

CZECH MUSIC EVERY DAY

EVENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

IN THE AUTUMN OF 2016

When it comes to music events, autumn has traditionally been the most interesting season. This especially holds true with regard to contemporary music. With a slight exaggeration, it can be said that November is the one and only month in which Prague fans of 20th- and 21st-century music do not have a chance to attend all the events on offer. This year, in addition to the Contempuls festival and two concerts held by the Ostrava Centre for New Music, both of which ranked among the indisputable apices (see the separate reviews in this issue), there was also the Days of Contemporary Music in Prague, a festival that within nine concerts presented works by members of the Society of Czech Composers. Pieces by composers spanning the generations were performed by brilliant musicians, including those ranking among the very finest Czech instrumentalists (Petr Nouzovský, Vilém Veverka, Jitka Hosprová, Kateřina Englichová, and others). Intriguing programmes were also featured at concerts given by the MoEns ensemble and the BERG Orchestra.

And there were other attractive events elsewhere. The eighth edition of the MusicOlomouc contemporary music festival encompassed premieres of works by Jan Vičar, Marek Keprt, Lucie Vítková, Ondřej Štochl and František Chaloupka. The Exposition of New Music in Brno afforded space to both Czech and foreign composers and performers (especially worthy of mention is the unique orchestral concert given by Frederic Rzewski, Richard Teitelbaum and Alvin Curran, the founders of Musica Elettronica Viva). Moreover, this year's Musical Present festival of contemporary art in Ostrava featured a variegated programme, which included composition and performance seminars, creative workshops for children, as well as musicology conferences.

With regard to performances of contemporary Czech music abroad, a noteworthy event this autumn was the world premiere of Šimon Voseček's feature-length chamber opera *Hybris*, premiered and performed in November by Austria's sirene Operntheater company at the Theater an der Wien, as a part of the *Hospital-Trilogy*.

More information about the respective events can be found on the blog.musica.cz/en. I hope that the following brief summary may inspire you to visit some of the Czech festivals next year...

12 September, The Prague Market, Prague. **Jan Šikl: *On Trees and People* (world premiere)**. Lenka Dusilová, BERG Orchestra, conducted by Peter Vrábel.

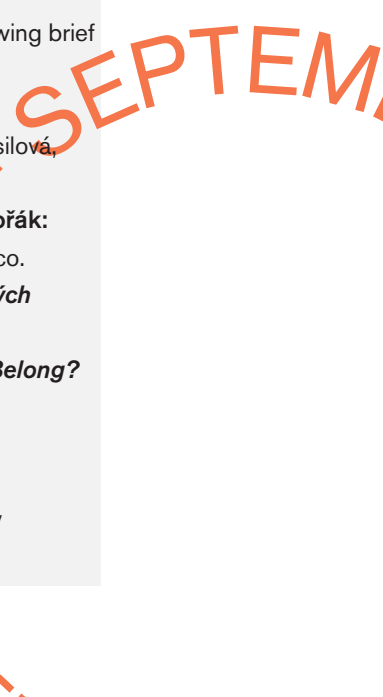
24 September, Tiroler Landestheater und Symphonieorchester Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria. **Antonín Dvořák: *Rusalka* (premiere of a new production)**. Directed by Thilo Reinhardt, music director: Francesco Angelico.

3 October, Corpus Christi Chapel, Olomouc. MusicOlomouc. **Jan Vičar: *3 + 1*, Marek Keprt: *úMžik sypkých výšek zVnitřní* (world premieres)**. Marek Keprt, Jan Přebil, Jiří Fajkus, Eva Balcárková, Lichtzwang.

3 October, K3 Theatre, Olomouc. MusicOlomouc. **Lucie Vítková: *To Whom Do the Horses in the Yard Belong?* (world premiere)**. Cello: Niklas Seidl, guitar: Steffen Ahrens.

4 October, Corpus Christi Chapel, Olomouc. MusicOlomouc. **Ondřej Štochl: *A Fountain from the Cave of Helplessness for string quartet* (world premiere)**. Ensemble Lux.

6 October, Grandhotel Ambassador, Karlovy Vary. **Karel Šimandl: *Voices* (world premiere)**. Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, conductor: Miriam Němcová.



9 October, Tonhalle, Zurich, Switzerland. **Jan Fila: *Three Images for Violin and Piano* (world premiere).** New Kubelík Duo.

9 and 10 October, Spanish Synagogue, Prague. Cinegogue – The Second Sex. Experimental silent films with live music. **Tomáš Reindl: *Hands: The Life and Loves of the Gentler Sex*, Michaela Pálka Plachká: *Dance of Hands*, Jiří Lukeš: *Meshes of the Afternoon*, Matouš Hejl: *At Land*, Miroslav Tóth: *Ritual in Transfigured Time* (world premieres).** BERG Orchestra, conductor: Peter Vrábel.

10 October, Atrium, Olomouc. MusicOlomouc. **František Chaloupka: *A Chalet in the Lake Basin* (world premiere).** Dunami Ensemble.

18 October, Gallery of the Academy of Performing Arts, Prague. Archaion Kallos, "Hesychasm – Music From/ Of the Silence". **Slavomír Hořínský: *Prayer Inside*, Jan Ryant Dřízal: *Organic Study No. 1 for solo piano* (world premieres).** Piano: Andrea Vavrušová.

21 October, Besední dům, Brno. Exposition of New Music. **Pavel Zlámal: *Horizon of the Seventh* (world premiere).** Saxophone: Pavel Zlámal.

23 October, Besední dům, Brno. Exposition of New Music. **Petr Bakla: *First Movement and Variations* (world premiere).** Piano: Emanuele Torquati.

23 October, Teatro Massimo, Palermo, Italy. **Leoš Janáček: *Jenůfa* (premiere of a new production by Anverse Vlaamse Opera).** Directed by Robert Carsen, music director: Gabriele Ferro. Further performances: October 25, 27 and 30, November 2.

29 October, Staatsoper Hannover, Hanover, Germany. **Bedřich Smetana: *The Bartered Bride* (premiere of a new production).** Directed by Martin G. Berger, music director: Benjamin Reiners. Further performances: November 3, 12 and 19, December 3, 15, 27, January 6, 11, 15, February 15.

31 October, St. Agnes Convent, Prague. **Martin Klusák: *Early Spring* (world premiere).** BERG Orchestra, conductor: Peter Vrábel.

2 November, Church of the Virgin Mary under the Chain, Prague. Days of Contemporary Music. **Stanislav Jelínek: *Seven Casings*, Pavel Trojan: *Four Essays*, Milan Křížek: *Diaphonia*, Vilém Zelenka: *Ubi Caritas / Where God Is, Love Is* (world premieres).** Dana Dubová, Drahoslav Gric, Vilém Hofbauer, Petr Čech, František Jaroš, Marek Babka, Lukáš Vencovský, Bubureza female choir, Miloslava Vítková.

3 November, Church of the Virgin Mary under the Chain, Prague. Days of Contemporary Music. **Radek Rejšek: *Missa Campanarum*, Olga Ježková: *Díptych Christus factus est et Magnificat*, Jan Bernátek: *Praise the Lord, All Nations*, Petr Chaloupský: *Dignus est Agnus*, Michael Korbička: *Ave Maria*, Jan Vrkoč: *Motet (Psalm 44)* (world premieres).** Walter Hofbauer, Prague Singers, Stanislav Mistr, Prague Cathedral Choir, Josef Kšica, Miloslava Vítková.

3, 4, 5 and 28 November, Theater an der Wien, Vienna, Austria. **Šimon Voseček: *Hybris* (world premiere).** Production by sirene Operntheater. Directed by Kristine Tornquist, music director: Jury Everhartz.

5 November, St. Antonin Church, Prague. **Eliška Cílková: *Great Wayfaring* (world premiere).** Stamic Quartet, RADOST-Praha choir.

7 November, Gallery of the Academy of Performing Arts, Prague. Days of Contemporary Music. **David Lukáš: *Obsession* (world premiere).** Flute: Kristina Vaculová, piano: Stanislav Slavíček.

8 November, Gallery of the Academy of Performing Arts, Prague. **Marek Kopelent: *Dole žal, hore ráj*, Hanuš Bartoň: *32 Variations on a Tone D* (world premiere), Michal Nejtěk: *Trois morceaux délicieux*, Kamil Doležal: *A Swing* (world premieres).** MoEns, conductor: Miroslav Pudlák.

9 November, Martinů Hall, Academy of Performing Arts, Prague. Days of Contemporary Music. **Pavel Kopecký: *Ricercar for Organ Solo*, Karel Janovický: *Sonata for Cello and Piano*, Jan Kasal: *Schooling, A Door* (world premieres).** Dorothea Fleischmannová, Jitka Vlašánková, Karel Košárek, Alfréd Strejček, Jiří Boušek, Karel Řehák, Pavel Chovanec, Marie Bartošová.

9 November, Janáček Conservatory, Ostrava. Musical Present. **Aleš Pavlorek: *Panta Rei* (world premiere).** Piano: Lukáš Michel, bass-clarinete: Jiří Porubiak, viola: Hana Tomanová.

11 November, La fabrika, Prague. Contempuls. **Jan Trojan: *3107 Miles of Proximity* (world premiere).** PKF – Prague Philharmonia, conducted by Marián Lejava.

11, 12 and 13 November, Arizona Opera, Phoenix, USA. **Antonín Dvořák: *Rusalka* (premiere of a new production).** Directed by Joshua Borths, music director: Steven White.