

Performers at the concert in Simon and Juda

Jiří Hlaváč (clarinet)

He graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (Professor Říha). He is known primarily as a fine instrumentalist who has excelled as a soloist of various classical and contemporary works, showing not only his brilliant technical virtuosity but also his unique sense of the instruments range of color. He has played as a soloist with many ensembles over the world. He is a holder of the Golden Shield Award, Grammy Classic, Title "Man of the Year", award from the ABI (American Biographical Institute). Jiří Hlaváč also pays his attention to organizational work. He is a founder and an art director of specially orientated chamber ensemble which, under the name Barock Jazz Quintet, has over the years performed both standard jazz works and compositions by 20th century composers as Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky, Darius Milhaud and Leonard Bernstein. His broad range of activities is complemented by his endeavours to popularize music and to organize musical events. He is chairman of The Committee of the International Radio Competition for Young Musicians Concertino Praga and chairman of The Prague Spring International Music Competition. He also devotes his time to pedagogical work: Jiří Hlaváč is a Professor at the Music faculty of The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague where, he was dean from 2000 till 2006. Apart from teaching in Prague, he also often participates as a teacher at international courses and master classes throughout the world.

Luboš Hucek (bassoon)

He regularly performs with The Prague Symphony Orchestra. He first aroused considerable public recognition in 1981 when he won The International Prague Spring Festival at the age of 24 when he was already bassoonist of the Film Symphony Orchestra and The National Theatre Orchestra. He has played as a soloist with renowned orchestras at concerts in many countries of the world.

Josef Kšica (organ, harpsichord, piano)

He studied organ at the Conservatory in Brno and at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in the class of professors Milan Šlechta and Jiřina Pokorná. In addition, he studied composition with professor Jan Duchoň. After many years of practicing as an organist and a singer of Czech leading choirs (Prague Philharmonic Choir, Prague Chamber Choir) he has become the choirmaster in St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. Beside these activities, he has been performing old Czech as well as world sacred music, occasionally in new premieres. He also cooperated with the specialist on Bach music, Professor H. Rilling. As an organist he has been performing at concerts in his country and abroad. He has also been increasingly seen on the stage as a conductor. Aside from his interpretation achievements, Josef Kšica is a scholar in many European archives and especially Ars Instrumentalis Pragensis is grateful to him for his constant broadening of their repertoire.

Pavla Kšicová (mezzosoprano)

She studied singing with professors Olga Poštová (who was a student of world famous singer Emma Destin) and Tereza Blumová. She devotes herself to interpretation of old classics (Bach, Handel, Telemann). At the same time, she is also very much appreciated for her interpretation of works of contemporary composers. She has notably collaborated with P. Eben, V. Hálek, K. Slavický and Ferdinand Weiss. She has made a number of highly appreciated solo recordings for radio and TV as well as CDs with the Prague Chamber Orchestra and Virtuosi di Praga. She cooperates on a long term basis with the ensemble Ars Instrumentalis Pargensis and a violinist Jan Kvapil.

Jan Kvapil (violin)

He is a member of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and he also teaches violin at The Pedagogical College in Svatý Jan Pod Skalou. As a violonist of the Talich Quartet, he went for years on concert tours in many countries of the World and won a number of awards (such as the the Grand Prix Charles Charles Cros, the Diapason d'Or, and the Grand Prix de l'Academie du Disque Francais). He was also a member of the Czech Radio Orchestra. Today he devotes himself mainly to the Baroque and contemporary music.

Pavel Nejtek (double-bass)

He is the double bass player with The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra who has been in great demand as a chamber orchestra player. He regularly performs with The Stamitz Quartet, The Panocha Quartet and Apollon Quartet.

Liběna Sequardtová (oboe)

She studied at the Conservatory in Prague (under Professor F.X. Thuri) and graduated from the Prague Academy of Music Arts as a student of J. Mihule. She took part in a number of national and international competitions. The climax of her competition career is the win in the 38th year of the International Competition of the Prague Spring Festival in 1986. She is at present the solo oboist of the Prague Symphony Orchestra. She also devotes herself to chamber play, and appears regularly as solo oboist at concerts in her country and abroad with leading orchestras (among others with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic).

Ivan Sequardt (oboe, horn)

He is a much appreciated English horn player who has been in great demand. He became the member of The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra in 1979. Since 1991 he has been performing with the same orchestra as a solo oboist and, as such, has recorded a number of CDs (Martinů, Mozart, Bach). As a soloist he has performed with The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, The Prague Symphony Orchestra, Solistes Europeens Luxembourg, to name a few.

Tomáš Víšek (piano)

He developed a career as a solo pianist after graduating from the Prague Conservatory (professors V. Kameniková and Z. Kožina), and from the Academy of Music Arts in the class of J. Páleníček and Z. Jílek, He has established his reputation performing both famous and lesser known repertoire, some of which being undeservedly neglected. He has toured throughout the world including Austria, Holland, Switzerland, France, Italy, Japan, and has made several recordings for radio and television and on CDs. Tomáš Víšek won numerous prizes in international competitions. His solo recital in the Prague Spring Festival in 1997 and the further performances there in 2002 and 2003 were met with high acclaim, as were his interpretation of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue in the sold out Rudolfinum concert hall in Prague.

Marek Zvolánek (trumpet)

He has been playing trumpet since he was seven. During his studies at the Prague Conservatory (under professor Vaigl) he became a member of the Big Band of Vaclav Hybš. Later on, he improved his skills at the celebrated Mozarteum, Salzburg (with Professor H. Ganch), and at the Berlin Musikakademie (with Professor K. Groth). At the age of twenty he became a solo trumpet player at the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, where he has been playing through the present time. Marek Zvolanek has plenty of experience in playing chamber music and as a soloist. He is regularly invited to perform as a soloist with many Czech and foreign symphony orchestras, e.g. Prague Symphony Orchestra, Suk Chamber Orchestra, Basel Symphony Orchestra, etc. In Germany, he was invited to take part in the celebrated ensemble "Ten of the Best", made up of ten of the best trumpeters in the world. As a member of the Czech Philharmonic Brasses he regularly takes part in tours around Japan, Germany and Switzerland. In 2004, he led master classes in Japan and in the same year, his Christmas solo concert (trumpet and organ) was broadcast directly on the Euroadio network. He also took part in a whole series of CDs of which mention must be made of the Second Brandenburg Concerto in 1997 for the American company Crystal Records or the project "Ceremony of Trumpets".

Ars Instrumentalis Pragensis

The ensemble has gained great international recognition ever since it came into existence in 1987. It consists of five instrumental players: Luboš Hucek (bassoon), Josef Kšica (organ, harpsichord, piano), Pavel Nejtek (double-bass), Liběna Sequardtová (oboe), Ivan Sequardt (oboe, horn) each of whom is the top representative in his/her field. All of them have played with many internationally known ensembles and they have been awarded prizes from competitions at home and abroad. The ensemble has been concentrating, apart from German, Italian, French and English baroque compositions, on Czech baroque instrumental music dominated by the works of the "Czech Bach" Jan Dismas Zelenka, whose great instrumental cycle of six trio sonatas was recorded by the ensemble in 1994. Ars Instrumentalis Pragensis was highly praised for its interpretation of these Zelenka's sonatas. The ensemble won the First prize and a gold medal at the international competition in Osaka, Japan.