

# Prague Philharmonic Choir

2014 US Tour

Monday, November 10, 2014; 7:30 pm

**Principal Conductor:** Lukáš Vasilek

**Piano Four-hands:** Lenka Navrátilová & Marcel Javorček

## PROGRAM

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

**Moravian Duets, Op. 29 / B60**

**Moravian Duets, Op. 32 / B62**

*For female choir and piano*

1. The Slighted Heart
2. Parting without Sorrow
3. The Pledge of Love
4. The Maid Imprisoned
5. The Ring

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

**Three Male Choruses on Folk Texts, Op. 43**

*For male choir and piano four-hands*

1. Sorrow
2. Wondrous Water
3. The Maiden in the Wood

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

**In Nature's Realm, Op. 63**

*For mixed choir a capella*

1. Music Descended on my Soul
2. Bells Ring at Dusk
3. The Rye Field
4. The Silver Birch
5. With Dance And Song

## INTERMISSION

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

**Love Song Waltzes, Op. 52**

*For solo voices, mixed choir and piano four-hands*

1. Speak, Maiden, Whom I Love All Too Much
2. Against the Stones the Stream Rushes
3. O Women, O Women
4. Like the Evening's Lovely Red
5. The Green Hops Vine
6. A Small, Pretty Bird
7. Quite Fair And Contented
8. When Your Eyes Look at Me
9. On the Banks of the Danube
10. O How Gently the Stream
11. No, There's Just No Getting Along
12. Locksmith – Get Up And Make Your Locks
13. The Little Bird Rushes Through the Air
14. See How Clear the Waves Are
15. The Nightingale, It Sings So Beautifully
16. Love Is a Dark Shaft
17. Do Not Wander, My Light, Out There
18. The Bushes Are Trembling

## PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**Tour Direction:** Tim Fox and Alison Ahart Williams

Columbia Artists Management LLC

New York, NY

www.cami.com



The Prague Philharmonic Choir, led by principal conductor Lukáš Vasilek, is a professional choral ensemble of almost 70 members which has been performing and recording all over the world for 80 years. It collaborates with renowned orchestras and conductors of the international music scene, and is considered one of the most popular choirs in Europe.

It began performing in January 1935, under the leadership of its founder, Jan Kühn, as the Prague Radiojournal Choir, later the Czech Choir. Originally an amateur body, it gradually became professional and, in 1951, it was affiliated with the Czech Philharmonic, which it remained a part of until 1990. The choir is currently an independent ensemble. Principal conductors since the 1960s have included Josef Veselka, Lubomír Mátl, Pavel Kühn, Jaroslav Brych and Jan Rozehnal. Since 2007 the post of principal conductor has been held by Lukáš Vasilek.

### Cooperation with Orchestras and Conductors

The Prague Philharmonic Choir regularly collaborates with leading Czech and international orchestras, including the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, PKF – Prague Philharmonia, Berlin Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Dresden, Staatskapelle Berlin, Mahler Chamber Orchestra and many others. During its long history, the Prague Philharmonic Choir has achieved exceptional musical quality, based on its cooperation with outstanding conductors such as Sir Charles Mackerras, Riccardo Muti, Pierre Boulez, Seiji Ozawa, Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, Sir Simon Rattle, Michael Tilson Thomas, Christoph Eschenbach, Christopher Hogwood, Ingo Metzmacher, Fabio Luisi, Manfred Honeck and Jiří Bělohlávek. It also collaborates with the upcoming generation of conductors, including Czech conductors Jakub Hrůša and Tomáš Netopil.

### Repertoire

The Prague Philharmonic Choir has a wide repertoire that is focused primarily on a cappella, cantata and oratorio works from classicism to the present. Recently it has also been invited, in various chamber forms, to perform renaissance and baroque music. An important part of the choir's repertoire is opera, both in concert and incidental forms. In addition, the Prague Philharmonic Choir is considered an exemplary performer of Czech music (e.g. Dvořák, Janáček and Martinů) and music by Slavic composers (e.g. Rachmaninov and Shostakovich). Performing this kind of music is in demand thanks largely to its distinctive colorful sound and the well-suited language skills of its singers.

### International Cooperation

The Prague Philharmonic Choir performs almost 90 concerts a year, most of which take place abroad. During its long history, it

# Prague Philharmonic Choir

continued

has performed at many venues around the world, including La Scala in Milan, the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, the Royal Theatre in Madrid, the Monte Carlo Opera, the Champs-Élysées Theatre in Paris, the Zurich Opera and the Semper Opera House in Dresden. This year, the Prague Philharmonic Choir can be heard at concerts in Paris, Berlin, Munich, Bad Kissingen, Lugano (Switzerland), Torino and Reggio (Italy), Mexico, Washington, New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Since 2010, the Prague Philharmonic Choir has been the choir in residence of the prestigious Opera Festival in Bregenz, where it has performed over the years, with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra at the lakeside scene not only in *Aida*, *André Chénier* and *The Magic Flute*, but also in its own concerts, or at the world premieres of *Passenger* by Mieczysław Weinberg, *Miss Fortune* by Judith Weir, *Solaris* by German composer Detlev Glanert, and *The Merchant of Venice* by André Tchaikowsky. The last work received the prestigious International Opera Award 2014.

## Recordings

The first recording by the Prague Philharmonic Choir was made in 1952 (Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and Václav Talich). Since then it has produced more than 100 titles for a number of global companies. Its successful recent recordings include compositions on the *Souvenirs* album by soprano Anna Netrebko and the opera *La Lodoiska* by G.S. Mayr. In the spring of 2014, a recording for Sony with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra was made, *Beethoven's Choral Fantasia in C Minor*. The most recent individual profile CD (2012) with choral compositions by Leonard Bernstein, Zoltán Kodály and Leoš Janáček received excellent reviews.

## Individual Concerts and Educational Activities

The Prague Philharmonic Choir organizes its own choral concerts in the Rudolfinum's Dvořák Hall and in the former Church of Saint Simon and Jude. The dramaturgy of these concerts is focused on modern choral works, particularly on compositions from the 20th century and works by contemporary composers. At its last concert in June 2014, the choir performed four "Cantatas of the Highlands" by Bohuslav Martinů in their entirety in the Rudolfinum's Dvořák Hall.

In the last two seasons, the choir has performed educational concerts in collaboration with primary schools, and concerts for parents with children. It has also organized the Choral Singing Academy for three years, which focuses on students of singing attending conservatories and music colleges. Students who successfully complete the demanding audition will have the opportunity to become acquainted with the repertoire and work of a professional choir during the season.

[www.philharmonicchoir.cz](http://www.philharmonicchoir.cz)

## LUKÁŠ VASILEK: Principal Conductor

Lukáš Vasilek has been the principal conductor of the Prague Philharmonic Choir since 2007. In addition to the preparation and management of individual concerts, he prepares the ensemble for participation in large cantata, oratorio and opera projects, cooperating with the world's leading conductors (e.g. Barenboim, Bělohlávek, Eschenbach, Honeck, Mehta) and orchestras (e.g. Berliner Philharmoniker, Czech Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Dresden, Wiener Symphoniker). Since 2010 he has regularly performed with the choir at the Bregenzer Festspiele Opera Festival. The performances of the Prague Philharmonic Choir under his leadership are captured on many CDs issued, for example, by *Deutsche Grammophon*, *Naxos*, *Neos*, *Oehms Classics* and *Supraphon*.

Lukáš Vasilek graduated in conducting from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and in musicology from the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. From 1998 to 2009 he was conductor of the Foerster Chamber Choir, achieving, for example, absolute victory in the international choir competitions in Klaipėda (2003) and Vienna (2006). In 2005 he received the "Junior Conductor" award from the Czech Choral Union for his achievements with the ensemble. At the same time, he was also the second choirmaster of the National Theatre opera ensemble in Prague, with which he prepared several operas. In 2010 he created a jazz vocal ensemble to work with Bobby McFerrin at his concerts in the Czech Republic. In the same year he also established the Martinů Voices chamber choir, focusing mainly on performance of choral works of the 20th and 21st centuries. The ensemble performs under his leadership at leading music festivals (such as the Prague Spring) and records CDs for major companies (e.g. *Supraphon*). Lukáš Vasilek has also performed with several Czech symphony orchestras (Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra, South Czech Philharmonic, Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra and North Czech Philharmonic).

## Prague Philharmonic Choir Roster

### Soprano

Lenka Bartošíková  
Marie Bartošová  
Gražyna Biernotá  
Hana Červenková  
Eliška Demel Trnová  
Martina Harváňková  
Martina Kritznerová  
Romana Letošníková  
Marie Matějková  
Denisa Myslivečková  
Marie Němcová  
Věra Příbylová  
Andrea Soukupová  
Jana Sováková  
Dagmar Williams  
Dana Zíková  
Dagmar Výborná  
Pavla Frassová

### Alto

Zuzana Bártová  
Daniela Demuthová  
Jana Drábková  
Jana Dvořáková  
Agata Hauserová  
Ludmila Hudečková  
Lenka Jančíková  
Magda Kaňková  
Dagmar Novotná  
Štěpánka Pýchová  
Dana Sedmidubská  
Romana Soukupová  
Marie Šmaterová  
Hana Vasiluková

### Managing Director

Eva Sedláková

### Conductor

Lukáš Vasilek

### Choir Manager

Radim Dolanský

### Tenor

Viktor Byčok  
Tomáš Fiala  
Tomáš Hinterholzinga  
Zdeněk Kazda  
Petr Klíma  
Vladimír Okénko  
Bronislav Palowski  
Miloslav Pelikán  
Zdeněk Polda  
Alexander Sedláček  
Bohumil Sládeček  
Martin Slavík  
Linhart Švancar

### Bass

Vladimír Hambálek  
Tomáš Hanzl  
Michael Havlíček  
Josef Chaloupka  
Karel Chaloupka  
Michal Krůšek  
Pavel Kudrna  
Pětr Kůtina  
Michael Mergl  
Peter Poldauf  
Vladislav Renza  
Petr Svoboda  
Miroslav Vácha

### Piano

Lenka Navrátilová  
Marcel Javorček



Photography by Petra Hajaska