Vobořil *section leader, principal player*
Ondřej Vrabec *principal player*
Kateřina Javůrková
Mikuláš Koska
Jindřich Kolář
Hana Sapáková
Petra Čermáková
Petr Duda

TRUMPETS
Stanislav Masaryk *section leader, principal player*
Walter Hofbauer *principal player*
Jaroslav Halíř
Jiří Šedivý
Marek Vajo

TROMBONES
Robert Kozánek *section leader, principal player*
Lukáš Moťka *principal player*
Lukáš Besuch
Karel Kučera
Jan Perný
Bohumil Tůma

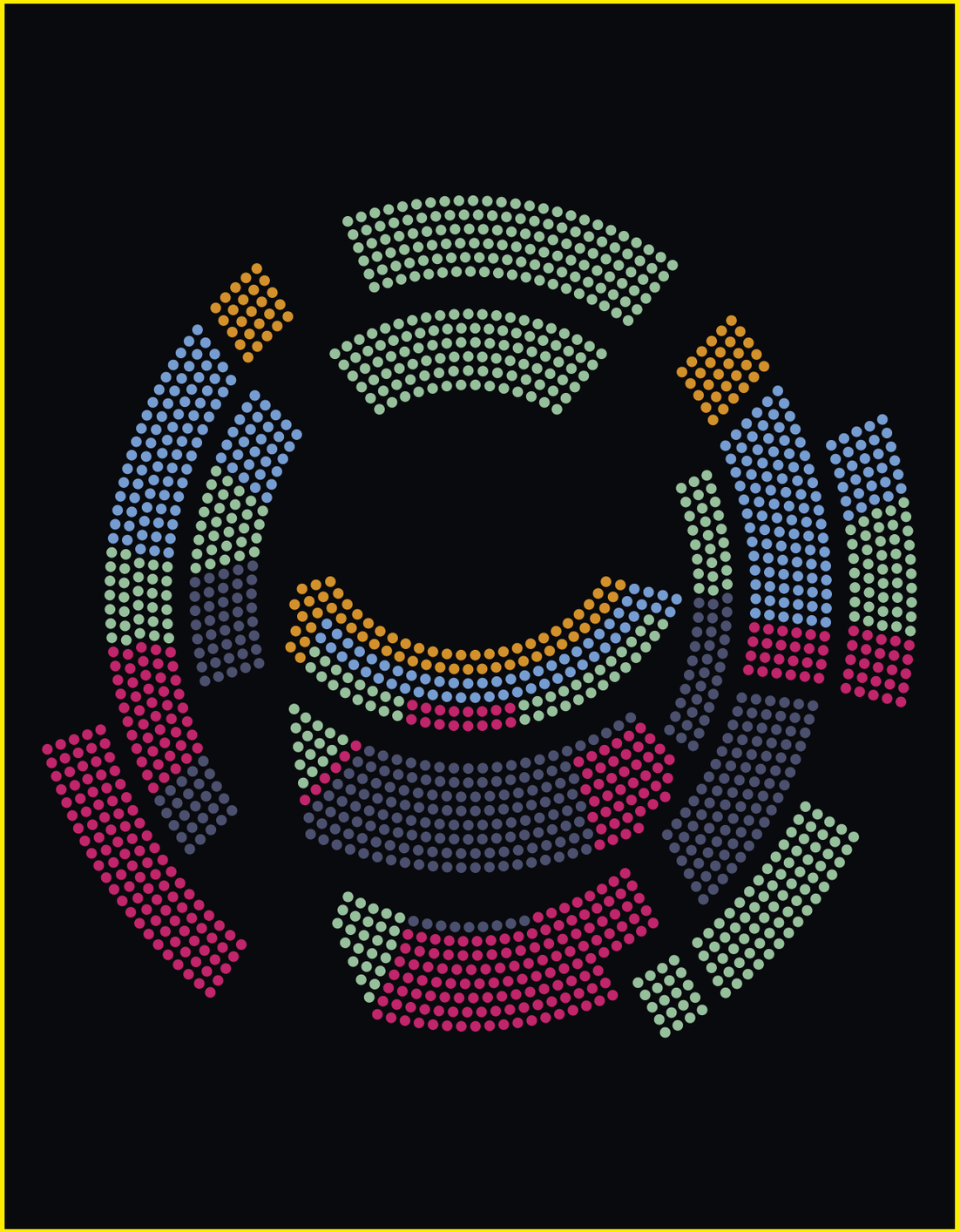
TUBA
Karel Malimánek

PERCUSSIONS
Petr Holub *section leader*
Michael Kroutil *1st timpanist*
Miroslav Kejmar
Daniel Mikolášek
Pavel Polívka

PIANO
Karolina Pancernaite

ORCHESTRAL ACADEMY OF THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC FOR THE 2023/2024 SEASON
Solvejg Sulamith Wilding *violin*
Jakub Amcha *double bass*
Kateřina Trumpešová *oboe*
Won Cheol Jung *French horn*
Václav Steklý *tuba*

More students will be selected at auditions in May and June 2023.



SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

A

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7:30 p.m., Dvořák Hall
Individual ticket prices from CZK 350 to 1,550
Subscription prices from CZK 1,700 to 5,300

This is one of our two main subscription series with six concerts, three of them led by our chief conductor Semyon Bychkov. There will be two concerts featuring our principal guest conductor Jakub Hrůša and one programme with Giovanni Antonini – joined by the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra again. One of the highlights of the season will be Leoš Janáček's opera The Cunning Little Vixen under the baton of Jakub Hrůša, who is also preparing an evening of Mahler songs concluding with Honegger's Symphonie Liturgique. At each of Semyon Bychkov's subscription concerts, he will be conducting a work by one of the key composers in his repertoire: Antonín Dvořák, Gustav Mahler, and Dmitri Shostakovich.

A1

October 2023

11 Oct. 2023 Wednesday
12 Oct. 2023 Thursday
13 Oct. 2023 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Antonín Dvořák
Carnival Overture, Op. 92

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95
"From the New World"

András Schiff *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

A2

November / December 2023

29 Nov. 2023 Wednesday
30 Nov. 2023 Thursday
1 Dec. 2023 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Joseph Haydn
Symphony No. 85 in B flat Major,
Hob. I/85 "The Queen"

Antonio Vivaldi
Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 7/11,
RV 208 "Grosso Mogul"

Christoph Willibald Gluck
Don Juan, suite from the ballet

Joseph Haydn
Symphony No. 103 in E flat major,
Hob. I/103 "Drumroll"

Josef Špaček *violin*
Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra*

Giovanni Antonini *conductor, recorder*

* The Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra will play Symphony No. 85 by Haydn and Violin Concerto by Vivaldi.

A3

January / February 2024

31 Jan. 2024 Wednesday
1 Feb. 2024 Thursday
2 Feb. 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Gustav Mahler
Symphony No. 3 in D minor

Christa Mayer *mezzo-soprano*

Prague Philharmonic Choir *women's choir*
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*

Pueri gaudentes *boys' choir*
Jan Kyjovský, Libor Sládek *choirmasters*

Prague Philharmonic Children's Choir
Jiří Chvála, Petr Louženský *choirmasters*

Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

A4

February 2024

14 Feb. 2024 Wednesday
15 Feb. 2024 Thursday
16 Feb. 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Ondřej Kukal
The Mad Soldier's Song for baritone and orchestra, Op. 19

Gustav Mahler
Blumine

Gustav Mahler
Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen
Revelge
Der Tamboursg'sell
Selections from the cycle Des Knaben Wunderhorn

Arthur Honegger
Symphony No. 3 "Symphonie Liturgique"

Christian Gerhaher *baritone*
Jakub Hrůša *conductor*

A5

April 2024

5 Apr. 2024 Friday
10 Apr. 2024 Wednesday
11 Apr. 2024 Thursday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Leoš Janáček
The Cunning Little Vixen, concert performance of the opera

Elena Tsallagova *the Vixen*
Kateřina Kněžíková *the Fox*
Jan Martiník *the Forester*
Jarmila Vantuchová *Lapák (a dog)*
Ondřej Koplík *Schoolmaster / Mosquito*
Jiří Sulženko *Parson / Badger*
Jiří Brückler *Harašta (a poacher)*

Czech Philharmonic Choir of Brno
Petr Fiala *choirmaster*

Prague Philharmonic Children's Choir
Jiří Chvála, Petr Louženský *choirmasters*

Jakub Hrůša *conductor*

A6

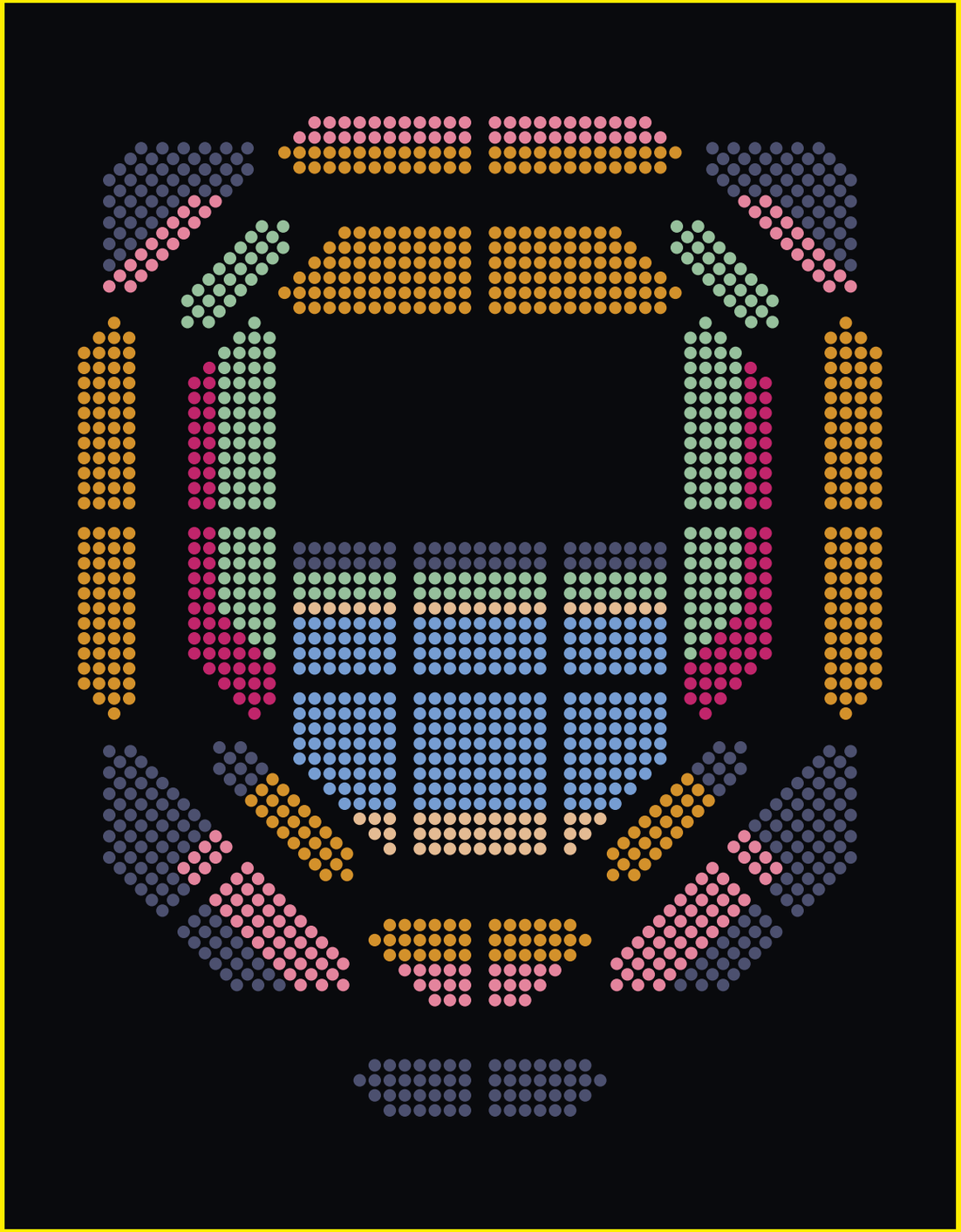
April 2024

24 Apr. 2024 Wednesday
25 Apr. 2024 Thursday
26 Apr. 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Dmitri Shostakovich
Symphony No. 7 in C major, Op. 60 "Leningrad"

Semyon Bychkov *conductor*



SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

B

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7:30 p.m., Dvořák Hall
Individual ticket prices from CZK 350 to 1,550
Subscription prices from CZK 1,700 to 5,300

A Dvořák programme and symphonies by Beethoven and Brahms are the main features of the three concerts of chief conductor Semyon Bychkov in Subscription Series B. Principal guest conductor Jakub Hrůša will appear for the first time with the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and will perform a major work by Josef Suk – the symphonic poem Ripening for large orchestra and women's choir. Giovanni Antonini will lead a varied programme of works by Mozart, Haydn, Rossini, and Schubert, joining him is the outstanding soprano Louise Alder. Making his debut with the Czech Philharmonic will be the Ossetian native Tugan Sokhiev, a conductor who works with orchestras all around the world. He resigned from his post as music director of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in March 2022 in protest against the war in Ukraine.

B1

October 2023

4 Oct. 2023 Wednesday
5 Oct. 2023 Thursday
6 Oct. 2023 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Antonín Dvořák
Othello, concert overture, Op. 93

Antonín Dvořák
Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70

Pablo Ferrández *cello*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

B2

December 2023

13 Dec. 2023 Wednesday
14 Dec. 2023 Thursday
15 Dec. 2023 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Claude Debussy
Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune, prelude for orchestra

Maurice Ravel
Piano Concerto in G major

Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky
Pictures at an Exhibition, arranged for orchestra by Maurice Ravel

Pierre-Laurent Aimard *piano*
Tugan Sokhiev *conductor*

B3

February 2024

21 Feb. 2024 Wednesday
22 Feb. 2024 Thursday
23 Feb. 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Leoš Janáček
Jealousy, original overture to the opera Jenůfa

Sergei Prokofiev
Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 16

Josef Suk
Ripening, symphonic poem, Op. 34

Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra*
Lukáš Vondráček *piano*

Prague Philharmonic Choir *women's choir*
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*

Jakub Hrůša *conductor*

* The Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra will play only Janáček's Jealousy and Prokofiev's Piano Concerto.

B4

April 2024

17 Apr. 2024 Wednesday
18 Apr. 2024 Thursday
19 Apr. 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Ludwig van Beethoven
Piano Concerto No. 5 in E flat major, Op. 73 "Emperor"

Johannes Brahms
Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73

Steven Osborne *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

B5

May 2024

1 May 2024 Wednesday
2 May 2024 Thursday
3 May 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125

Lyubov Petrova *soprano*
Lucie Hilscherová *alto*
Norbert Ernst *tenor*
Florian Boesch *bass*

Prague Philharmonic Choir
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*

Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

B6

May 2024

8 May 2024 Wednesday
9 May 2024 Thursday
10 May 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Gioacchino Rossini
The Barber of Seville, overture to the opera

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
“Voi avete un cor fedele”, concert aria for soprano and orchestra, K 217

Joseph Haydn
L’isola disabitata, overture to the opera, Hob. XXVIII/9

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
“Ei parte” and “Per pietà”, recitative and rondo from the opera Così fan tutte, K 588

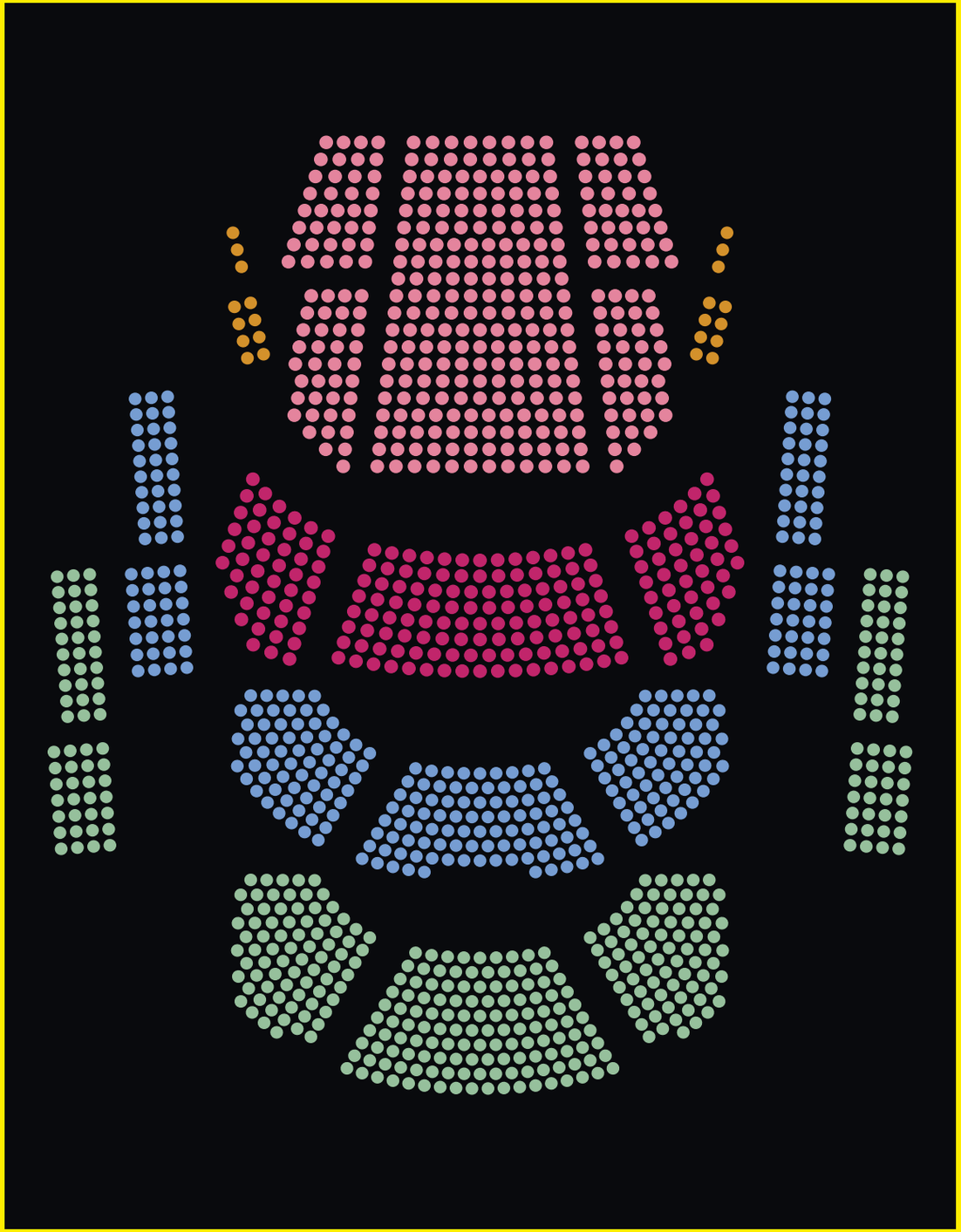
Franz Schubert
Symphony in B minor, D 759 “Unfinished”, *Allegro moderato*

Gioacchino Rossini
“Assisa ai piè di un salice”, aria from the opera Otello

Franz Schubert
Overture in C major, Op. 170 “In the Italian Style”

Gioacchino Rossini
“Tanti affetti in tal momento”, aria from the opera La donna del lago

Louise Alder *soprano*
Giovanni Antonini *conductor*



SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

C

Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m., Dvořák Hall
Individual ticket prices from CZK 250 to 1,200
Subscription prices from CZK 900 to 3,200

This series is a whole world compressed into four concerts. Featuring Tomáš Netopil, Simon Rattle, Franz Welser-Möst, Yuja Wang, Emanuel Ax, several star singers with the Prague Philharmonic Choir, a concert performance of Bohuslav Martinů's opera Ariadne and Händel's oratorio Messiah, symphonies by Bruckner and Sibelius, and piano concertos by Mozart and Rachmaninoff. You can attend the concerts of this series not only in the evenings, but also on Saturday afternoons. This is an opportunity for those who live outside of Prague or who don't want to get back home late at night. In addition, there are still excellent seats in the hall available for subscribers.

C1

December 2023

7 Dec. 2023 Thursday
as part of the festival
Bohuslav Martinů Days

8 Dec. 2023 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

9 Dec. 2023 Saturday

3 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Symphony No. 36 in C major, K 425
"Linz"

Bohuslav Martinů
Ariadne, concert performance of the opera, H 370

Simona Šaturová *Ariadne*
TBA *Thésée*
Richard Samek *Bouroun / Watchman*
Jozef Benci *Minotaur*
Peter Mikuláš *Old Man*

Prague Philharmonic Choir
six youths of Athens
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*

Tomáš Netopil *conductor*

These concerts are supported financially by the Bohuslav Martinů Foundation.

C2

January 2024

4 Jan. 2024 Thursday
5 Jan. 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

6 Jan. 2024 Saturday

3 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Georg Friedrich Händel
The Messiah, oratorio for soloists, choir and orchestra, HWV 56

Carolyn Sampson *soprano*
Helen Charlston *alto*
Andrew Staples *tenor*
Matthew Brook *bass*

Prague Philharmonic Choir
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*

Nicholas Kraemer *conductor*

C3

February 2024

8 Feb. 2024 Thursday
9 Feb. 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

10 Feb. 2024 Saturday

3 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Sergei Rachmaninoff
Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30

Anton Bruckner
Symphony No. 6 in A major

Yuja Wang *piano*
Simon Rattle *conductor*

C4

June 2024

20 Jun. 2024 Thursday
21 Jun. 2024 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

22 Jun. 2024 Saturday

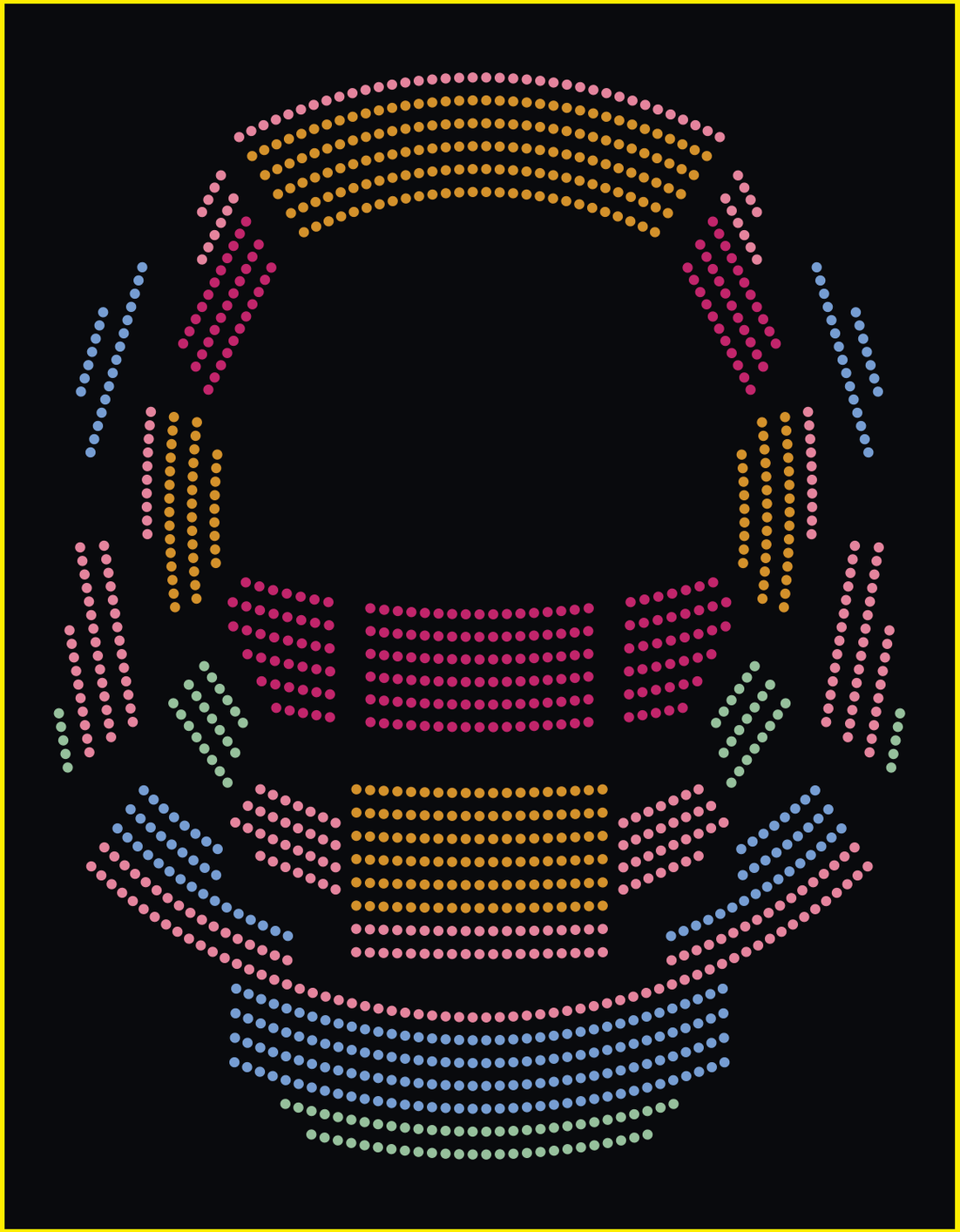
3 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K 503

Jean Sibelius
Finlandia, symphonic poem, Op. 26

Jean Sibelius
Symphony No. 5 in E flat major, Op. 82

Emanuel Ax *piano*
Franz Welser-Möst *conductor*



SPECIAL NON-SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

M

Various starting times, Dvořák Hall / Hradčany Square

Each year, our series of special concerts begins with the opening concert of the season, this time with three evenings of Dvořák with chief conductor Semyon Bychkov and the violinist Augustin Hadelich to commemorate the Czech Philharmonic's history in connection with Antonín Dvořák. In accordance with tradition, the Concerts for Freedom and Democracy are planned for 17 November to celebrate an important national holiday with Antonio Pappano, one of the world's great conductors. The highpoint of the programme of the New Year's Concerts, otherwise consisting exclusively of music by Czech composers, will be Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with pianist Olga Kern and conductor Jakub Hrůša. The season will conclude with the Open Air concert at Hradčany Square.

M1

Season Opening Concerts

September 2023

27 Sep. 2023 Wednesday
28 Sep. 2023 Thursday
29 Sep. 2023 Friday
as part of the festival
Talich's Beroun

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Antonín Dvořák
In Nature's Realm, concert overture, Op. 91

Antonín Dvořák
Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Augustin Hadelich *violin*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

M2

Velvet Revolution Concerts

November 2023

16 Nov. 2023 Thursday
17 Nov. 2023 Friday

7:30 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Johannes Brahms
Nänie, Op. 82

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

Antonín Dvořák
Slavonic Dances, Op. 72

Janine Jansen *violin*

Prague Philharmonic Choir
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*

Antonio Pappano *conductor*

M3

Special New Year's Eve Dress Rehearsal
New Year's Afternoon Concert / New Year's Gala Concert

December 2023

31 Dec. 2023

11 p.m. Dvořák Hall

January 2024

1 Jan. 2024

3 p.m. Dvořák Hall
8 p.m. Dvořák Hall

Bedřich Smetana
The Bartered Bride, overture to the opera

Zdeněk Fibich
Concert Polonaise for violin and orchestra

Leoš Janáček
Dymák
Pilky
Selections from Lachian Dances

Antonín Dvořák
Mazurek for violin and orchestra, Op. 49

Oskar Nedbal
Valse triste from the ballet pantomime
The Tale of Simple Johnny

Josef Suk
Towards a New Life, festive march, Op. 35c

Concerts take place in collaboration with the Prague Sounds Festival.

Antonín Dvořák
Suite in A major, Op. 98b
"American Suite"
movements I and V

George Gershwin
Rhapsody in Blue

Olga Kern *piano*
Jiří Vodička *violin*

Jakub Hrůša *conductor*

M4

Open Air Concert dedicated to Jiří Bělohlávek

June 2024

26 June 2024

8:15 p.m. Hradčany Square

Antonín Dvořák
Festival March, Op. 54a
Slavonic Dance No. 7 in C minor, Op. 46
Infernal Dance from Act II of the opera The Devil and Kate
"Od dětství ku oltáři" ("From childhood to the altar"), Ludmila's aria from the oratorio Saint Ludmila

Antonín Dvořák*
"Když mne stará matka" ("Songs my mother taught me"), song from the cycle Gypsy Melodies, Op. 55

Zdeněk Fibich
Poem from the idyll At Twilight, Op. 39

Bedřich Smetana
"A ty, mé robě" ("And you, my baby"), lullaby from Act I of the opera The Kiss
"Já ale zůstanu" ("But I shall remain"), Přemysl's aria from Act II of the opera Libuše
Furiant from Act II of the opera The Bartered Bride

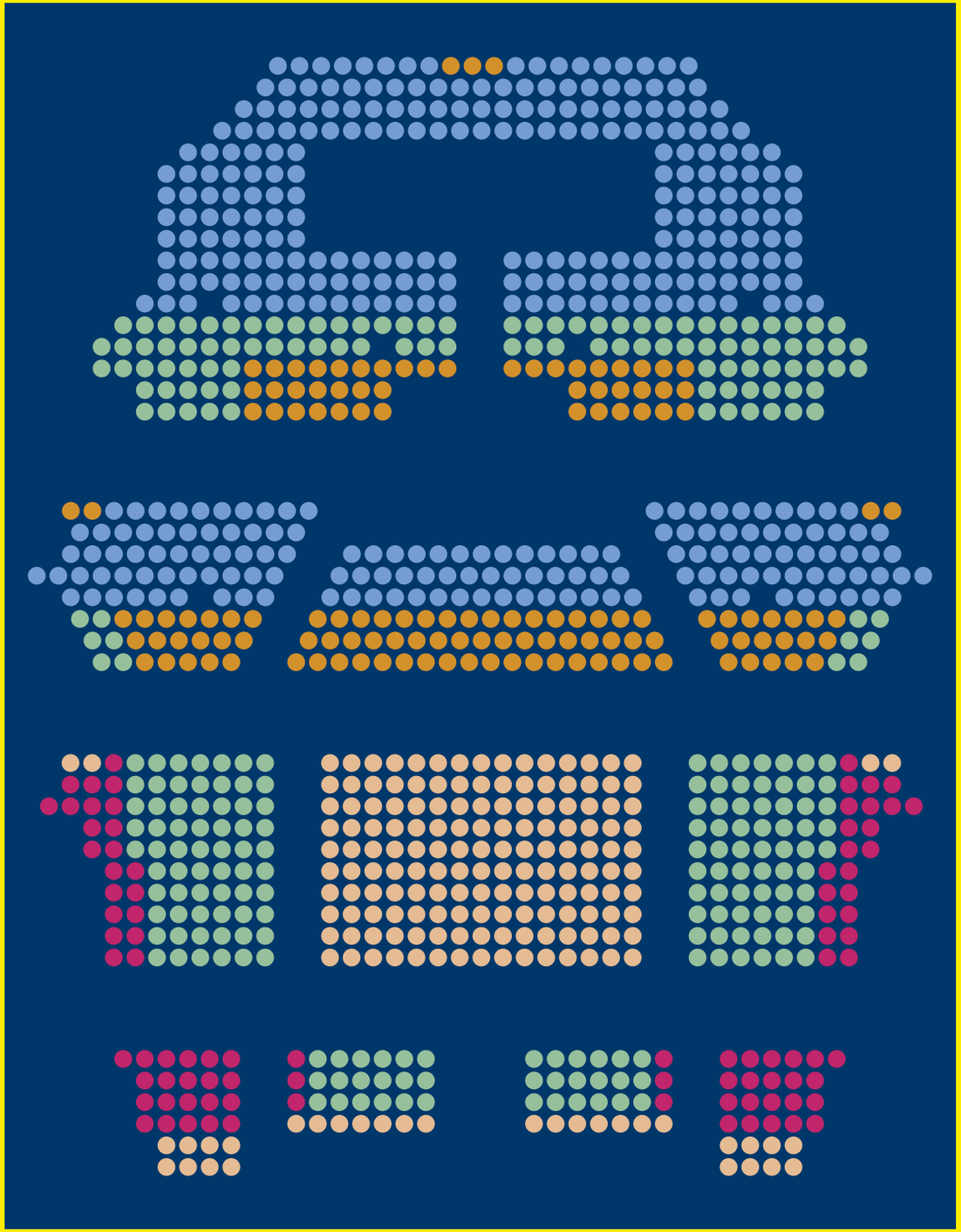
* arr. Jiří Teml

Vítězslav Novák
The Country Musicians, movement IV of the Moravian-Slovak Suite for small orchestra, Op. 32

Antonín Dvořák
"Jářku, jářku, klouče milé…" ("Tell me, dear boy…"), duet of the Gamekeeper and the Kitchen Boy from Act II of the opera Rusalka

Kateřina Kněžíková *soprano*
Arnheiður Eiríksdóttir *mezzo-soprano*
Jiří Brückler *baritone*

Petr Altrichter *conductor*



EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

E

Education has been part of the Czech Philharmonic's mission since its founding. In the orchestra's oldest charter, we read that it was established for the exaltation of the art of music. Václav Talich took an important step in the 1920s when he decided that the Czech Philharmonic would give concerts for children and young people as well as for labourers. Talich also inspired the creation of the programme Musical Youth, which the Czech Philharmonic took under its wing for some time in the late 1960s. The 1970s and 1980s brought the music popularisation series "The Czech Philharmonic Plays and Talks" with Václav Neumann, followed by the concerts "Czech Philharmonic for Youth". Today we are trying to build upon that beautiful tradition. Our educational programmes have one common goal: to awaken, develop, and deepen our relationship with music, enabling us to experience joy and a feeling of connectedness with others.

Dear Friends,

Today, educational programmes are integral to the Czech Philharmonic's mission. In the orchestra's charter, we read that it was established for the exaltation of the art of music. And we are trying with all of our might to continue and maintain the orchestra's historical ethos. For all of their diversity, our educational programmes have one goal in common: to awaken, develop, and deepen our relationship with music, enabling us to experience joy and a feeling of connectedness with others.

Many of our programmes are for schools at all levels, from preschool to primary and secondary schools. In this way, we are trying to support the music education of pupils and students, and we are pleased that we are also able to think things over with the teachers themselves at regular meetings. We are glad that our programmes also reach out to families across generations. There is nothing more beautiful than a gathering of children, parents, grandparents…

We devote special care to the young musicians who constitute the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. We give them the chance to rehearse regularly and to perform great works of the worldwide repertoire of symphonic works, concertos, and vocal-instrumental music. We are trying to build a permanent orchestra from these musicians, allowing long-term relationships and understanding to develop among them. "You can put anything in front of them and they will play it", said Sir Simon Rattle, characterising the young musicians he was working with in June 2020. At present, the orchestra is participating in subscription concerts of the Czech Philharmonic with the conductors Semyon Bychkov, Giovanni Antonini, and Jakub Hrůša. In addition, they have their own series of concerts with commentary with Marko Ivanović; for listeners abroad, recordings of many of these concerts can be found on YouTube.

We have now been working for 10 years on the project Romano Drom with the singer and choirmaster Ida Kelarová and the choir Čhavorenge. The purpose of the project is to support the young generation of Romani. So far, our joint efforts have resulted in a hundred concerts in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom, but most important is the impact on the lives of many Romani children and young people who discover a relationship with their own culture, experience the feeling of true confidence, and discover ways of life that differ from those laid before them so often by negative external circumstances. James Naughtie commented on the project for the BBC Music Magazine: "The Czech Philharmonic's involvement is a fine example of what can be done. Many orchestras have taken steps in the right direction – Simon Rattle took the Berlin Philharmonic to perform in some of the roughest parts of that city – but this one has a particular character and relevance. At a time of rampant nationalism in Eastern Europe, the outsider is always going to suffer. It is nothing new for Roma communities to have to accept that they are going to be denied respect and perhaps face direct discrimination. In that atmosphere, the statement by the Czech Philharmonic is brave and significant."

Petr Kadlec
Head of the Department of Education Programmes

CONCERTS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

All three groups of children and young people that we have been giving long-term support on their musical journeys will appear performing beautiful music. Besides the music school pupils, who will appear at the Rudolfinum under the baton of Petr Altrichter, there will also be the choir Čhavorenge – young Romani singers led by their choirmaster Ida Kelarová. Thirdly, members of the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra will appear not only at subscription concerts (with the conductors Giovanni Antonini and Jakub Hrůša, see pages 33 and 44), but also in the series Steps to the New World under the baton of Marko Ivanović. As a chamber music counterpart to the Steps series, we are offering concerts with commentary with Jana Boušková, Josef Špaček, Miroslav Sekera, and others… and with the music of Bedřich Smetana – the 200th anniversary of his birth arrives in 2024!

STEPS TO THE NEW WORLD. GREAT STORIES OF EUROPEAN MUSIC

FROM CARMEN TO TANNHÄUSER

Besides the music of Georges Bizet and Richard Wagner, we will also hear the Dance of the Skeletons by Camille Saint-Saëns and Peer Gynt by Edvard Grieg.

ITALIA BELLA!

Selections from Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony, music from operas by Gioacchino Rossini and Giuseppe Verdi, and The Pines of Rome by Ottorino Respighi.

WITH TCHAIKOVSKY AT SWAN LAKE AND ELSEWHERE

Besides music from Tchaikovsky's most famous ballets The Swan Lake and The Nutcracker, we will also hear the composer's overture-fantasy Romeo and Juliet based on Shakespeare's drama.

Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
Marko Ivanović *conductor*
Petr Kadlec *guide*

CHAMBER STEPS TO THE NEW WORLD. WITH BEDŘICH SMETANA!

MY HARP COUNTRY WITH JANA BOUŠKOVÁ

Bedřich Smetana's symphonic poems arranged for harp; the host for the programme is Jan Kyjovský.

FROM THE HOMELAND WITH JOSEF ŠPAČEK

Also performing is the pianist Miroslav Sekera; the host for the programme is Petr Kadlec.

FROM MY LIFE

Performing Smetana's composition for string quartet are members of the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra led by Magdaléna Mašlaňová; the host for the programme is Petr Kadlec.

CONCERT OF THE JOINT ORCHESTRA OF MUSIC SCHOOL PUPILS AND MUSICIANS OF THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC

Selections of music by Johann Strauss, Jiří Pauer, and Aram Khachaturian.

Petr Altrichter *conductor*

HEJ ROMALE WITH IDA KELAROVÁ AND ČHAVORENGE (NOT ONLY) FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Traditional and contemporary Romani music performed by the choir Čhavorenge, Ida Kelarová, Desiderius Dužda, and members of the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

MUSICAL GATHERINGS AND WORKSHOPS

We offer a wide range of unusual musical encounters. In the year of the Smetana Jubilee, don't miss the ball with Smetana, which will be preceded by dance courses. Commemorating a serious and difficult part of our past is the story of the Catholic priest Josef Toufar set to music by Slavomír Hořínka and titled "My Uncle Vanished. Where Did He Go, Mr. President?" You can immerse yourself in the depths of musical interpretation at a gathering with the legendary pianist Alfred Brendel for his masterclass under the auspices of the Ivan Moravec Academy. We mainly invite the elderly to the musical workshops "Musica ludus", where anyone who is interested will be at home regardless of musical ability and experience. The cycle "100 Minutes among the Notes" and its highpoint "Holiday among the Notes" represent the joint discovery and playing of music and an intergenerational encounter.

100 MINUTES AMONG THE NOTES AND HOLIDAY AMONG THE NOTES

Age doesn't matter. Bringing different generations together is beautiful, powerful, and special. Just like the harmonious world of music, which we can create together. The performers are Ondřej Tichý and his guests.

MUSICA LUDUS

At these gatherings of the elderly (and others), the emphasis is on the shared experience of listening, movement, and the playing of simple musical instruments. Providing the accompaniment are Rafaela Drgáčová, Hana Novotná, and Ondřej Tichý.

CZECH BALL (NOT ONLY) WITH BEDŘICH SMETANA AND DANCE COURSES WITH SMETANA

An evening at the Rudolfinum, where you will enjoy the rustling of hoop skirts, the whirling of fans, and colourful folk costumes from every corner of our country. For those who are interested, there are dance lessons at the Rudolfinum. Pairs are welcome, but you can also come alone. The performers are Kateřina Klementová and the Bedřich Smetana Dance Band.

ALFRED BRENDEL AND BORIS GILTBURG ON BEETHOVEN'S LATE PIANO AND CHAMBER WORKS

One of the greatest pianists of the 20th and 21st centuries, Alfred Brendel is still active at 93 years of age and devotes himself to both music and literature as well as to writing essays and painting. He will be the guide for young musicians in the world of Franz Schubert's chamber music. Boris Giltburg's victory at the 2013 Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels helped launch his remarkable musical career. In Prague, he will devote himself to Beethoven and will lead a masterclass with young pianists.

The programme is being realised in cooperation with the Prague Music Performance.

MY UNCLE VANISHED. WHERE DID HE GO, MR. PRESIDENT? THE STORY OF JOSEF TOUFAR.

This true story recalls the fateful events of 1949–1950 and the drama of the last days of the priest Josef Toufar. Musicians of the Czech Philharmonic and actors from the Disman Radio Children's Ensemble bring a script by Jana Franková to life.

PROGRAMMES FOR (YOUNGER) CHILDREN WITH PARENTS

For many years we have been preparing programmes for the youngest children from preschools as part of the series The Little Rudolfinum, in which various musical secrets are revealed as our instructors introduce children to musicians and their instruments. In our 128th season, thanks to our new EDUcentre facilities, we are offering The Little Rudolfinum for parents with children as well. The musical storytelling programmes "The Emperor's Nightingale" or "A Visit to the Court of the Emperor of China" and "A Little Train Ride with Dvořák" will be continuing. We are very glad that a new programme is being prepared by the director Alice Nellis together with the actress Martha Issová and the member of the Czech Philharmonic Vojtěch Jouza, the leader of Prague Baroque Ensemble.

THE LITTLE RUDOLFINUM: A LITTLE MUSICAL (AND OTHER) FUN

What's it like to play at the Rudolfinum? Not hide and seek but to play in an orchestra, for example? Which way do the players in the Czech Philharmonic go to get on stage? How noisy can the applause for the conductor get? And what is the word for the magic wand the conductor holds in his hand? Come have some fun with us in various parts of the Rudolfinum.

THE LITTLE RUDOLFINUM: A LAIR FULL OF PERCUSSION

Become apprentice magicians in the percussion kingdom ruled by the wizard Pavel Polívka. Everyone will feel safe there, like in a lair, even in case of thunder, rain, or a stampede of horses.

THE LITTLE RUDOLFINUM: THE VIOLIN MENAGERIE

Does the violin resemble the human body? And does it have a soul? Why are some parts of a violin named for animals? Can you use a violin to go fishing? And what non-musical sounds can be conjured from it? The violinist Libor Vilímec will reveal the answers to these and other question. And we will visit Mr. Slípka's workshop to the learn the secrets of repairing violins.

STRING SWEETS

We'll introduce you to the family of string instruments. Dad and Mom – the bass and cello, and the children – violin and viola. And just like any other family, they play together, but sometimes they can also be cross with each other. And they like to eat sweets together. Just come to see and hear the sound of the strings played by the musicians of the Rudolphin Ensemble.

THE ANIMALS AND THE ROBBERS MADE OF BRASS

Do you know that some instruments are made of wood, while others are made of metal? And that the metal ones are called the brass instruments? So how about coming to explore some of them? Come to the Rudolfinum for a fairy tale about animals and robbers accompanied by the Czech Philharmonic Low Brass Ensemble.

A LITTLE TRAIN RIDE WITH DVOŘÁK

The journey can be the destination. Come with us to a chamber concert of Antonín Dvořák's music. Where are we going? As far as America. How are we travelling? With Dvořák's favourite means of transport of course. Who is coming with us? The Norbert Quartet – real string music experts.

THE EMPEROR'S NIGHTINGALE OR A VISIT TO THE COURT OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA

Once upon a time, there was a Chinese emperor who loved toys, technical novelties, machines of all kinds, and mechanical puppets. Then one day he received an unusual gift: a mechanical nightingale wound up with a key. But can it replace the lovely song of a live nightingale? Come listen and share the experience of Andersen's fairy tale The Emperor's Nightingale in a delightful adaptation by the composer Václav Trojan performed by the Trojan Trio.

MARTHA IN THE REALM OF MUSICAL WONDERS

Together with the actress Martha Issová, we are going to discover the land of wonders – and not only the musical ones. Our new programme – script by Alice Nelis – introduces the music as part of the life, as something, that can be explored, examined and tempted. We will be looking at the orchestra from all sides and discover, how can music help in our lives, where is its power and mainly... the magic. It wouldn´t work without the musicians – looking forward to you is the Prague Baroque Ensemble and its leader Vojtěch Jouza.

THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC APART FROM ITS SEASON AT THE RUDOLFINUM

In accordance with tradition, for its 128th season the Czech Philharmonic is engaged at leading Czech festivals. In Prague, the orchestra will miss neither the Dvořák Prague Festival nor Prague Spring, at the end of the season it will head for Litomyšl, and in November it will support the tradition of the Karlovy Vary Variations for a third time. 26 times in total, the Czech Philharmonic will spread joy abroad, and besides individual trips, there will be tours of Europe and Asia, all led by the orchestra's chief conductor Semyon Bychkov. Presenting themselves with the orchestra abroad will be pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque, Mao Fujita, András Schiff, and Bertrand Chamayou, violinists Gil Shaham and Augustin Hadelich, cellist Pablo Ferrández, and mezzo-soprano Fleur Barron.

The Czech Philharmonic is planning to record and issue new CD titles. Besides Mahler symphonies, they will also focus on Czech compositions as part of preparations for the Year of Czech Music in 2024. The cameras of Czech Phil Media will again be filming key concerts at the Rudolfinum, and live and taped broadcasts will be shown to a wide public at home and around the world by Czech Television and foreign stations and platforms.

At the Dvořák Prague Festival, the Czech Philharmonic will appear on its home stage at the Rudolfinum in three very different programmes conducted by Sakari Oramo, Tomáš Netopil, and Sir András Schiff. Two months later they will join forces with the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where they will give two concerts with Tomáš Netopil.

As usual, the season will conclude with concerts at the Prague Spring International Music Festival, where the Czech Philharmonic will appear four times, but it is premature to mention the specific programmes. You will learn about them when the festival presents its entire season. The festival Smetana's Litomyšl will also reveal its exact programme later. The Czech Philharmonic is that festival's partner orchestra, and in 2024, the Year of Czech Music and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bedřich Smetana, the orchestra is bringing four programmes to Litomyšl led by the principal guest conductors Jakub Hrůša and Tomáš Netopil. As part of the project Smetana 200, which is already underway, there will be Smetana programmes commemorating the Litomyšl native as a great figure of worldwide importance, whose name is inseparably associated with Czech culture.

In accordance with tradition, chief conductor Semyon Bychkov will lead the great majority of concerts at foreign venues, and Manfred Honeck will conduct two concerts in Bucharest. In 2023/24, the Czech Philharmonic will be performing mainly Czech programmes abroad in connection with the Year of Czech Music.

Even before opening the Prague season, the orchestra will go to Bucharest for a festival named after the important Romanian composer George Enescu. It will accompany the pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque. Appearing at the second concert will be the Romanian tenor Cosmin Ifrim and a local choir.

The Covid-19 pandemic brought regular appearances of European orchestras in Asia to a halt. The Czech Philharmonic's last planned tour of Japan and South Korea was cancelled because of it. At the turn of October and November, the orchestra and Semyon Bychkov are finally returning to South Korea and Japan. The last time the Czech Philharmonic appeared in Seoul was in 2017 with the conductor Petr Altrichter. The concerts on the whole tour of Asia will consist exclusively of an all Dvořák programme, and appearing as soloists will be the pianist Mao Fujita, the cellist Pablo Ferrández, and the violinist Gil Shaham. At Tokyo's famed Suntory Hall, the Czech Philharmonic will perform three concerts as the ensemble-in-residence.

The January trip to the German spa town Baden-Baden, the orchestra's first concert there in 25 years, will feature Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 3. Accompanying the orchestra there will be the women of the Prague Philharmonic Choir and the boys' choir Pueri gaudentes.

A tour in March 2024 will build upon the great success of last season's European tours. There will be guest appearances in famous halls and several residencies: the Czech Philharmonic will give two concerts each at the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, Vienna's Konzerthaus, Hamburg's

Elbphilharmonie, the Isarphilharmonie in Munich, and the Philharmonie in Paris. There have been several consecutive residencies in Paris, Vienna, and Hamburg, which are indicative of the interest in the quality of the Czech Philharmonic. In addition, there will be individual concerts in Valencia, Barcelona, Erlangen, and Antwerp, all with Semyon Bychkov, cellist Pablo Ferrández, violinist Augustin Hadelich, and pianists Sir András Schiff and Bertrand Chamayou. As part of the Year of Czech Music, there will be performances of three Dvořák concertos, three of his great symphonies, and three overtures.

Season planning also involves concert broadcasts and recording projects, which are among the Czech Philharmonic's main activities. The Pentatone label will release CDs with the third in its series of Gustav Mahler's symphonies and My Country by Bedřich Smetana, both with Semyon Bychkov, and Dvořák's Legends and Slavonic Rhapsodies with Tomáš Netopil. The orchestra is also recording Dvořák's Symphonies Nos. 7, 8, and 9 and his concert overtures, Shostakovich's Leningrad Symphony, and Mahler's Third Symphony with Semyon Bychkov and Josef Suk's Ripening with Jakub Hrůša. Recordings of works by Czech composers will be a component of the projects Year of Czech Music 2024 and Smetana 200.

This season, there will be several recording productions on the orchestra's own Czech Phil Media label. Recordings will be made of the opening concerts, the Concerts for Freedom and Democracy, and a number of subscription concerts. You can watch live broadcasts or taped performances on Czech Television or on foreign television stations and the VOD platforms Mezzo, Arte, NHK, medici.tv, Takt1, DG Stage+, and Stingray Classica. The material will also be offered exclusively through the distribution company EuroArts, and four exclusive streams of philharmonic concerts will be shown on the VOD platform Symphony.

Traditionally, Czech Television has shown live broadcasts of the New Year's Gala Concert from the Rudofinum and of the Open Air Concert from Hradčany Square. There will also be continuing collaboration with Czech Radio, which regularly prepares broadcasts of selected Czech Philharmonic concerts. Concerts will also be recorded at domestic festivals and on foreign tours.

CONCERTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

DVOŘÁK PRAGUE FESTIVAL

14 Sep. 2023 Dvořák Hall, Rudolfinum

Johannes Brahms
A German Requiem, Op. 45

Anu Komsi *soprano*
Christian Senn *baritone*
Prague Philharmonic Choir
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*
Sakari Oramo *conductor*

19 Sep. 2023 Dvořák Hall, Rudolfinum

Sergei Rachmaninoff
Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30

Aaron Copland
Symphony No. 3

Boris Giltburg *piano*
Tomáš Netopil *conductor*

22 Sep. 2023 Dvořák Hall, Rudolfinum

Johann Sebastian Bach
Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, BWV 1052

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Piano Concerto No. 27 in B flat major, K 595

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 55 "Eroica"

András Schiff *conductor, piano*

IFF KARLOVY VARY – VARIATIONS PROJECT

24 and 25 Nov. 2023, Karlovy Vary

Joseph Haydn
L'anima del filosofo, ossia Orfeo ed Euridice, overture to the opera, Hob. XXVIII/13

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Arias from the operas Così fan tutte, K 558, Don Giovanni, K 527, and La finta giardiniera, K 196

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67

Kateřina Kněžíková *soprano*
Petr Nekoranec *tenor*
Tomáš Netopil *conductor*

PRAGUE SPRING

28 May 2024, 30 May 2024, 3 Jun. 2024, 4 Jun. 2024

The festival will announce the programme, venues, and performers in November.

SMETANA'S LITOMYŠL

8 June 2024

Hommage à Smetana

Jakub Hrůša *conductor*

16 June 2024

Bedřich Smetana
Libuše, concert performance of the opera

Prague Philharmonic Choir
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*
Jakub Hrůša *conductor*

6 July 2024

Gala Opera
Smetana | Dvořák | Mozart | Beethoven | Weber | Wagner | Korngold

Tomáš Netopil *conductor*

7 July 2024

Bedřich Smetana
My Country, cycle of symphonic poems

Tomáš Netopil *conductor*

CONCERTS ABROAD AND TOURS

ROMANIA

George Enescu Festival

30 Aug. 2023 Ateneul Român, Bucharest

Bryce Dessner
Concerto for Two Pianos

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64

Katia and Marielle Labèque *piano*
Manfred Honeck *conductor*

31 Aug. 2023 Ateneul Român, Bucharest

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 1 in C major, Op. 21

Antonín Dvořák*
Rusalka Fantasy

* arr. Tomáš Ille/Manfred Honeck

George Enescu
Vox Maris, symphonic poem for soprano, tenor, choir, and orchestra, Op. 31

Cosmin Ifrim *tenor*
George Enescu Philharmonic Choir
Ion Iosif Prunner *choirmaster*
Manfred Honeck *conductor*

TOUR OF ASIA

SOUTH KOREA

24 Oct. 2023 Seoul Arts Center, Seoul
25 Oct. 2023 Daegu Concert House, Daegu

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70

Mao Fujita *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

JAPAN

28 Oct. 2023 Aichi Arts Center, Nagoya
29 Oct. 2023 Suntory Hall, Tokyo

Antonín Dvořák
Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Pablo Ferrández *cello*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

30 Oct. 2023 Ryutopia, Niigata

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Mao Fujita *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

31 Oct. 2023 Suntory Hall, Tokyo

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70

Mao Fujita *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

1 Nov. 2023 Suntory Hall, Tokyo

Antonín Dvořák
Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 “From the New World”

Gil Shaham *violin*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

3 Nov. 2023 Symphony Hall, Osaka

Antonín Dvořák
Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Pablo Ferrández *cello*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

4 Nov. 2023 Yokohama Minato Mirai Hall, Yokohama

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "From the New World"

Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

GERMANY

20 Jan. 2024 Festspielhaus, Baden-Baden

Gustav Mahler
Symphony No. 3 in D minor

Fleur Barron *mezzo-soprano*
Prague Philharmonic Choir *women's choir*
Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster*
Pueri gaudentes *boys' choir*
Jan Kyjovský, Libor Sládek *choirmasters*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

EUROPEAN TOUR

SPAIN

4 Mar. 2024 Palau de Valencia, Valencia
5 Mar. 2024 Auditorio Nacional, Madrid

Antonín Dvořák
In Nature's Realm, concert overture, Op. 91

Antonín Dvořák
Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Pablo Ferrández *cello*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

6 Mar. 2024 Auditorio Nacional, Madrid

Antonín Dvořák
Carnival Overture, Op. 92

Antonín Dvořák
Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "From the New World"

Augustin Hadelich *violin*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

7 Mar. 2024 Palau de la Música, Barcelona

Antonín Dvořák
Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "From the New World"

Pablo Ferrández *cello*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

AUSTRIA

10 Mar. 2024 Konzerthaus, Vienna

Antonín Dvořák
In Nature's Realm, concert overture, Op. 91

Antonín Dvořák
Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Augustin Hadelich *violin*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

11 Mar. 2024 Konzerthaus, Vienna

Antonín Dvořák
Carnival Overture, Op. 92

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "From the New World"

András Schiff *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

GERMANY

12 Mar. 2024 Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg

Antonín Dvořák
In Nature's Realm, concert overture, Op. 91

Antonín Dvořák
Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Augustin Hadelich *violin*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

13 Mar. 2024 Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg
17 Mar. 2024 Isarphilharmonie, Munich

Antonín Dvořák
Carnival Overture, Op. 92

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "From the New World"

András Schiff *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

18 Mar. 2024 Heinrich-Lades-Halle, Erlangen
19 Mar. 2024 Isarphilharmonie, Munich

Antonín Dvořák
Othello, concert overture, Op. 93

Antonín Dvořák
Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70

Pablo Ferrández *cello*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

BELGIUM

21 Mar. 2024 Queen Elisabeth Hall, Antwerp

Antonín Dvořák
Carnival Overture, Op. 92

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "From the New World"

Bertrand Chamayou *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

FRANCE

22 Mar. 2024 Philharmonie de Paris, Paris

Antonín Dvořák
Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Pablo Ferrández *cello*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

23 Mar. 2024 Philharmonie de Paris, Paris

Antonín Dvořák
Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 "From the New World"

Bertrand Chamayou *piano*
Semyon Bychkov *conductor*

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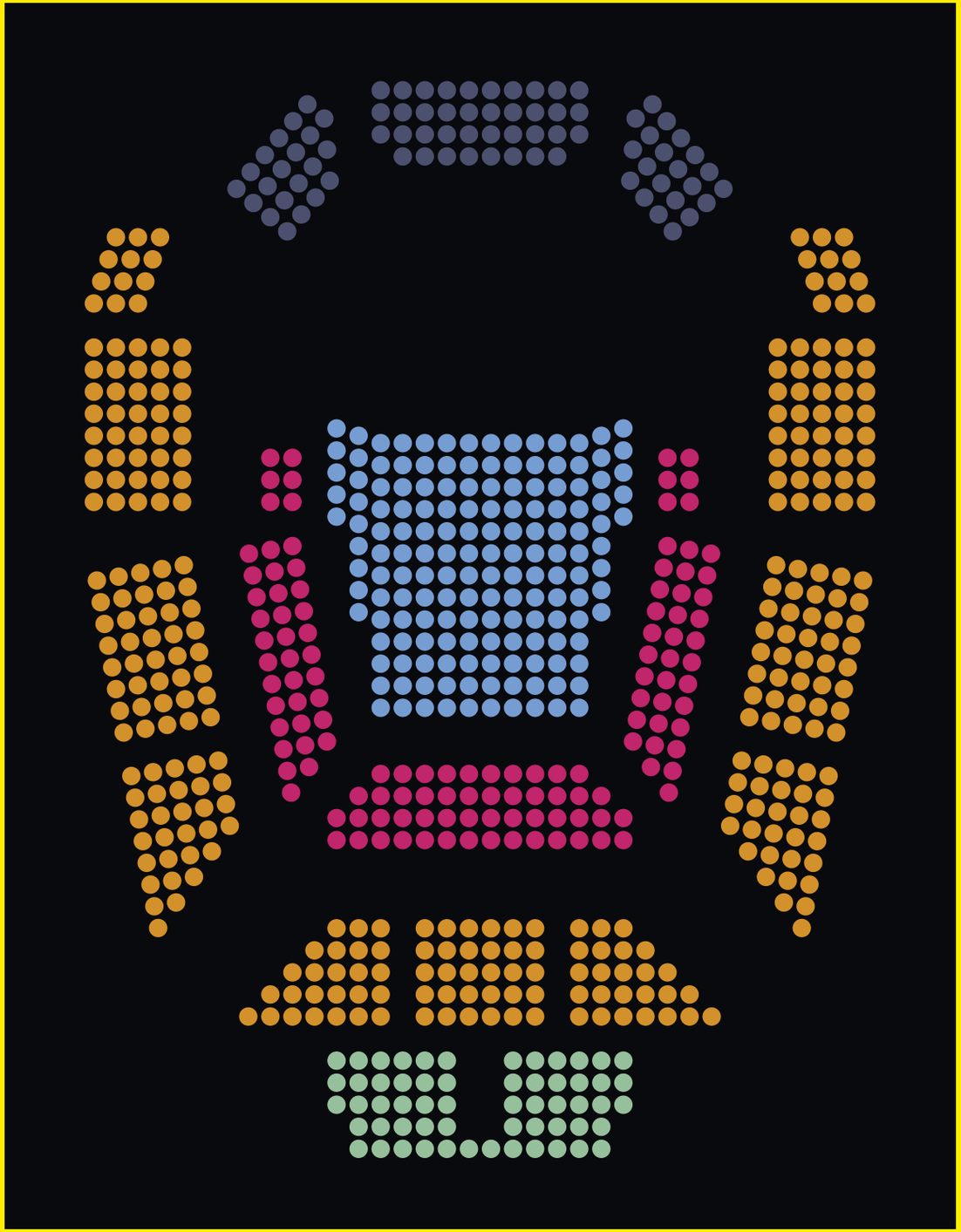
Czech Philharmonic

SYMPHONY



CZECH CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

129th SEASON
2023 | 2024

Čskh

Dear Chamber Music Lovers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are now at the threshold of the 129th season of the Czech Chamber Music Society, and our season will be even more festive than usual. Together, we will begin celebrating the Year of Czech Music in 2024. It is probably no surprise that music by Czech composers will be even more plentiful than in previous years, as is appropriate for the most prestigious Czech chamber season.

We are very pleased that after two years of Covid with fewer concerts, we have managed to retain nearly all of the concerts we planned. We believe that again in the coming season, the artists will have the chance to shine before our demanding, educated public.

Awaiting us are the traditional 28 concerts divided into five series. Series I and II have six concerts each at Dvořák Hall, there are four exclusive recitals in Dvořák Hall, six concerts in the early evening series in Suk Hall, and six matinee concerts in Martinů Hall at the Academy of Performing Arts.

Important Czech and foreign artists have enriched our seasons' programming by acting as curators. Following the cellist Clemens Hagen, the violinist Josef Špaček, and the cellist Peter Jarůšek, that role will now be played by Julia Fischer, the superb violinist of Slovak origin. She will be appearing with her own Julia Fischer Quartet and in collaboration with the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra.

Julia Fischer's solo recital with the pianist Yulianna Avdeeva will also open the recital series. The series brings world-famous artists to the stage of Dvořák Hall. This year you will be hearing piano recitals by Mitsuko Uchida and Víkingur Ólafsson, and the countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński will be appearing in Prague for the first time.

As I pointed out right at the beginning, this year's programming will feature a greatly increased number of works by Czech composers. There will be performances of famous and less familiar works by Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák, Leoš Janáček, and Bohuslav Martinů. There will also be plenty of music by other Czech composers from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic eras along with music of the 20th and 21th centuries. The performers will include top Czech groups (the Czech Trio, the Bennewitz Quartet, the Czech Nonet, Collegium Marianum, and the winner of the CCMS Prize, the Belfiato Quintet) and world-famous ensembles from abroad (Hagen Quartet, Trio Wanderer). Concerts rescheduled from previous cancelled seasons include an appearance by the gamba player Hille Perl and the harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani and a vocal recital by Kateřina Kněžíková.

The pianist Jitka Čechová can boast of having recorded Bedřich Smetana's complete works for piano. You will hear her play seldom-performed works at one of our Early Evening Concerts. Representing the youthful generation is the soprano Lada Bočková, who is establishing herself very quickly on the operatic stage. The Doležal Quartet and the oboist Michaela Hrabánková will present an unusual programme of works by Josef Mysliveček and Vítězslav Novák.

The programming for the popular series of Saturday matinee concerts in Martinů Hall at the Academy of Performing Arts will include compositions for the King of Instruments, the organ. The recital of the organist Pavel Svoboda and the French horn player Kateřina Javůrková has been postponed twice. We hope it will finally take place. You can look forward to the not entirely typical sound of five saxophones presented by the Czech Saxophone Quartet and their guest David Eben. This year, the Czech Philharmonic Winds led by Ondřej Vrabec will present a slightly more intimate programme, and the concert series will conclude with the outstanding cellist Václav Petr and his colleagues from the Czech Philharmonic cello section. You surely have never heard Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition played this way.

Varied programmes are what a director of programming should concern himself with above all for such a prestigious season, so all listeners can choose what suits their tastes, and so subscribers to one series might want to attend some concerts from a different series. We hope that we have met your expectations and that you will join with us and the artists in enjoying the performances.

Please let me conclude by wishing you, our dear friends, good health. We look forward to seeing you.

Radek Křižanovský
Director of Programming of the Czech Chamber Music Society

Board of the Czech Chamber Music Society
Pavel Kysilka *Chairman*
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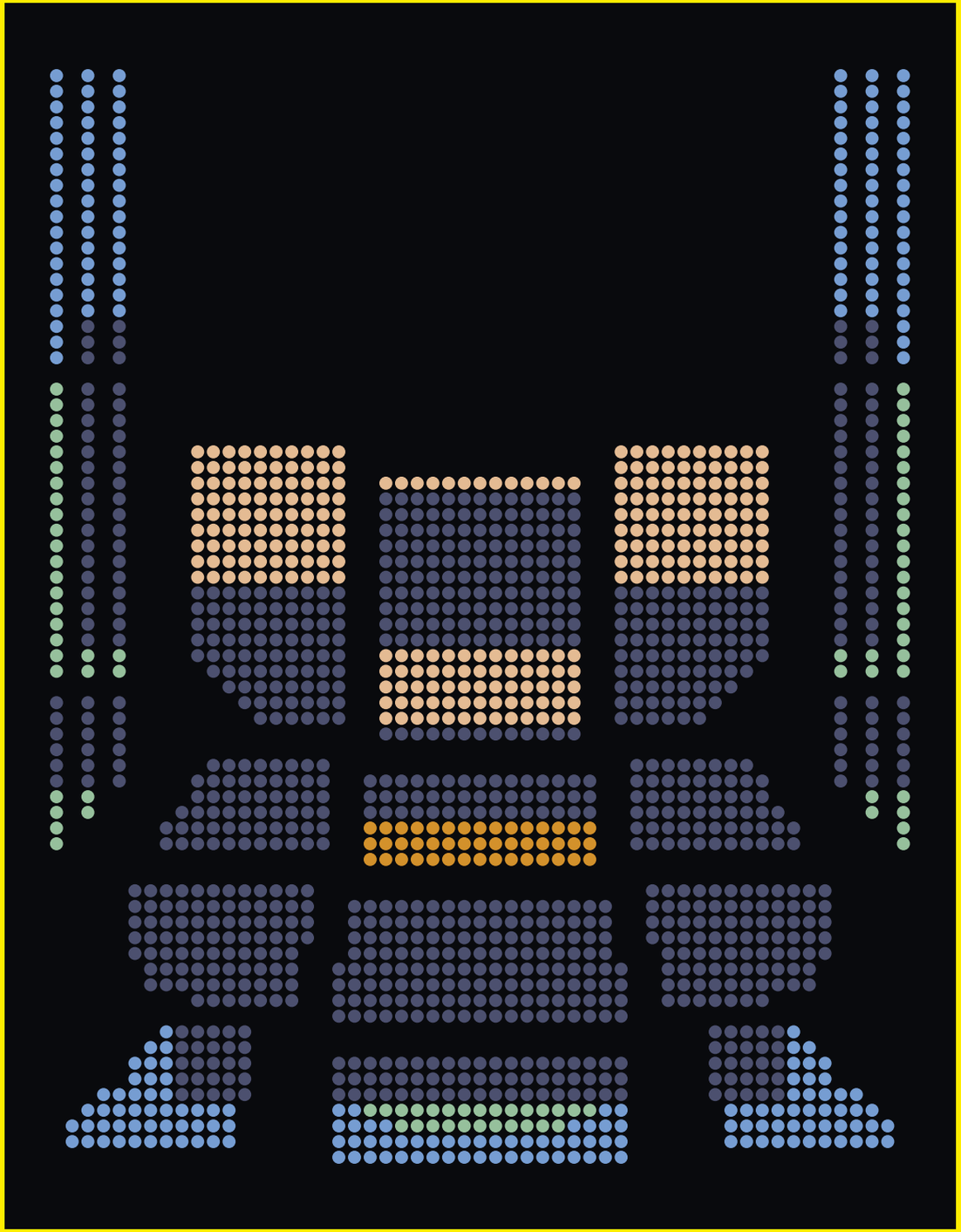
Marek Vrabec



SERIES

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Monday at 7:30 p.m., Dvořák Hall
Individual ticket prices from CZK 100 to 350
Subscription prices from CZK 500 to 1,620

We are pleased that the Czech Chamber Music Society Prize has finally been awarded after a rather long interruption. The winner is the outstanding Belfiato Quintet, which will open the season. Presenting a programme in celebration of the Year of Czech Music will be the world-famous Trio Wanderer with music by Smetana, Dvořák, and Martinů. The most prominent figure of Series I is this year's curator, the violinist Julia Fischer. She will appear both with her own ensemble, the Julia Fischer Quartet, in a mostly Czech programme, and together with the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. That orchestra will appear twice in this series – András Schiff, the Czech Philharmonic's artist-in-residence for this season, will partner with them as both soloist and conductor.

I1

16 Oct. 2023

Samuel Barber
Henri Tomasi
Paul Hindemith
Bedřich Smetana

Belfiato Quintet
Oto Reiprich *flute*
Jan Souček *oboe*
Jiří Javůrek *clarinet*
Jan Hudeček *bassoon*
Kateřina Javůrková *French horn*

I2

20 Nov. 2023

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Leoš Janáček
Bedřich Smetana

Julia Fischer Quartet
Julia Fischer *violin*
Alexander Sitkovetsky *violin*
Nils Mönkemeyer *viola*
Benjamin Nyffenegger *cello*

CZECH CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

I3

18 Dec. 2023

František Ignác Antonín Tůma
František Jiránek

Collegium Marianum
Lenka Torgersen *concertmaster*
Jana Semerádová *flauto traverso, artistic director*

I4

15 Jan. 2024

Bedřich Smetana
Bohuslav Martinů
Antonín Dvořák

Trio Wanderer
Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabédian *violin*
Raphaël Pidoux *cello*
Vincent Coq *piano*

I5

5 Feb. 2024

Antonín Dvořák
Ludwig van Beethoven
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

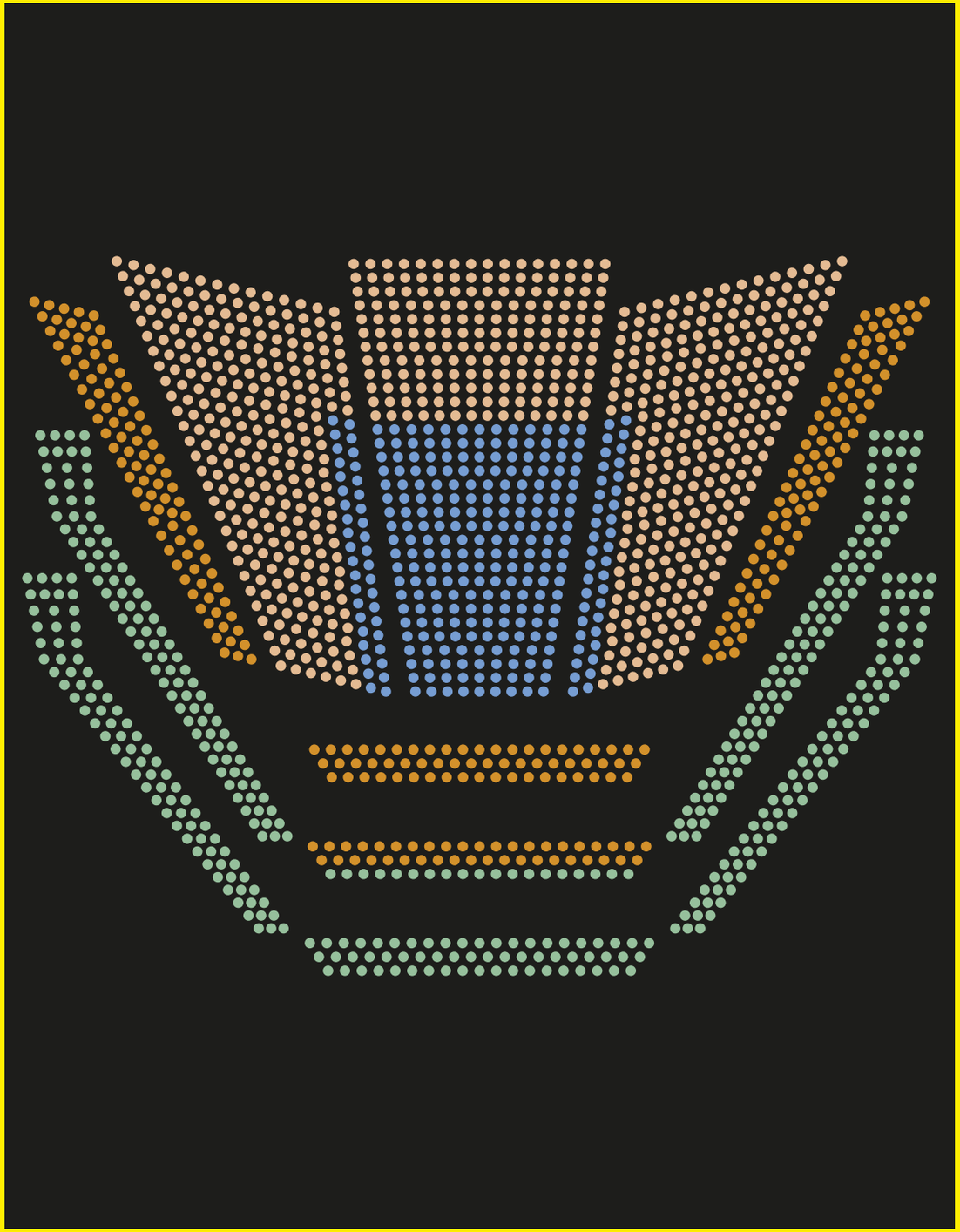
Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra
András Schiff *piano, artistic direction*

I6

22 Apr. 2024

Johann Sebastian Bach
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Josef Suk

Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra
Jeremias Pestalozzi *violin*
Julia Fischer *violin, artistic direction*



SERIES

II

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Dvořák Hall
Individual ticket prices from CZK 100 to 350
Subscription prices from CZK 500 to 1,650

Series II will not remain in the shadow of the first series with respect to big names from this country and abroad. The Hagen Quartet is bringing an all-Beethoven programme to Prague, and we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Czech Nonet, one of the first ensembles with winds to perform for the Czech Chamber Music Society. One of the most eagerly anticipated concerts this season is the vocal recital of Kateřina Kněžíková with the pianist David Švec. Two important Czech ensembles, the Bennewitz Quartet and the Czech Trio, will again present all-Czech programmes featuring both familiar and rarely performed works. For an excursion into the world of early music, we will hear the harpsichordist Mahan Esfanahi, a Prague resident, and the wonderful gamba player Hille Perl.

II1

25 Oct. 2023

Ludwig van Beethoven

Hagen Quartet
Lukas Hagen *violin*
Rainer Schmidt *violin*
Veronika Hagen *viola*
Clemens Hagen *cello*

II2

8 Nov. 2023

Gabriel Fauré
Johannes Brahms
Franz Schubert
Klement Slavický
Antonín Dvořák

Kateřina Kněžíková *soprano*
David Švec *piano*

II3

This concert is presented in cooperation with the festival Bohuslav Martinů Days

6 Dec. 2023

Louis Spohr
Bohuslav Martinů
Witold Lutosławski
Josef Bohuslav Foerster

Czech Nonet
Romana Špačková *violin*
Ondřej Martinovský *viola*
Simona Hečová *cello*
David Pavelka *double bass*
Jiří Skuhra *flute*
Vladislav Borovka *oboe*
Aleš Hustoles *clarinet*
Pavel Langpaul *bassoon*
Jiří Špaček *French horn*

The concert is supported financially by the Bohuslav Martinů Foundation.

II4

3 Jan. 2024

Johann Sebastian Bach
Jiří Antonín Benda
Carl Friedrich Abel
Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

Mahan Esfahani *harpsichord*
Hille Perl *viola da gamba*

II5

13 Mar. 2024

Bohuslav Martinů
Erwin Schulhoff
Antonín Dvořák

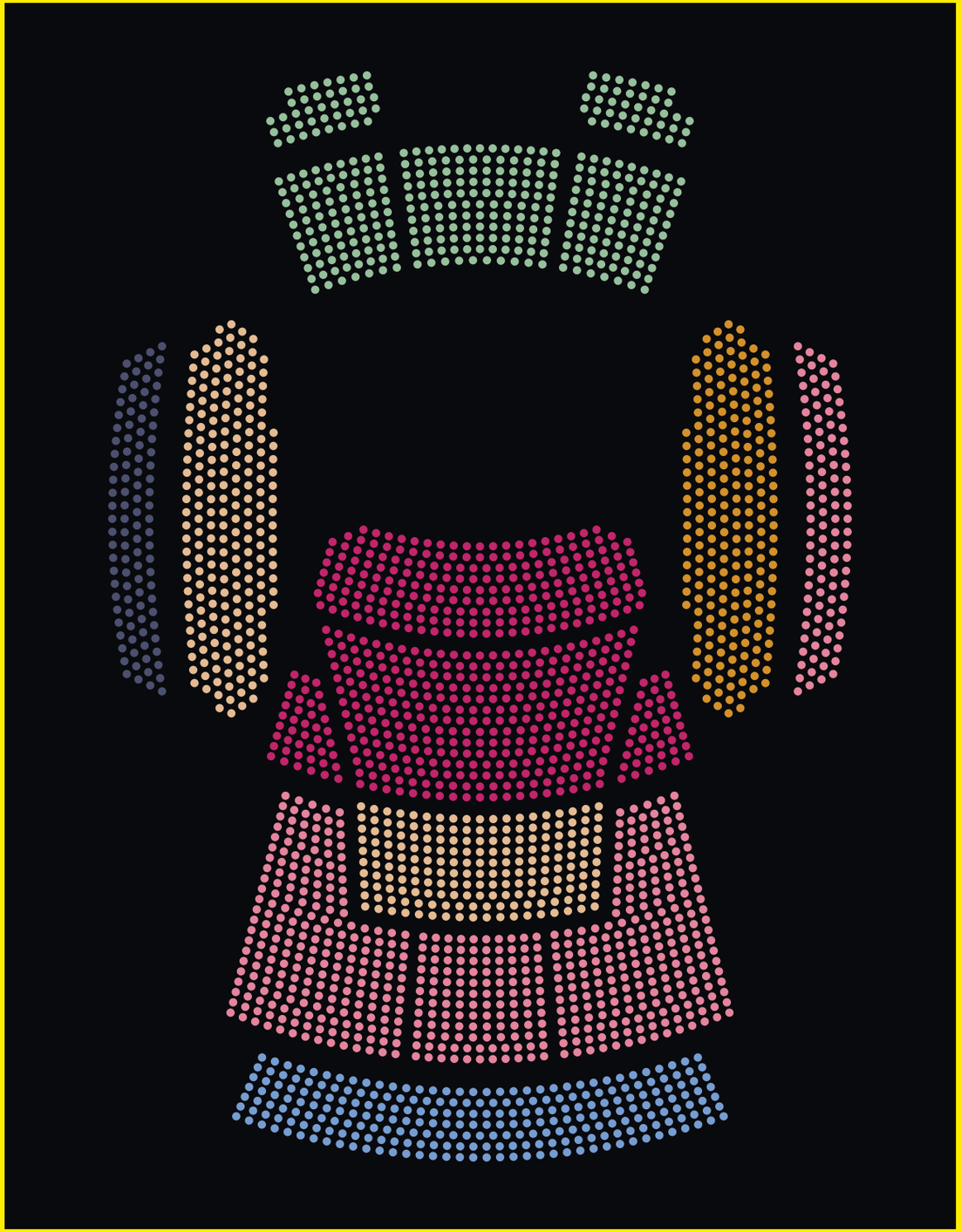
Bennewitz Quartet
Jakub Fišer *violin*
Štěpán Ježek *violin*
Jiří Pinkas *viola*
Štěpán Doležal *cello*

II6

3 Apr. 2024

Josef Suk
Rudolf Friml
Eduard Douša
Bohuslav Martinů
Antonín Dvořák

Czech Trio
Dana Vlachová *violin*
Miroslav Petráš *cello*
Milan Langer *piano*



RECITAL SERIES

R

Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Dvořák Hall
Individual ticket prices from CZK 200 to 850
Subscription prices from CZK 650 to 2,200

In the coming season, we will be continuing with our exclusive Recital Series, which has presented a number of Czech and foreign stars in recent years. The countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński is known not only for his marvellous voice, but also for his dance creations. It will certainly be wonderful to hear the Goldberg Variations played by the Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson, whom we were able to hear last season with the Czech Philharmonic. Another reminder of the recent major anniversary of the great Ludwig van Beethoven will be a recital by the pianist Mitsuko Uchida, who is returning to Prague after a long absence. Finally, the violinist Julia Fischer will make her third appearance as curator for the season with the pianist Yulianna Avdeeva.

R1

10 Dec. 2023

Ludwig van Beethoven
Aram Khachaturian
Francis Poulenc
Maurice Ravel

Julia Fischer *violin*
Yulianna Avdeeva *piano*

R2

21 Jan. 2024

Ludwig van Beethoven

Mitsuko Uchida *piano*

R3

11 Feb. 2024

Programme TBA

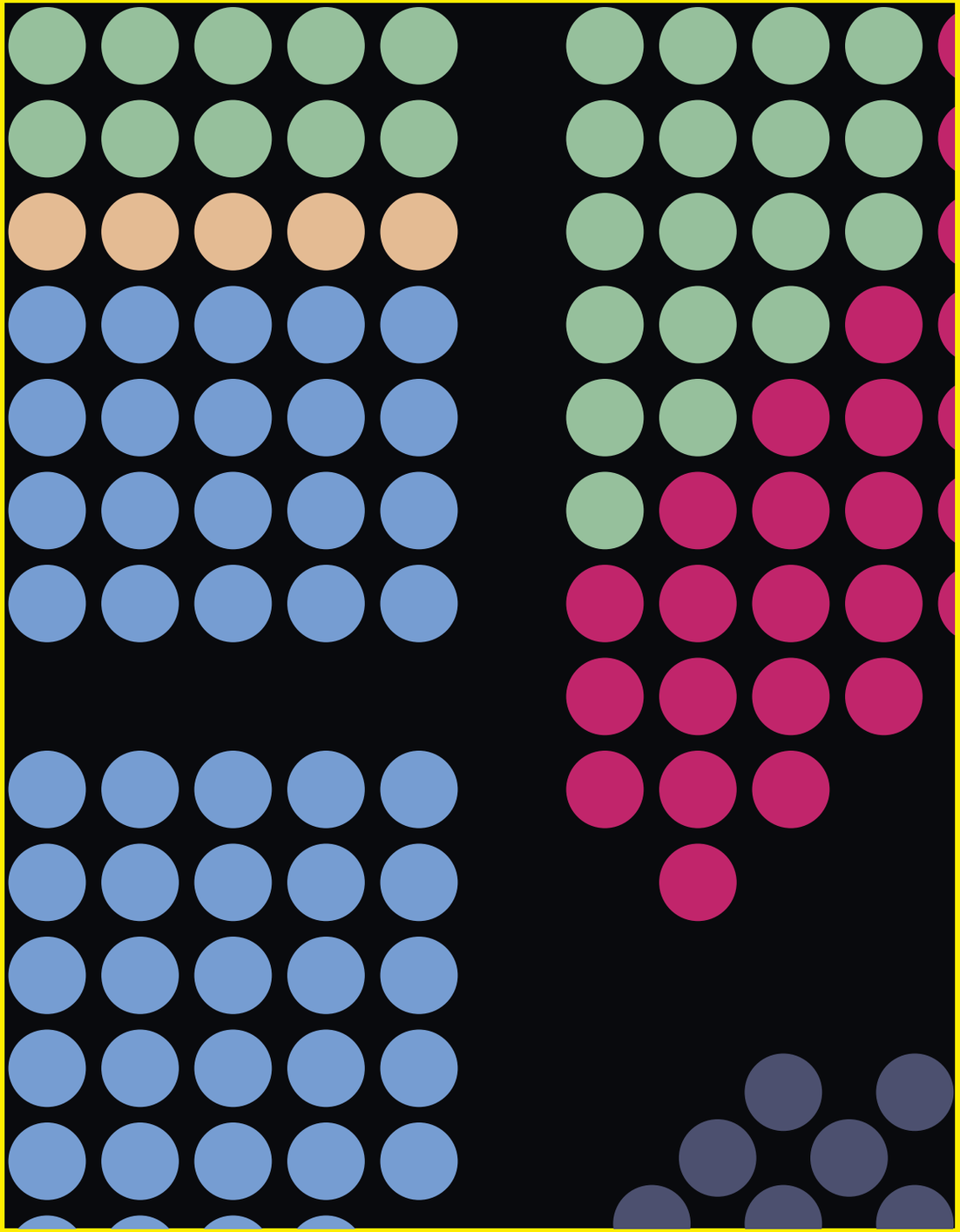
Jakub Józef Orliński *countertenor*
Michał Biel *piano*

R4

10 Mar. 2024

Johann Sebastian Bach

Víkingur Ólafsson *piano*



EARLY EVENING CONCERTS

HP

Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., Suk Hall
Individual ticket prices from CZK 200 to 240
Subscription prices from CZK 920 to 1,080

Our Early Evening Concerts will begin with another domestic ensemble that is well known to us, the Orbis Trio, with music by Ludwig van Beethoven and his admirer Antonín Dvořák. The Prague Wind Trio and the soprano Marie Fajtová will present a variety of Czech and foreign repertoire from several different centuries. The music of Josef Mysliveček, whose life is the subject matter of the successful Czech film Il Boemo, will be performed by the Doležal Quartet with the oboist Michaela Hrabánková. That evening, they will also play Vítězslav Novák's seldom-heard First String Quartet. The year 2024 will be devoted mainly to the music of Bedřich Smetana – with the pianist Jitka Čechová we have prepared a programme of his less frequently played but interesting piano compositions. Then the young soprano Lada Bočková will appear with an evening of songs by Smetana and Dvořák.

HP1

17 Oct. 2023

Ludwig van Beethoven
Antonín Dvořák

Orbis trio
Petra Brabcová *violin*
Petr Malíšek *cello*
Stanislav Gallin *piano*

HP2

21 Nov. 2023

Jan Zach
Antonio Salieri
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Endre Székely
František Xaver Thuri
Darius Milhaud

Prague Wind Trio
Zdeněk Rys *oboe*
Milan Polák *clarinet*
Lukáš Kořínek *bassoon*
Marie Fajtová *soprano*

CZECH CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

HP3

12 Dec. 2023

Concert of competition winners

Performers and programme TBA

HP4

16 Jan. 2024

Josef Mysliveček
Ondřej Štochl
Vítězslav Novák

Doležal Quartet
Václav Dvořák *violin*
Jan Zrostlík *violin*
Martin Adamovič *viola*
Vojtěch Urban *cello*
Michaela Hrabánková *oboe*

HP5

12 Mar. 2024

Bedřich Smetana

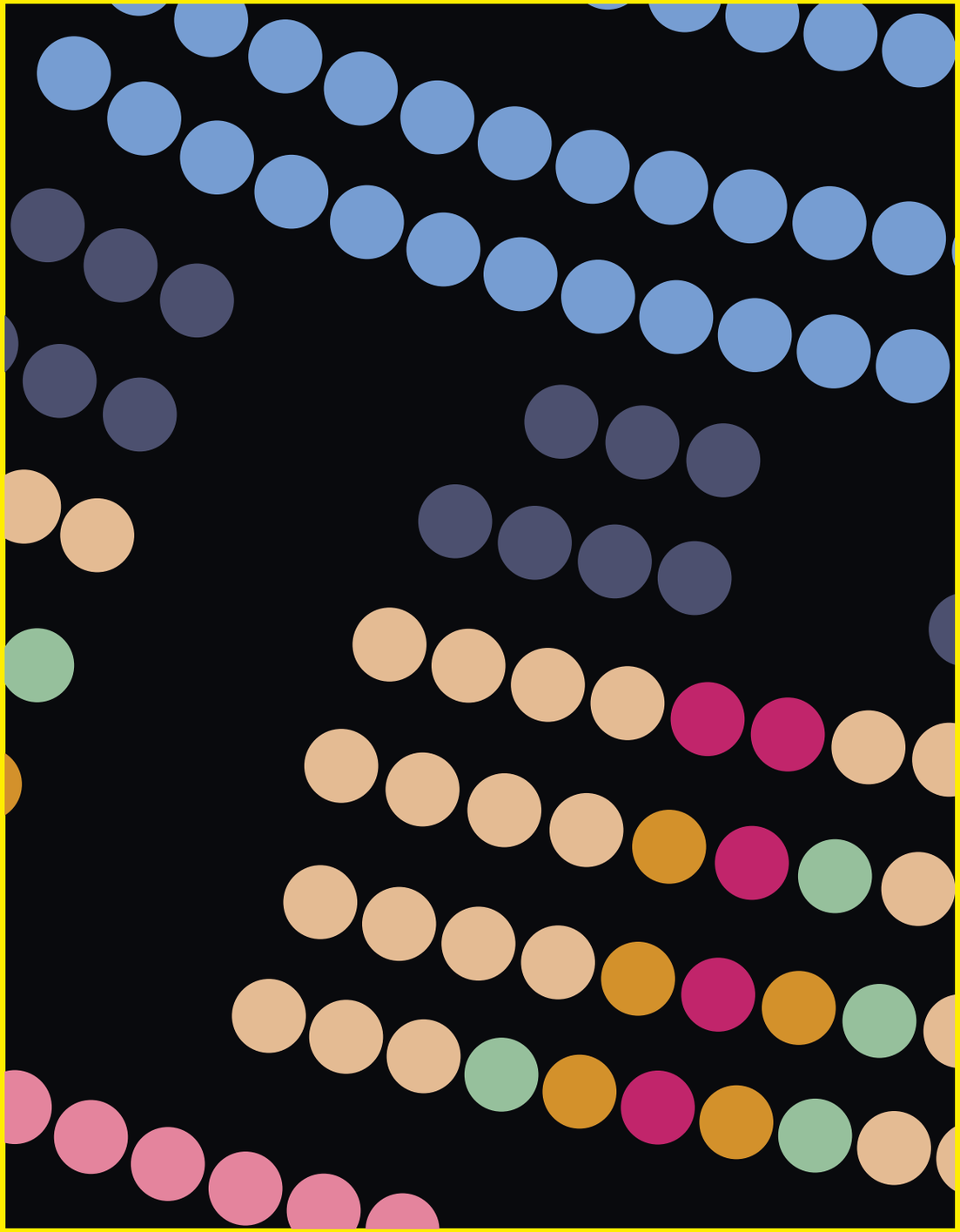
Jitka Čechová *piano*

HP6

16 Apr. 2024

Antonín Dvořák
Bedřich Smetana

Lada Bočková *soprano*
Ahmad Hedar *piano*



MORNING CONCERTS

DK

Saturday at 10:30 a.m., Martinů Hall, Academy of Performing Arts
Individual ticket prices from CZK 230 to 260
Subscription prices from CZK 1,000 to 1,140

For our matinee series, we have prepared six programmes with varied concerts. We will hear the combination of organ and French horn at another concert with Pavel Svoboda and Kateřina Javůrková, something we were already looking forward to enjoying two years ago. The atypical colours of the Czech Saxophone Quartet with their guest David Eben and the Czech Philharmonic Winds led by Ondřej Vrabec will present music from several periods. The Janáček Trio has invited the popular actor Jan Přeučil as a special guest. The final concert will be reminiscent of the legendary performances of the cello section of the Berlin Philharmonic. Among other things, it will feature an arrangement of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition for eight cellos and a double bass that was created at the initiative of Czech Philharmonic cello concertmaster Václav Petr.

DK1

14 Oct. 2023

Johann Sebastian Bach
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Carl Reinecke
Bohuslav Martinů
Karlheinz Stockhausen
Miloslav Kabeláč
Jan Kučera

Pavel Svoboda *organ*
Kateřina Javůrková *French horn*

DK2

4 Nov. 2023

Claudio Monteverdi
Johann Sebastian Bach
Georg Friedrich Händel
Tomáš Hanzlík
David Eben
Václav Pokorný
Jaroslav Mangl
Jaroslav Kopáček
Eduard Parma
Pedro Iturralde

Czech Saxophone Quartet
Roman Fojtíček
Radim Kvasnica
Otakar Martinovský
Michal Kostiuk
David Eben *saxophone*

DK3

16 Dec. 2023

Peter Seabourne
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Czech Philharmonic Winds
Ondřej Vrabec *artistic director*

DK4

20 Jan. 2024

Anselme Vinée
Johann Sebastian Bach
Jacques Ibert
Jiří Pazour
Bohuslav Martinů

Helena Jiříkovská *violin*
Žofie Vokálková *flute*
Eva Tornová *harpsichord*

DK5

17 Feb. 2024

Vojtěch Jírovec
Bohuslav Martinů
Johannes Brahms

Janáček Trio
Irena Jakubcová *violin*
Jan Keller *cello*
Markéta Janáčková *piano*
Jan Přeučil *recitation*

DK6

16 Mar. 2024

Nikolai Kapustin
Paul Schoenfield
Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky

Jiří Vodička *violin*
Martin Kasík *piano*
Virtuosi di Basso
Václav Petr *cello, artistic director*

INFORMATION ABOUT TICKETS

TICKET OFFICES

Rudolfinum
Alšovo nábř. 12
Prague 1

entrance from the 17. listopadu street

Business hours:
Workdays: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
(July–August 10 a.m.–3 p.m.)
— On the day of a Czech Philharmonic or Czech Chamber Music Society concert until the concert begins
— For morning concerts on any day 1 hour before the concert begins
— For afternoon concerts on weekends or holidays 2 hours before the concert begins

ONLINE TICKET PURCHASES

You can also purchase individual tickets and subscriptions to all Czech Philharmonic and Czech Chamber Music Society concerts online at www.ceskafilharmonie.cz. Subscription tickets are sold only until the beginning of the first concert of the subscription.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Phone: +420 227 059 227
E-mail: info@ceskafilharmonie.cz
Business hours:
Workdays: 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
(July–August 9 a.m.–3 p.m.)
— On the day of a Czech Philharmonic concert until the concert begins (weekdays only)

Provides info on Czech Philharmonic and Czech Chamber Music Society concerts and selected other concert organizers. Handles reservations or payments made by bank transfer.

DATES WHEN TICKET SALES BEGIN

Subscriptions
3 April 2023 from 10 a.m.
Seats for present subscribers are reserved until 31 May 2023 at 8 p.m.
Sales end on the first day of the first concert for the chosen subscription series. After that, only individual tickets can be purchased.

Individual Tickets
3 April 2023 from 10 a.m.
(special and non-subscription educational concerts)
7 June 2023 from 10 a.m.
(subscription series concerts)

INFORMATION ABOUT PRICES, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DISCOUNTS

Programmes and performers are subject to change without notice.

DYNAMIC CLUB OF THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC

"I fell for the orchestra for its diversity of colours. I have always enjoyed being a small pinion in that giant clock. It doesn't matter to me, whether my part is big or small. I love how it all sounds together."

Daniel Mikolášek
Czech Phil percussionist since 1984

Thank you for being a part of the Czech Phil story.
Join our supporters in the Dynamic Club.

The Dynamic Club brings together Czech Philharmonic donors. You don't see them on stage with the musicians, but you can hear their support in every bow stroke or timpani roll.
The doors of the club are open to anyone who wants to get involved with the life of the Czech Philharmonic. Come join us and make a donation that can be heard.

Piano (from CZK 1,500 annually)
— Invitation to the annual gathering of donors at the Rudolfinum and talks with Czech Philharmonic players during the season
— Priority information about Czech Philharmonic concerts and new items at the e-shop
— Donation receipt for claiming a tax deduction

Mezzoforte (from CZK 10,000 annually)
— Access to a non-public dress rehearsal
— A personalised tour of the Rudolfinum
— A chance to present flowers to soloists or the conductor on stage

Forte (from CZK 50,000 annually)
— An invitation to the press conference with presentation of the new season
— Two seats at the popular Open Air Concert
— Assistance with booking tickets to Czech Philharmonic concerts abroad

Fortissimo (from CZK 100,000 annually)
— An invitation to the opening concert of the season followed by a social gathering
— A chance to listen to a concert from the recording studio
— A meeting with the Czech Philharmonic CEO David Mareček

Maestro Circle (from CZK 500,000 annually)
— Backstage access during a tour abroad
— A Rudolfinum lounge for an event of their own
— A meeting with the Chief Conductor Semyon Bychkov

Dvořák Circle (from CZK 1,000,000 annually)
— A chance to sit on stage among the musicians during an orchestra rehearsal
— A masterclass with a member of the orchestra
— A private performance by the concertmaster

Donor care coordinator Kateřina Tichá will gladly welcome you to the Dynamic Club.
You can contact us by email at klub@ceskafilharmonie.cz or by telephone: +420 731 881 690.

The members of the Dynamic Club annually financially suport the Jiří Bělohlávek price.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF PARTNERS

Every successful orchestra consists of not only the musicians on stage, but also the perceptive listeners in the audience, the whole team working behind the scenes, and the backing of helpful partners and supporters. We are both gratified and empowered by having stable partners who are an integral part of the Czech Philharmonic family.

We would like to thank our guarantor, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, for their significant and ongoing support. The ČEZ Group offers us important and constantly increasing energy as our General Partner and shall continue to do so for next three seasons. We also look forward to long-term cooperation with a new Global Partner, the PPF Group. We appreciate our shared journey with the bank Česká spořitelna, whose values have been resonating at the Rudolfinum literally since the day the cornerstone was laid. And we continue to get our "drive" from Škoda Auto, who have been riding with us for 30 wonderful years.

Working with individual talents is of vital importance to us. The project of joint orchestra of Czech Philharmonic players and music school pupils benefits from the enthusiasm of the company Progresus, while the Orchestral Academy blossoms under the patronage of Arthouse Hejtmánek. Also, Pojišťovna VZP sponsors the concerts of the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, which has grown into a truly unique and confident ensemble.

We are sincerely overjoyed by other long-term synergies as well. We are honoured that our woodwind section is supported by the watchmaking company Hodinářství Bechyně. Czech Philharmonic members can play rare instruments thanks to PPF, J&T Bank, and the Fidula Foundation, while the Mucha Museum partners activities of the Czech Chamber Music Society. New works are being composed for the Czech Philharmonic thanks to contributions from the Bohemian Heritage Fund. And the expert teams of Arcona Capital and FINEP are joined by the renowned architects from CASUA in the effort to renovate the Rudolfinum roof terrace.

Thanks to all of these partnerships, we are capable to keep fulfiling the bold ambition to solidify the Czech Philharmonic position amongst the very top European orchestras. Another crucial goal of ours is the top representation of Czech culture both in our homeland and worldwide. And we are greatly assisted in doing so by our media partners led by Czech Television and Czech Radio as well as the colleagues in the EuroArts media group. Thank you!

We wish you a harmonious season full of pleasant musical experiences. Let the music play!

Michal Medek
Business Development Director of the Czech Philharmonic

Dear fans of the best performances of beautiful music,

Even before we realized it, we are standing with the Czech Philharmonic at the threshold of the orchestra's new season for the 128th time this year. The Czech Philharmonic is one of the most respected orchestras not only in this country but also in worldwide context. Again this season, we can look forward to unusual musical experiences and special guests, all under the inimitable leadership of chief conductor Semyon Bychkov. Last season, the Czech Philharmonic was reassured of the loyalty of its public after several difficult years, and at the same time, the orchestra showed how to operate in atypical situations, for example with television and online broadcasts. Last year's benefit concert literally shattered viewership records for television broadcasts and social network streaming. The Czech Philharmonic is not standing still. Instead, it is seeking out and finding new paths thanks to the artists themselves and to the orchestra's management. This is another reason why at the beginning of this year I extended the mandate of the orchestra's CEO David Mareček indefinitely.

Still, visiting the concert hall remains the ultimate musical experience, and together with all of you, I am looking forward to the coming season full of variety, unforgettable programmes, moments of interpretive greatness, and the joy of the unmediated sharing of those experiences.

I wish the Czech Philharmonic a successful 128th season!

Martin Baxa
Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

Dear Fans of the Czech Philharmonic,

Music evokes in us a whole range of emotions and recollections of experiences and events in our lives. Music also calms us, evoking carefree feelings of wellbeing. Listening to the pleasing sounds of the unique works of great composers from around the world takes us in spirit at least for a moment to places where the problems of everyday life do not exist.

Music has the power to awaken in us something indescribable and very personal. Music evokes different feelings and impressions in each of us. Therein lies its magic. I am very pleased that for a second year we are able to be the General Partner of the Czech Philharmonic, which accompanies you during moments of calm and relaxation.

There is also power in the work we do – power thanks to which we are your partner in everyday life, whether at home or at work. As the main energy supplier, we make sure that your day goes just the way it is supposed to. We light up your offices and living rooms, we provide power for transportation, and last but not least, our electricity also brings concert halls to life. After all of the tensions of daily life, it is also our great pleasure to supply the mental energy we all need so much thanks to our partnership with the Czech Philharmonic.

Last year, ČEZ was the General Partner of the Czech Philharmonic for the first time, but we have been in cooperation for a long time. One example of this was a unique performance by outstanding violin virtuosos of the Czech Philharmonic at the Temelín Nuclear Power Station. A pair of violinists played at the unusual venue of a 155-metre cooling tower, recording a unique clip on the occasion. This involved a symbolic combination of a top musical ensemble with unique nuclear technology. We are greatly honoured to be helping to maintain the tradition of classical music.

Daniel Beneš
Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of ČEZ

Dear Friends,

When Petr Kellner launched PPF three decades ago, he sought to build a company backed by creativity, hard work and daring all at once. He succeeded, and PPF today is a company with Czech roots and global reach. Beyond its business and true to its values, PPF is proud to support individuals and organizations with the ambition, talent and commitment to succeed internationally.

In recognition of this and starting this season, PPF has become the new global partner to the Czech Philharmonic, which is ranked as one of the finest classical music ensembles in the world. We are delighted to partner with this unique orchestra on its international tours and to take part in writing new chapters in the history of Czech music and its long tradition.

Vladimír Mlynář
PPF Group Chief of External Affairs
Member of the Board, PPF a.s.

Dear music fans and friends of the Czech Philharmonic,

It is tremendously encouraging to witness the ambition and enthusiasm with which the leading Czech orchestra enters yet another season. Hats off to the diligent efforts that enable the Czech Philharmonic to keep bringing the world's top artists to this country while representing Czech culture on a global level. I am certain that the wonderful team the Czech Philharmonic creates and supports will take the orchestra's already elite quality to the next level, permanently assuming its place among the world's best musical ensembles. I look forward to the new dynamism and the wonderful programmes the Czech Philharmonic will be offering during its new season.

I wish you many experiences filled with beautiful music.

Tomáš Salomon
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank Česká spořitelna

Dear friends of the Czech Philharmonic,

Music makes us feel at home and, at the same time, is able to connect human beings across cultures and languages – like Škoda cars do, too.

I am delighted that Škoda Auto continues to support the Czech Philharmonic as partner in the 2023/2024 season. This partnership has been solid for more than 30 years, and I am proud to enter another season together.

The Czech Philharmonic is an inspiring representative of Czech culture all over the world. On behalf of Škoda Auto, I wish the Czech Philharmonic every success and many top-class performances, as well as many beautiful artistic experiences to all listeners and concert goers in this season.

Maren Gräf
Škoda Auto, Board Member for People & Culture

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We thank you and all other Dynamic Club donors for your support of the Czech Philharmonic.

We support the cleanest notes

We want the future of our cultural heritage to develop, to be secure and successful. That's why we are a proud partner of the Czech Philharmonic and stand side-by-side with the best Czech orchestra.

That's why we're here with you.
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Czech Philharmonic

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We support the cleanest notes

We want the future of our cultural heritage to develop, to be secure and successful. That's why we are a proud partner of the Czech Philharmonic and stand side-by-side with the best Czech orchestra.

That's why we're here with you.
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PPF

PPF Group has supported the Czech Philharmonic and its distinctive sound by acquiring instruments, crafted by master instrument makers, for the orchestra's string section. PPF is a global partner of the Czech Philharmonic.

www.ppf.eu

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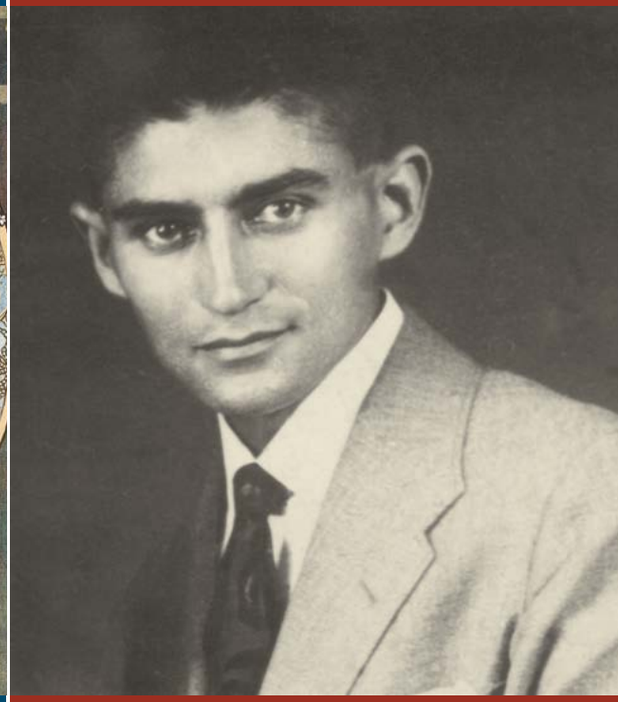

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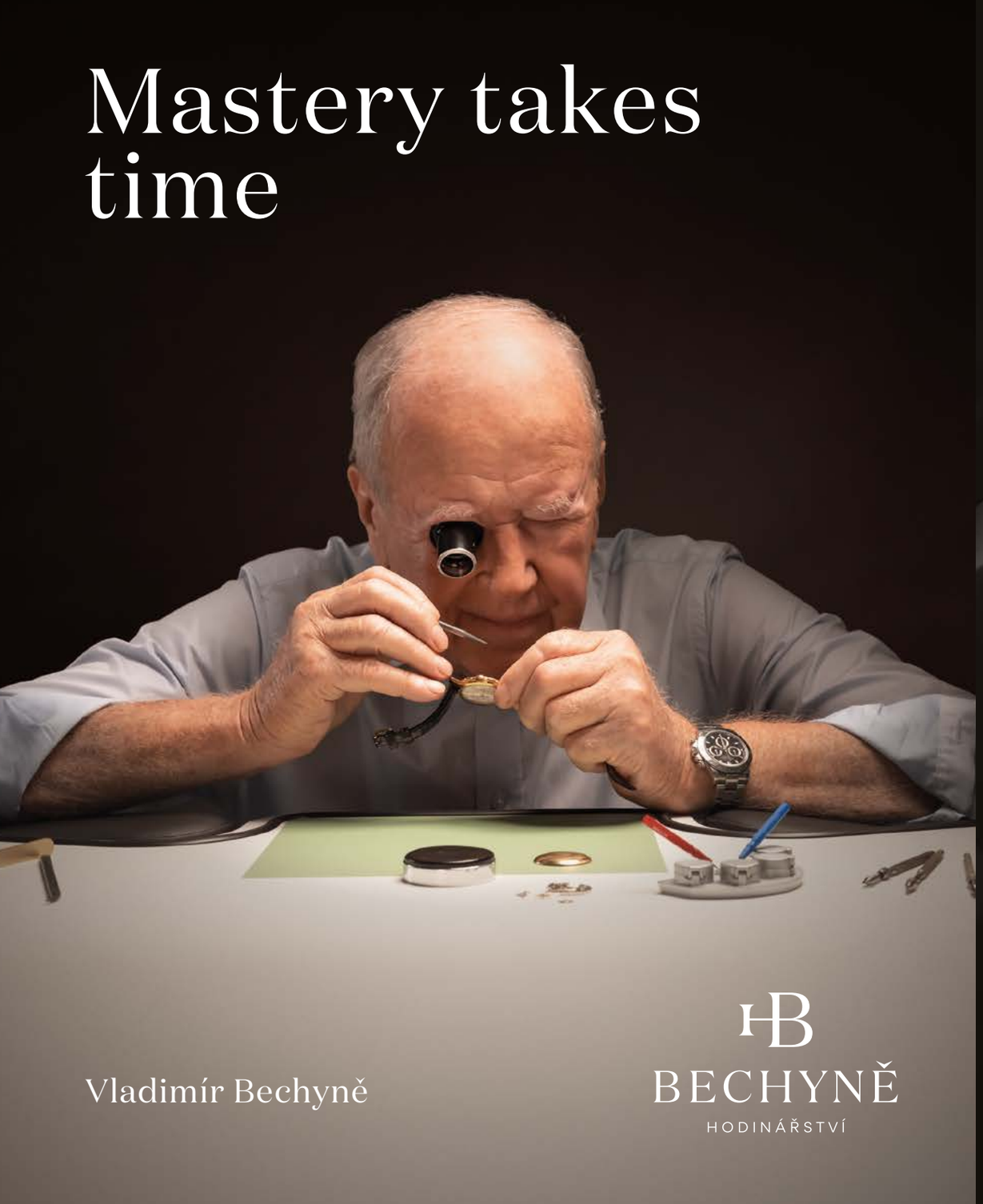

Vladimír Bechyně

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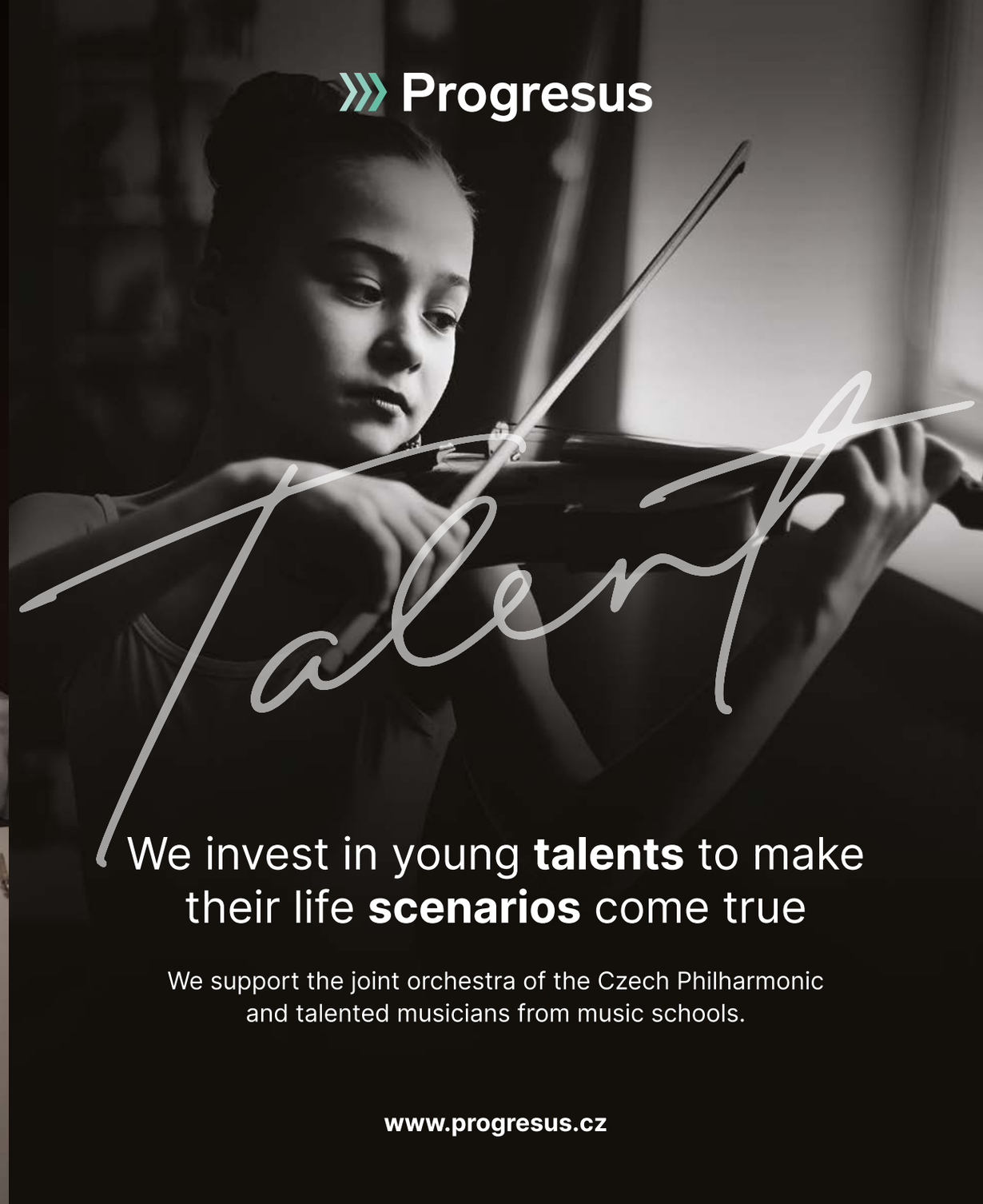

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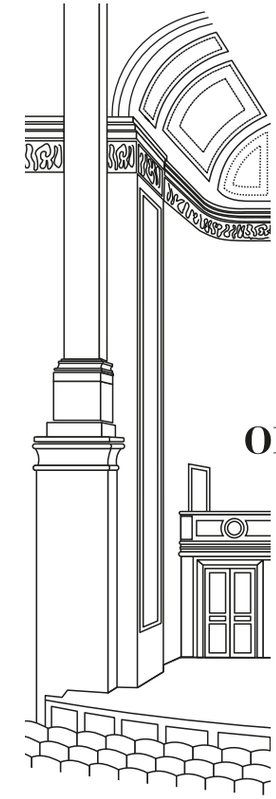

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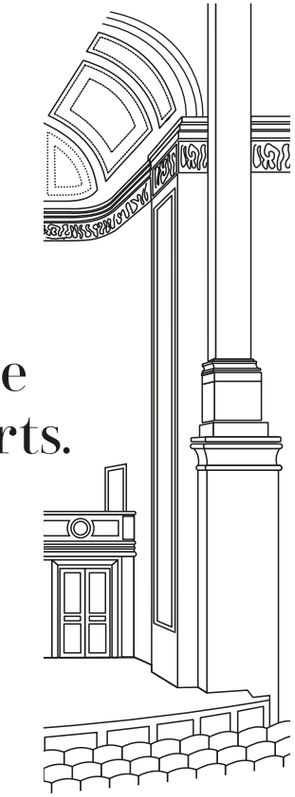

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CALENDAR

30 Aug. 2023	**Bryce Dessner, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** Katia and Marielle Labèque *piano* Manfred Honeck *conductor*	Bucharest, RO
31 Aug. 2023	**Ludwig van Beethoven, Antonín Dvořák, George Enescu** Cosmin Ifrim *tenor* George Enescu Philharmonic Choir Ion Iosif Prunner *choirmaster,* Manfred Honeck *conductor*	Bucharest, RO
14 Sept. 2023	**Johannes Brahms** Anu Komsi *soprano,* Christian Senn *baritone* Prague Philharmonic Choir, Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Sakari Oramo *conductor*	Prague, CZ
22 Sept. 2023	**Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven** András Schiff *conductor, piano*	Prague, CZ
27 Sept. 2023 **28 Sept. 2023** **29 Sept. 2023**	**OPENING CONCERTS OF THE SEASON** **Antonín Dvořák** Augustin Hadelich *violin,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Prague, CZ
4 Oct. 2023 **5 Oct. 2023** **6 Oct. 2023**	**Antonín Dvořák** Pablo Ferrández *cello* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Prague, CZ
11 Oct. 2023 **12 Oct. 2023** **13 Oct. 2023**	**Antonín Dvořák** András Schiff *piano* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Prague, CZ
14 Oct. 2023	**Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Carl Reinecke, Bohuslav Martinů, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Miloslav Kabeláč, Jan Kučera** Pavel Svoboda *organ,* Kateřina Javůrková *French horn*	Prague, CZ
16 Oct. 2023	**Samuel Barber, Henri Tomasi, Paul Hindemith, Bedřich Smetana** Belfiato Quintet	Prague, CZ
17 Oct. 2023	**Ludwig van Beethoven, Antonín Dvořák** Orbis Trio	Prague, CZ

24 Oct. 2023	**Steps to the New World. Great Stories of European Music** From Carmen to Tannhäuser Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Marko Ivanović *conductor,* Petr Kadlec *guide*	Prague, CZ
24 Oct. 2023 **25 Oct. 2023**	**Antonín Dvořák** Mao Fujita *piano,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Seoul, KOR Daegu, KOR
25 Oct. 2023	**Ludwig van Beethoven** Hagen Quartet	Prague, CZ
28 Oct. 2023 **29 Oct. 2023**	**Antonín Dvořák** Pablo Ferrández *cello,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Nagoya, JPN Tokyo, JPN
30 Oct. 2023 **31 Oct. 2023**	**Antonín Dvořák** Mao Fujita *piano,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Niigata, JPN Tokyo, JPN
1 Nov. 2023	**Antonín Dvořák** Gil Shaham *violin,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Tokyo, JPN
3 Nov. 2023	**Antonín Dvořák** Pablo Ferrández *cello,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Osaka, JPN
4 Nov. 2023	**Claudio Monteverdi, Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Friedrich Händel, Tomáš Hanzlík, David Eben, Václav Pokorný, Jaroslav Mangl, Jaroslav Kopáček, Eduard Parma, Pedro Iturralde** Czech Saxophone Quartet, David Eben *saxophone*	Prague, CZ
4 Nov. 2023	**Antonín Dvořák** Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Yokohama, JPN
8 Nov. 2023	**Gabriel Fauré, Johannes Brahms, Franz Schubert, Klement Slavický, Antonín Dvořák** Kateřina Kněžíková *soprano,* David Švec *piano*	Prague, CZ
12 Nov. 2023	**Hej Romale with Ida Kelarová and Čhavorenge (Not Only) for Children And Parents**	Prague, CZ
16 Nov. 2023 **17 Nov. 2023**	**VELVET REVOLUTION CONCERTS** **Johannes Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Antonín Dvořák** Janine Jansen *violin* Prague Philharmonic Choir, Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Antonio Pappano *conductor*	Prague, CZ
20 Nov. 2023	**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Leoš Janáček, Bedřich Smetana** Julia Fischer Quartet	Prague, CZ

21 Nov. 2023	**Jan Zach, Antonio Salieri, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Endre Székely, František Xaver Thuri, Darius Milhaud** Prague Wind Trio, Marie Fajtová *soprano*	Prague, CZ
24 Nov. 2023 **25 Nov. 2023**	**Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven** Kateřina Kněžíková *soprano,* Petr Nekoranec *tenor* Tomáš Netopil *conductor*	Karlovy Vary, CZ
29 Nov. 2023 **30 Nov. 2023** **1 Dec. 2023**	**Antonio Vivaldi, Christoph Willibald Gluck, Joseph Haydn** Josef Špaček *violin,* Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Giovanni Antonini *conductor, recorder*	Prague, CZ
2 Dec. 2023	**100 Minutes among the Notes** Ondřej Tichý and guests	Prague, CZ
4 Dec. 2023 **5 Dec. 2023**	**Chamber Steps to the New World. With Bedřich Smetana** My Harp Country with Jana Boušková Jan Kyjovský *instructor*	Prague, CZ
6 Dec. 2023	**Louis Spohr, Bohuslav Martinů, Witold Lutosławski, Josef Bohuslav Foerster** Czech Nonet	Prague, CZ
7 Dec. 2023 **8 Dec. 2023** **9 Dec. 2023**	**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Bohuslav Martinů – Ariane** Simona Šaturová *Ariane,* TBA *Thésée,* Richard Samek *Bouron / Watchman,* Jozef Benci *Minotaur,* Peter Mikuláš *Old Man* Prague Philharmonic Choir, Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Tomáš Netopil *conductor*	Prague, CZ
10 Dec. 2023	**Ludwig van Beethoven, Aram Khachaturian, Francis Poulenc, Maurice Ravel** Julia Fischer *violin,* Yulianna Avdeeva *piano*	Prague, CZ
12 Dec. 2023	**Concert of competition winners** Performers and programme TBA	Prague, CZ
13 Dec. 2023 **14 Dec. 2023** **15 Dec. 2023**	**Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky** Pierre-Laurent Aimard *piano* Tugan Sokhiev *conductor*	Prague, CZ
16 Dec. 2023	**Peter Seabourne, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Czech Philharmonic Wind Harmony Ondřej Vrabec *artistic director*	Prague, CZ
18 Dec. 2023	**František Ignác Antonín Tůma, František Jiránek** Collegium Marianum, Lenka Torgersen *concertmaster* Jana Semerádová *flauto traverso, artistic director*	Prague, CZ

1 Jan 2024	**NEW YEAR'S CONCERTS** **Bedřich Smetana, Zdeněk Fibich, Leoš Janáček, Antonín Dvořák, Oskar Nedbal, Josef Suk, George Gershwin** Olga Kern *piano,* Jiří Vodička *violin,* Jakub Hrůša *conductor*	Prague, CZ
3 Jan. 2024	**Johann Sebastian Bach, Jiří Antonín Benda, Carl Friedrich Abel, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach** Mahan Esfahani *harpsichord,* Hille Perl *viola da gamba*	Prague, CZ
4 Jan. 2024 **5 Jan. 2024** **6 Jan. 2024**	**Georg Friedrich Händel** Carolyn Sampson *soprano,* Helen Charlston *alto* Andrew Staples *tenor,* Matthew Brook *bass* Prague Philharmonic Choir, Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Nicholas Kraemer *conductor*	Prague, CZ
15 Jan. 2024	**Bedřich Smetana, Bohuslav Martinů, Antonín Dvořák** Trio Wanderer	Prague, CZ
16 Jan. 2024	**Josef Mysliveček, Ondřej Štochl, Vítězslav Novák** Doležal Quartet, Michaela Hrabánková *oboe*	Prague, CZ
19 Jan. 2024	**Steps to the New World. Great Stories of European Music** Italia Bella! Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Marko Ivanović *conductor,* Petr Kadlec *guide*	Prague, CZ
20 Jan. 2024	**Gustav Mahler** Fleur Barron *mezzo-soprano* Prague Philharmonic Choir *women's choir* Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Pueri gaudentes *boys' choir* Jan Kyjovský, Libor Sládek *choirmasters* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Baden-Baden, DE
20 Jan. 2024	**Anselme Vinée, Johann Sebastian Bach, Jacques Ibert, Jiří Pazour, Bohuslav Martinů** Helena Jiříkovská *violin,* Žofie Vokálková *flute* Eva Tornová *harpsichord*	Prague, CZ
21 Jan. 2024	**Ludwig van Beethoven** Mitsuko Uchida *piano*	Prague, CZ
27 Jan. 2027	**100 Minutes among the Notes** Ondřej Tichý and guests	Prague, CZ

31 Jan. 2024 **1 Feb. 2024** **2 Feb. 2024**	**Gustav Mahler** Christa Mayer *mezzo-soprano* Prague Philharmonic Choir *women's choir* Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Pueri gaudentes *boys' choir* Jan Kyjovský, Libor Sládek *choirmasters* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Prague, CZ
5 Feb. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák, Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra András Schiff *piano, artistic direction*	Prague, CZ
8 Feb. 2024 **9 Feb. 2024** **10 Feb. 2024**	**Sergej Rachmaninov, Anton Bruckner** Yuja Wang *piano* Simon Rattle *conductor*	Prague, CZ
11 Feb. 2024	**Programme TBA** Jakub Józef Orliński *countertenor,* Michał Biel *piano*	Prague, CZ
14 Feb. 2024 **15 Feb. 2024** **16 Feb. 2024**	**Ondřej Kukal, Gustav Mahler, Arthur Honegger** Christian Gerhaher *baritone* Jakub Hrůša *conductor*	Prague, CZ
17 Feb. 2024	**Vojtěch Jírovec, Bohuslav Martinů, Johannes Brahms** Janáček Trio, Jan Přeučil *recitation*	Prague, CZ
21 Feb. 2024 **22 Feb. 2024** **23 Feb. 2024**	**Leoš Janáček, Sergei Prokofiev, Josef Suk** Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Lukáš Vondráček *piano* Prague Philharmonic Choir *women's choir* Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Jakub Hrůša *conductor*	Prague, CZ
4 Mar. 2024 **5 Mar. 2024**	**Antonín Dvořák** Pablo Ferrández *cello,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Valencia, ES Madrid, ES
6 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** Augustin Hadelich *violin,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Madrid, ES
7 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** Pablo Ferrández *cello,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Barcelona, ES
10 Mar. 2024	**Johann Sebastian Bach** Víkingur Ólafsson *piano*	Prague, CZ
10 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** Augustin Hadelich *violin,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Vienna, A

11 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** András Schiff *piano,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Vienna, A
12 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** Augustin Hadelich *violin,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Hamburg, DE
12 Mar. 2024	**Bedřich Smetana** Jitka Čechová *piano*	Prague, CZ
13 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** András Schiff *piano,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Hamburg, DE
13 Mar. 2024	**Bohuslav Martinů, Erwin Schulhoff, Antonín Dvořák** Bennewitz Quartet	Prague, CZ
16 Mar. 2024	**Nikolai Kapustin, Paul Schoenfield, Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky** Jiří Vodička *violin,* Martin Kasík *piano* Virtuosi di Basso, Václav Petr *cello, artistic director*	Prague, CZ
17 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** András Schiff *piano,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Munich, DE
18 Mar. 2024 **19 Mar. 2024**	**Antonín Dvořák** Pablo Ferrández *cello,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Erlangen, DE Munich, DE
21 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** Bertrand Chamayou *piano,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Antwerp, BE
21 Mar. 2024	**Steps to the New World. Great Stories of European Music** With Tchaikovsky at Swan Lake And Elsewhere Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Marko Ivanović *conductor,* Petr Kadlec *guide*	Prague, CZ
22 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** Pablo Ferrández *cello,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Paris, FR
23 Mar. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák** Bertrand Chamayou *piano,* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Paris, FR
23 Mar. 2024	**100 Minutes among the Notes** Ondřej Tichý and guests	Prague, CZ
26 Mar. 2024 **27 Mar. 2024**	**Chamber Steps to the New World. With Bedřich Smetana** From the Homeland with Josef Špaček Petr Kadlec *instructor*	Prague, CZ

3 Apr. 2024	**Josef Suk, Rudolf Friml, Eduard Douša, Bohuslav Martinů, Antonín Dvořák** Czech Trio	Prague, CZ
5 Apr. 2024 **11 Apr. 2024** **12 Apr. 2024**	**Leoš Janáček – Cunning Little Vixen** Elena Tsallagova *the Vixen,* Kateřina Kněžíková *the Fox,* Jan Martiník *the Forester,* Jarmila Vantuchová *Lapák (a dog),* Ondřej Koplík *Schoolmaster / Mosquito,* Jiří Sulženko *Parson / Badger,* Jiří Brückler *Harašta (a poacher)* Czech Philharmonic Choir of Brno, Petr Fiala *choirmaster* Prague Philharmonic Children's Choir Jiří Chvála, Petr Louženský *choirmasters* Jakub Hrůša *conductor*	Prague, CZ
14 Apr. 2024	**Czech Ball (Not Only) with Bedřich Smetana**	Prague, CZ
16 Apr. 2024	**Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana** Lada Bočková *soprano,* Ahmad Hedar *piano*	Prague, CZ
17 Apr. 2024 **18 Apr. 2024** **19 Apr. 2024**	**Ludwig van Beethoven, Johannes Brahms** Steven Osborne *piano* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Prague, CZ
22 Apr. 2024	**Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Josef Suk** Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra Jeremias Pestalozzi *violin* Julia Fischer *violin, artistic direction*	Prague, CZ
24 Apr. 2024 **25 Apr. 2024** **26 Apr. 2024**	**Dmitri Shostakovich** Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Prague, CZ
28 Apr. 2024 **29 Apr. 2024**	**Alfred Brendel and Boris Giltburg on Beethoven's Late Piano and Chamber Works** Boris Giltburg | Piano Master Class Alfred Brendel | Master Class for Chamber Ensembles	Prague, CZ
1 May 2024 **2 May 2024** **3 May 2024**	**Ludwig van Beethoven** Lyubov Petrova *soprano,* Lucie Hilscherová *alto* Norbert Ernst *tenor,* Florian Boesch *bass* Prague Philharmonic Choir, Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Semyon Bychkov *conductor*	Prague, CZ
5 May 2024	**Holiday among Notes** Ondřej Tichý and guests	Prague, CZ

8 May 2024 **9 May 2024** **10 May 2024**	**Gioacchino Rossini, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Franz Schubert** Louise Alder *soprano,* Giovanni Antonini *conductor*	Prague, CZ
28 May 2024 **30 May 2024** **3 June 2024** **4 June 2024**	**Programme and performers TBA** Prague Spring Festival	Prague, CZ
8 June 2024	**Hommage à Smetana** Jakub Hrůša *conductor*	Litomyšl, CZ
9 June 2024	**Concert of the Joint Orchestra of Music School Pupils And Musicians of the Czech Philharmonic** Petr Altrichter *conductor*	Prague, CZ
16 June 2024	**Bedřich Smetana** Prague Philharmonic Choir, Lukáš Vasilek *choirmaster* Jakub Hrůša *conductor*	Litomyšl, CZ
18 June 2024 **19 June 2024**	**Chamber Steps to the New World. With Bedřich Smetana** From My Life Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Magdalena Mašlaňová *artistic direction* Petr Kadlec *instructor*	Prague, CZ
20 June 2024 **21 June 2024** **22 June 2024**	**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Jean Sibelius** Emanuel Ax *piano* Franz Welser-Möst *conductor*	Prague, CZ
26 June 2024	**OPEN AIR CONCERT DEDICATED TO JIŘÍ BĚLOHLÁVEK** **Antonín Dvořák, Zdeněk Fibich, Bedřich Smetana, Vítězslav Novák, Leoš Janáček** Kateřina Kněžíková *soprano,* Arnheiður Eiríksdóttir *mezzo-soprano* Jiří Brückler *baritone,* Petr Altrichter *conductor*	Prague, CZ
6 July 2024	**Opera Gala** Tomáš Netopil *conductor*	Litomyšl, CZ
7 July 2024	**Bedřich Smetana** Tomáš Netopil *conductor*	Litomyšl, CZ

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Established by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
Company ID: 00023264

Season Guide 2023/2024 published by the Czech Philharmonic

Concept and art direction
Marek Pistora | Studio Najbrt

Graphic design
Marek Pistora | Studio Najbrt

Illustrations
Zdeněk Trinkewitz

Photography
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Nadia F. Romanini, Karel Šanda
fotoarchiv České filharmonie

Typesetting | DTP
Zdeněk Trinkewitz | Studio Najbrt

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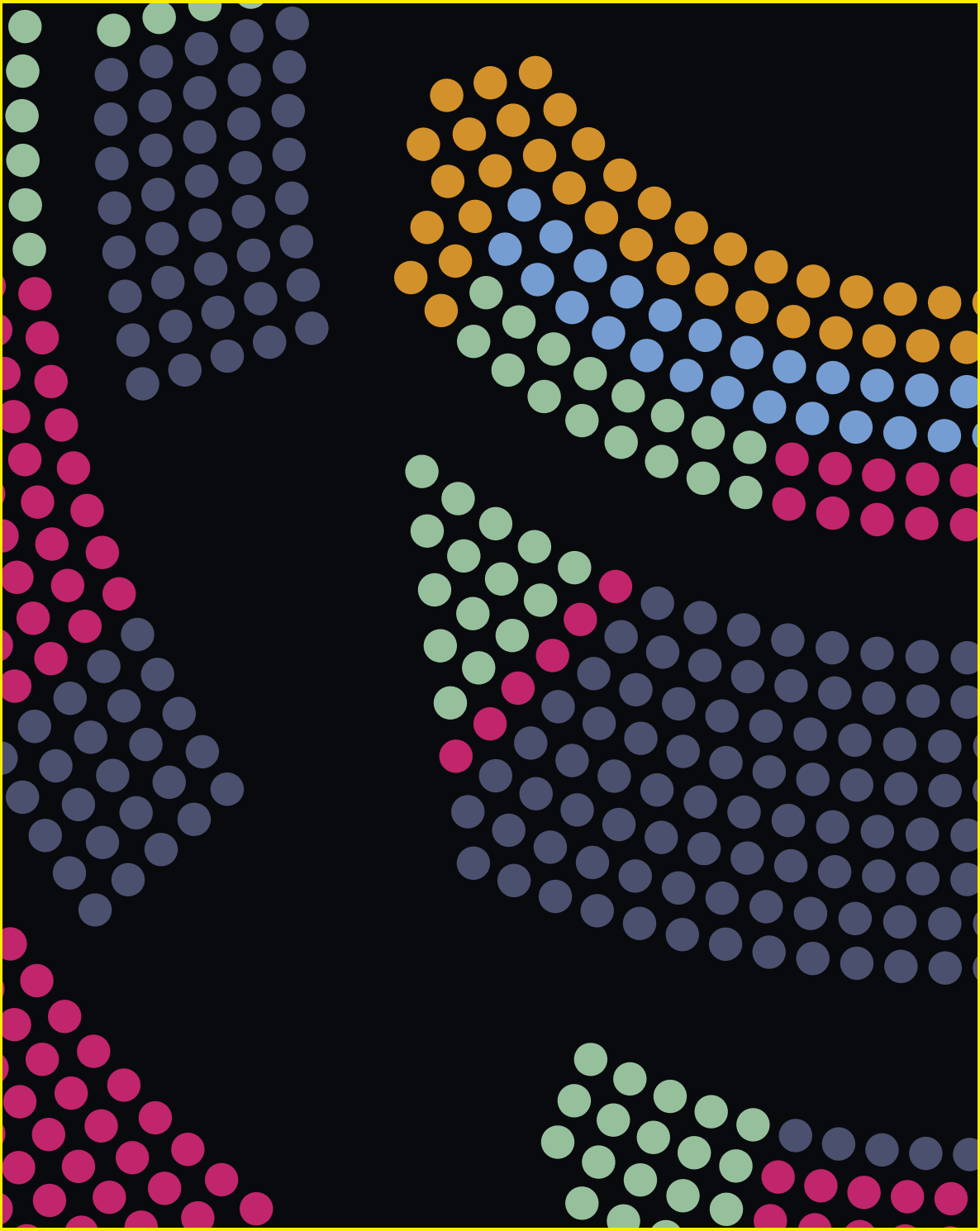
Printing
Minimax Studio

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