



University of North Texas College of Music

Conference Recital | Friday, November 10, 2023 | 7:30 pm | Recital Hall

SARA'SMILE - U.S. Premiere **Fifth International Czech Festival of Music** **Czech Music Initiative • Benjamin Graf, Coordinator**

a multimedia opera project by the composition team of
Sára Medková, Ivo Medek and Vít Zouhar

Bringing a personal testimony with fragments
of laughter and forgotten music

featuring

Sára Medková, piano, voice
Ivo Medek, ready mades, percussion
Vít Zouhar, laptop
Rocc, staging
Lukáš Medek, video

Three hundred fifth program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

The **Janáček Academy of Performing Arts (JAMU)** is an art higher education institution, one of four in the Czech Republic. It was founded in 1947 and currently consists of two faculties, the Faculty of Music and the Theatre Faculty. There are approximately 750 students studying in more than 30 bachelor's, master's or doctoral fields of study that cover a wide range of musical and dramatic arts, such as percussion, string and wind instruments, conducting, singing and opera directing, jazz, musical composition, theatre dramaturgy and directing, drama and musical acting, physical theatre, drama education, theatre and music production, scenography or radio and television dramaturgy and screenwriting. JAMU is a global partner of the University of North Texas College of Music. cen.jamu.cz/

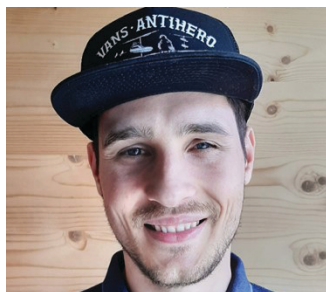
Palacký University Olomouc (UP) is an internationally respected and scientifically and academically highly productive university in Central Europe. Founded in December 1573, it is the second-oldest university in the Czech Republic and the oldest in Moravia. For 450 years it has contributed to the intellectual wealth of society and to its scientific, cultural and social development. Every year 23,000 students study with UP's eight faculties, which provide over a thousand combinations of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral study programs. Virtually every discipline is offered, in teacher training, law, theology, physical education and sports, the humanities, social sciences and the arts. UP is a global partner of the University of North Texas College of Music. www.upol.cz/en/

The **University of North Texas College of Music** is the largest public university music program in the United States and one of the most globally respected. Faculty and staff include internationally acclaimed artists and scholars in composition, conducting, ethnomusicology, music education, music business, music history, music theory, commercial music and performance. The college presents nearly 1,000 music events annually. Students perform in more than 70 ensembles in eight campus venues and concerts can be viewed worldwide via free live streaming. UNT music alumni can be found around the world in impressive, award-winning careers across a wide range of music professions. UNT is the fastest growing university in Texas with nearly 47,000 students and is a global partner of both Janáček Academy of Performing Arts and Palacký University Olomouc. music.unt.edu

Ivo Medek, composer, improviser and author of several monographs, is a professor of composition at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, where he held the position of dean and rector. He is the author or co-author of seven operas and more than fifty chamber and orchestral compositions and multimedia projects; many of them have been performed on major stages in Europe, Asia and America by the world's leading performers. He has lectured at more than twenty foreign universities and professional institutions.



Lukáš Medek is a member of the CBE Software Independent Development Studio, and has produced internationally successful games (*J.U.L.I.A: Among the Stars* and *Someday You'll Return*) at HF JAMU and the conservatory in Brno. Lukáš has six years of professional experience in the field of 3D graphics, digital collage creation and 2D graphics for advertisements, computer games and animations. He has worked on projects for advertising companies, game developers, medical companies, cultural and artistic associations and photographers.



Sára Medková is praised by professional critics primarily for her brilliant technique, thrilling temperament and unusual musicality. In addition to being invited to the famous international Shanghai Spring Music Festival, she debuted at the renowned Murchison Performing Center in Dallas, Wild Beast in Los Angeles, Music Center in Jerusalem, Central



Conservatory in Beijing, BVVA concert series in Madrid and the Royal Academy in Ghent. She is the only Czech pianist to give a solo recital at the prestigious PIANODROM festival in Albania. The successful debut at the Shanghai International Music Week Festival 2015 was described by critics as "art of the highest quality." She is a laureate of several international piano competitions (e.g., Yamaha Competition, Concorso Argento in Italy, International Piano Competition Salerno and J. Suk International Piano Competition). In 2009 and 2012 she received prestigious scholarships from the Czech Music Fund and the Authors' Protection Association Award for the most successful young composer of classical music, and in the same year she was invited to write a compulsory composition for the Rubinstein Piano Competition. A recent success is the prize for the best interpretation of a Czech composer after 1950, which Sára won in 2019 at the International Summer Academy in Reichenau, Austria. She has performed on concert stages in 23 countries in Europe, the United States, Asia and Africa at Shanghai Spring Music Festival, New Music Week, Ciclo conciertos de solistas fundación BBVA, Ohrid Summer Festival, Moravian Autumn, Exposition of New Music, Janáček Brno, Pianodrom, Forfest, PostmutArt, Smetana Days, Meeting New Music Plus, Ad libitum, Audioart, Schemnitzensis, Art's Birthday and others. She is a member of Ensemble Marijan and a founding member of the ISHA trio, with whom she recorded the CDs *Ancient Stories* and *Love Stories*.

Slovenian-born opera and music theatre stage director, scenic designer, dramaturge, performance artist, opera manager and pedagogue **Rocc** (b. 1979 in Ljubljana) studied opera stage directing at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, Czech Republic, followed by postgraduate studies in scenography at the Universities of Art and Design in Zurich, Switzerland, and in Offenbach am Main, Germany. He has staged more than 60 different productions in Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Norway, Germany, Italy, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Great



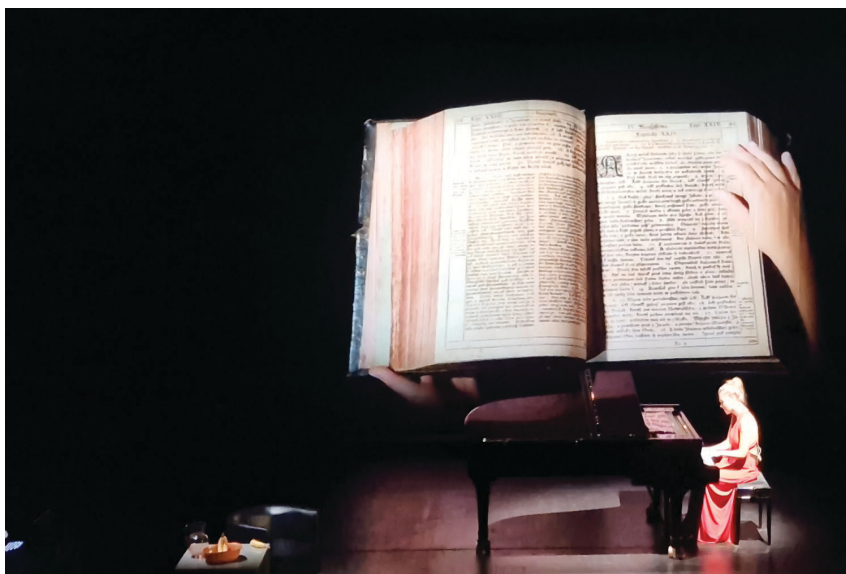
Britain and Israel. Rocc has a special affinity for contemporary opera and experimental music theatre combining alternative sound, performing and installation arts, new media and site-specific projects. In the 2007–2008 season he held the post of Dramaturge of the Slovenian National Opera in Maribor. The 2008–2009 season saw him as Deputy Artistic Director of the Janáček Opera of the National Theatre in Brno, in 2009–2011 he was Artistic Director of the Janáček Opera. In 2011–2013 he was Artistic Director of the Prague State Opera, which has been affiliated with the National Opera in Prague since 2012. In 2013–2019 he was Artistic Director of the Slovenian National Opera in his hometown Ljubljana. In 2018 Rocc received the Recognition for Important Works of Art, the highest artistic title of the University of Ljubljana, which is equivalent to the scientific title of Doctor of Science. He is also active as a pedagogue of opera stage directing and opera acting and as a member of professional juries.

Vít Zouhar (b. 1966) is a composer, musicologist and professor at Palacký University in Olomouc. He is the author or co-author of ten operas (*L'Arianna*, *La Dafne*, *Coronide*, *Torso*, *ECHO*), more than sixty orchestral and chamber works (*Gate of the Sun*, *Close Encounters of Those Wilde at the Heart*, *Pinnas columbae*), musical games and sound installations (*Arcadi*, *zAHRAda*, *Tastes*, *Planina*, *EUOUA*). His music is associated with minimalism and postmodernism. Zouhar is the winner of the Alfréd Radok Award, the NUBERG Award and many other awards. A



number of compositions were commissioned (National Theatre in Prague, Prague Spring, Moravian Autumn, Berg Orchestra, Ensemble Damian) and are regularly performed and recorded in Europe and the United States. In 2001, Zouhar co-founded the Different Hearing Program, which focuses on composing in music education. With Jaromír Synek and Jiří Kopecký he published the book *Hudební hry jinak* (2014) and with Jaromír Synek and Ivo Medek *Composing in the Classroom: Different Hearing* (2014). His theoretical works are focused on the music of the twentieth and twenty-

first centuries (Bohuslav Martinů, minimalism, musical postmodernism). From 1992 to 2004 Zouhar worked at the Institute for Electronic Music at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Graz. Since 1992 he has been lecturing at the Department of Music Education of the Faculty of Education of Palacký University in Olomouc. Since 2010 he has been Vice-Rector of Palacký University in Olomouc.



The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas

Since 1954 the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT) has been promoting the study of Czech language and culture in Texas institutions of higher learning through a variety of funded programs.

CEFT Board of Directors

Chair: Ray Lenart
Vice-Chair: John Sefcik
President: Donnie Victorick
Vice-President: Brian Vanicek
Vice-President: Diane Sulak Wilson
Vice-President: Dan Hrna
Secretary: Lynette Urbanovsky
Treasurer: Cindy Pustejovsky

CEFT Residency in Czech Music and Culture at the University of North Texas

Frank J. and Hermine Hurta Kostohryz
Residency in Czech Music and Culture

Dr. Jim J. and Rose A. Bezdek Endowment
Celebrating Czech Music and Culture

Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation

Dr. Francis Kostohryz

The Texas Chair in Czech Studies at the University of Texas The CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M

CEFT is the recipient of the Jan Masaryk Gratias Award
from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CEFT.US

ADMINISTRATION

UNT SYSTEM

MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS, Chancellor

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

NEAL SMATRESK, President

MICHAEL MCPHERSON, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

COLLEGE OF MUSIC

JOHN W. RICHMOND, Professor and Dean

WARREN HENRY, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

KIRSTEN SORIANO, Associate Dean for Operations

EMILITA MARIN, Assistant Dean for Business and Finance

RAYMOND ROWELL, Assistant Dean for Scholarships and External Affairs

JAYMEE HAEFNER, Director of Graduate Studies

MARK MONTEMAYOR, Director of Undergraduate Studies

DAVID HEETDERKS, Chair, Division of Music History, Theory and
Ethnomusicology

MOLLY FILLMORE, Chair, Division of Vocal Studies

STEVEN HARLOS, Chair, Division of Keyboard Studies

JON CHRISTOPHER NELSON, Interim Chair, Division of Composition Studies

KIMBERLY COLE LUEVANO, Chair, Division of Instrumental Studies

ROB PARTON, Chair, Division of Jazz Studies

SEAN POWELL, Chair, Division of Music Education

ANDREW TRACHSEL, Chair, Division of Conducting and Ensembles

CYRIEL AERTS, Director, Piano Services

MATT HARDMAN, Director, Communications, Marketing and Public
Relations

AUSTIN MARTINEZ, Director, Recording Services

CAROL POLLARD, Director, Undergraduate Advising

JOEL WILEY, Director, Admissions

MARIA BAYLOCK, Executive Assistant to the Dean of the College of Music

MATT HELLMAN, Program Design