



University of North Texas College of Music

Conference Recital | Saturday, November 11, 2023 | 7:30 pm | Recital Hall

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

Opera about women in different life situations.

Chamber opera about the transformations of women's roles, desires, needs and objects of their interests: love, mother, instrument, toy, emancipation... The topic was inspired by news reports that respond to the changes in women's attitudes and rights of the last decade and the changes in their perception in global society. The eternal female stories become a parallel to Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and legends. *TiAMO* is an opera about women that was created for members of the ISHA Trio, where the very name "isha" means woman in Hebrew.

featuring

Isha Trio:

Bree Nichols – substitute voice for Lucie Rozsnyó

Hana Hána, flute, voice

Sára Medková, piano, voice

and

Ivo Medek, ready made, percussion

Vít Zouhar, voice, laptop

Rocc, staging

Lukáš Medek, video

Three hundred sixth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

The **Czech Music Initiative** of the University of North Texas College of Music continues to create unique life-changing opportunities for students, faculty and staff. Our partnership with the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT) promotes the performance of Czech folk music connecting students and the public to Czech music and culture inspiring creative and artistic endeavors.

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

Hana Hána (b. 1991) is a Czech flutist, vocalist and performer. She studied flute at the Brno Conservatory and completed a master's degree at JAMU with Václav Kunt. During her studies, she was accepted into the orchestral academy of the Brno Philharmonic, the academy of the Prague orchestra FOK and became a member of the



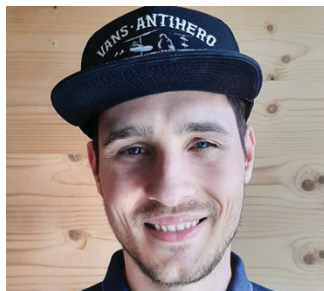
orchestra of the National Theater in Brno. She currently works as a flute teacher at the Brno Conservatory, where she is also the guarantor of educational courses for a group of wind instruments. She has performed as a flute and vocal soloist with the Czech Philharmonic Choir Brno, Czech Virtuosi, Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc, the State Chamber Orchestra Žilina, the Moravian Chamber Orchestra, the Police Symphony Orchestra and others. She regularly performs solo at concerts and festivals in the Czech Republic and abroad (Mikolowskie dni muzyki, Audio Art Krakow, Schemnitiensis, Music Olomouc, Opera Festival, Organ Festival Brno, ForFest, Meeting of New Music Plus, Janáček Brno and others). She is also a chamber musician (numerous recitals in Provence) and focuses on multimedia production, combining flute playing, singing, movement and dramatic rendition (collaborating with the ISHA trio and others). She is engaged in teaching activities (music workshops, music therapy and yoga). She took courses with flutists (P. Bernold, C. Novakova, Peter Verhoyen, J. Bálint, C. Levine, R. Winn and others), singers (Iva Bittová, Ida Kellarová) and improviser David Moss.

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*.

Arlington-based soprano, vocal educator, and arts professional Dr. **Bree Nichols** is living her American Dream in The American Dream City as the founder and General Director of Opera Arlington. Opera Arlington is an organization formed in 2022 to educate, inspire, challenge, amaze, nurture and empower artists and audiences by presenting quality opera performances that foster a more interculturally-conscious and compassionate community in Arlington and the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex. Bree Nichols is a young American soprano praised for her “rich vocal disposition” (*KlasikaPlus*) and compelling stage presence. A Fulbright grantee to the Czech Republic in 2021–22, Bree is known for her sensitive interpretations of Czech vocal



music as well as over a dozen operatic roles spanning a diverse repertoire. Her career has taken her to the stages of the North Czech Philharmonic, Opera Pilsen, Symphony of the Mountains, Capitol City Opera, Opera Roanoke, Lewisville Lake Symphony, the Olomouc Baroque Festival, and more. In 2023, she won 1st place in the Artist Division of the National Opera Association's Carolyn Bailey Argento Vocal Competition. She was also the winner of the 2020 Presser Award in support of her performance and study of Czech opera. Her recent roles include the title roles of *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *The Bartered Bride* as well as Gilda in *Rigoletto* and Nedda in *Pagliacci*. Off the stage, Bree Nichols is a scholar and innovator in community opera advocacy, where her performance expertise informs her leadership in shaping the next generation of musicians. She is founder and former general director of Stafford Opera Troupe in her hometown of Stafford, Virginia; there she created the Summer Opera Program offering free training and performance opportunities to young singers. Bree holds a master of music degree from University of Georgia and a doctor of musical arts degree from University of North Texas. Her dissertation, culminating in the creation of an anthology of Czech opera arias with corresponding research, translations, and phonetic transcriptions, has galvanized her continuing performance and study of Czech opera and art song in the United States and abroad.

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, where he has also served as Vice-Rector since 2010.

The **ISHA Trio** (Lucie Rozsnyó, Hana Hána, and Sára Medková) was founded in 2007 at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno and soon ranked among the top ensembles at home and abroad. The ensemble includes Lucie Rozsnyó (soprano), Hana Hána (flute), and Sára Medková (piano). The repertoire of the ensemble includes compositions ranging from Baroque to contemporary music, in which the ensemble specializes. The trio performs on prestigious stages in Europe, China and the United States. It has performed at international music festivals Audio Art Krakow, Charterhouse International Music Festival, Moravian Autumn, Exposition of New Music, Janáček Brno, Smetana Days, Music Olomouc, Meeting New Music Plus, Presence Prague, Days of Contemporary Music, Schratzenbach Olomouc, Forfest, etc. The recordings *Ancient Stories* (2011) and *Love Stories* (2015) met with a positive response from the audience and the professional public.



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.

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