

4th International Janáček Brno Theatre and Music Festival 2014

<http://janacek-brno.cz/>

Date: 21st to 29th November 2014

Where: City of Brno - the Stages of the National Theatre Brno, Faculty of Music at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts, Theatre Orli, Sono Music Club, Leoš Janáček Memorial, Villa Tugendhat, Stadion Social Centre in Kounicova St and more...

Festival Activities: Opera performances from the Czech Republic and Overseas
Symphonic Concerts
Chamber Concerts
Choral Concerts
Matinéés
International Colloquium
Workshops for Children
Exhibitions
Introductory Lectures

Main Organiser: National Theatre Brno (Národní divadlo Brno)

Co-organisers: Moravian Museum, Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts,
Brno Philharmonic and Masaryk University

About the Festival:

Just as in Czech history, the years ending with the number eight have an almost symbolic significance, so in Czech musical history it is the number four. The National Theatre Brno was opened in 1884; Bedřich Smetana, the founder of national Czech music, lived from 1824 to 1884; Antonín Dvořák died in 1904; Josef Suk was born in 1874 and other composers whose lives are connected with the number four include Kryštof Harant from Polžice, František Václav Míča, Emil František Burian, Jan Rychlík, Karel Kryl and Jan Klusák. A sorrowful anniversary refers to the year 1944, when the outstanding Jewish composers Pavel Haas, Viktor Ullmann and Hans Krása died during the Nazi persecution. However, for the 4th International Janáček Brno Festival 2014, the significant date is the 160th anniversary of Janáček's birth. All of the important musical anniversaries are commemorated in the 'Year of Czech Music' with a sincere and festive quality. The upcoming International Janáček Brno Festival 2014, with the subtitle 'Happy Birthday Leoš!', would like to take a different approach; to joyfully celebrate the birthday of the eternally youthful composer.

Jiří Zahrádka

On the 20th November 2014, the day before the start of the Festival, the opening of the Opera Europa International Conference will take place in the Reduta Theatre in Brno. After seven years, delegates from around the world will again return to the Czech Republic for the Conference. An interview with Nicholas Payne, the Director of Opera Europa, about Czech composers can be found at the link below:

<http://www.ndbrno.cz/press/payne>

The 2014 Festival offers:

The Festival will open with a performance of Leoš Janáček's *The Makropoulos Affair* on 21st November at the Janáček Theatre. The opera will be conducted by Marko Ivanović, directed by David Radok and produced by the National Theatre Brno. The staging of this work is from an historical first critical edition of the score of *The Makropoulos Affair*, prepared by Jiří Zahrádka. The production performed by the Janáček Opera of the National Theatre Brno, is being prepared in coproduction with the Swedish, Göteborg Opera. The main role of Emilia Marty will be portrayed by the famous Swedish soprano, Gitta-Maria Sjöberg.

Opera Graz with the conductor Dirk Kaftan and director Peter Konwitschny bring their production of *Jenufa* to the Janáček Theatre on 23rd November. The opera had its premiere on 29th March 2014.

The National Theatre Opera of Prague will present *The Cunning Little Vixen* on 26th November at the Janáček Theatre, directed by Ondřej Havelka and led by the conductor Robert Jindra. This production will be accompanied by an exhibition to commemorate its world premiere that took place precisely 90 years ago on 6th November at the Divadlo Na hradbách (Theatre on the Wall), now the Mahen Theatre, National Theatre Brno.

The National Moravian-Silesian Theatre in Ostrava will perform the opera production *The Excursions of Mr Brouček*, conducted by Roberta Jindra and directed Jiřího Nekvasi on 25th November at the Mahen Theatre. The opera will have its premiere in October 2014 in Ostrava.

The special guest ensemble, the Kronos Quartet, will perform on 22nd November in the Sono Music Club. Currently it is one of the most prominent string quartets in the world. Since the ensemble was founded 40 years ago in the USA, the quartet has performed thousands of concerts world-wide, released more than 50 recordings and collaborated with many of the world's most accomplished composers. They are winners of a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance (2004) and "Musicians of the Year" (2003) from Musical America. In 2011, they won both the Polar Music Prize and the Avery Fisher Prize, two of the most prestigious music awards. In Brno the Kronos Quartet repertoire will include music by the minimalist Steve Reich, who was inspired by works of Leoš Janáček.

The Kronos Quartet: David Harrington, John Sherba (violins), Hank Dutt (viola) and Sunny Yang (cello).

In addition, the Festival offers for example Béla Bartók's *Concerto No. 1 for Piano and Orchestra*, which Leoš Janáček discussed in length with Béla Bartók.
More in the programme ▼

The Festival is held with the financial support of the Statutory City of Brno, Ministry of Culture, Leoš Janáček Foundation and the South Moravian Region. This project is co-financed with the European Union.

Advance ticket bookings: from 1st May 2014.

Attention! A 30% discount applies for all bookings up until 31st August.

Ticket Outlets: Box Offices - National Theatre Brno, Dvořákova 11 and Reduta Theatre, Zelný trh.

Info Centres: Blansko, Boskovice, Břeclav, Hodonín, Hustopeče, Kyjov, Luhačovice, Prostějov, Přerov, Rosice, Slavkov, Svitavy, Uherské Hradiště, Veselí nad Moravou, Vyškov, Zlín, Znojmo.

Info Centre Brno: Dům pánů z Lipé, Náměstí Svobody 17.

Czech Republic: Ticketportal - online ticket bookings.

Overseas: Classicatic - online ticket bookings.

**As part of the Festival, these discounts apply:
Festival Pass MFJB 2014 = major discount!**

The Festival Pass consists of 6 or 3 coupons which can be purchased at the National Theatre Brno Box Office.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 6 coupons / 6 tickets | 3 coupons / 3 tickets |
| Festival Pass - adults | 1 800 Kč | 900 Kč |
| Festival Pass - students | 900 Kč | 450 Kč |

Discounts: 30% seniors; 50% students, children, holders of a ZTP card; 50 Kč JAMU; 50 % Friends of the Opera and Ballet of the National Theatre Brno (Klub přátel opery a baletu NdB).

Discounts cannot be combined. More information at www.ndbrno.cz



Translation: Camille Kafka