

Jazz Concert

Cinema Hall of the Pyramida Hotel

Wednesday July 27, 2011

20:00 – 23:00

Original Prague Syncopated Orchestra

Trumpet, mellophone, piano:	Pavel Klikar (Artistic leader)
Violin/violinophone:	Jan Šimůnek
Reeds:	
Clarinet, soprano saxophone	Tomáš Jirák
Clarinet, bass clarinet	Vojtěch Pospíšil
Double bass:	Matěj Černý
Banjo:	Zbyněk Dobrohruška
Guitar:	Antonín Šturma
Piano:	Jiří Gilík
Vocal:	Alice Bauer
Special guest:	Tomáš Víšek (piano)

<http://conferences.fzu.cz/fqmt/11/>



Original Prague Syncopated Orchestra

ORIGINAL PRAGUE SYNCOPATED ORCHESTRA (OPSO) is a leading professional ensemble in the Czech Republic, focusing on authentic interpretation of early - 1920's - American jazz, blues and dance music. It is considered the stylistically most pure and artistically most convincing ensemble of its kind.

OPSO first came to be in the mind of Pavel Klikar - trumpet player, band leader, pianist, arranger and musicologist, in the autumn of 1974. As a quintet, with three wind instruments and a two-piece rhythm section - piano and banjo - it had an incredibly authentic sound right from the start and quickly stirred the interest of both listeners and music critics. The ensemble focused on detailed analysis of the recordings from the period and patient effort in recreating its musical thinking and aesthetics, as well as reviving long-forgotten playing and improvisation techniques. OPSO carried this study through with great commitment, even down to use of the original historical instruments.

The OPSO has given over three thousand concerts in the Czech Republic and in most European countries. It has also participated in a variety of important festivals and in a number of shows for German, French, Swiss and British TV stations. Thanks to many TV and radio broadcasts and gramophone editions, the Orchestra has become one of the most popular ensembles in its homeland.

In its current repertoire there are approximately 260 of the most striking melodies from the 1920's. Many of these songs are near-forgotten and yet, in OPSO's experience, exert a powerfully hypnotic effect on the contemporary listener.

Thanks to use of historical instruments, original playing techniques and sophisticated arrangements, the sound of the orchestra is both uniquely authentic and original at the same time.

OPSO particularly enjoys and specializes in the Charleston, Foxtrot, Black Bottom, Shimmy, One Step, Blues and Slow Fox.

The Orchestra plays at a low-key, acoustic sound level, proffering "music to one's ears". Only the singer's voice ever benefits from amplification and the orchestra itself relies on its own acoustic effect, without need for microphones.

The ensemble's heart and soul is its leader Pavel KLIKAR. His authentic and intricate arrangements together with an uncompromising attitude toward stylistic interpretation are the building blocks of OPSO's success. As a trumpet player he leaves his audiences bewildered by his, even by international standards, unique ability to improvise in several forgotten styles. Thus his music is not a copy, but an entirely inventive act of recreating artistic concepts and procedures which have disappeared from our world with the decease of their performers.

In 1996, Pavel Klikar received the Czech Grammy Prize for his artistic activities. He was granted the Award of the Czech Musical Council for his lifetime achievement in 2006.