



CITY OF PRAGUE
Municipality of Prague
Public Relations Department

Press release

Mozart in Prague also in 2006

Mozart and Prague are in perfect harmony, deserving to be uttered in the same breath. At one time the city provided succour to the peerless composer and warmly received his works. Now, by co-organising the Mozart 2006 project, the city's present management link up to a time-honoured tradition, attest this bond and pay homage to the master, the 250th anniversary of whose birth falls on January 27. Within the Mozart Prague 2006 project, the music-loving public is offered more than 190 concerts, opera performances, exhibitions, film projections and other cultural events to choose from. Commensurate to the importance the city attaches to this year's Mozart celebrations is a level of financial support exceeding 15 million Czech crowns, as well as the auspices being assumed by the Lord Mayor of Prague, Pavel Bém.

The Prague Municipality has directly invested 10.8 million Czech crowns in the project, while to the tune of 1 million via the Municipal House it has supported the creation of a documentary about the musical genius covering Mozart's three stays in Prague. An additional 3.7 million crowns has been released by the city on Mozart celebrations, through fourteen grants for culture and arts.

According to Bohumil Černý, the Prague councillor entrusted with culture and tourism in the metropolis, Prague has yet to make full use of its fame in relation to Mozart, remaining (somewhat unjustly) in the shadow of Vienna and Salzburg, although for Mozart it was always his most beloved city. *"I believe that the Mozart celebrations will give back to Prague the position it rightly deserves,"* Černý said.

The entire Mozart year in Prague will be replete with concerts of leading Czech orchestras and soloists. On the anniversary of W. A. Mozart's birth, January 27, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Manfred Honeck, will perform at the Estates Theatre Symphony No. 38 in D major, the "Prague Symphony", Concerto in A major for Clarinet and Orchestra, and the overture to the opera Don Giovanni.

During the course of the year, the celestial strains of Mozart's compositions will be heard in the Municipal House, the Rudolfinum, the State Opera, Bertramka, as well as the Saint Simon and Jude Church, the Týn Cathedral and Saint Giles' Church. On March 9 the Czech premiere of the ballet *Mozart? Mozart!* will take place at the National Theatre. From the middle of March until September the National Museum will host the exhibition "Music in Prague 1760 – 1810", while another exhibition in the Clementinum will map the composer's relationship with Prague and present the so-called Mozart's memorial, i.e. a collection of precious period transcripts of Mozart compositions. The whole project will culminate in the performance of the leading Czech opera singer Eva Urbanová and the Prague Symphony Orchestra FOK at the Gala Concluding Concert in the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House on December 14.

Details of the project, including continuous programme updates, can be found at www.mozartpraha2006.cz

Prague, January 10, 2006

Bohumil Černý – Councillor of the Prague City Council

Elected to his office on September 1, 2005, working in the area of culture, tourism and congress tourism, churches and religious associations and funeral services.

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