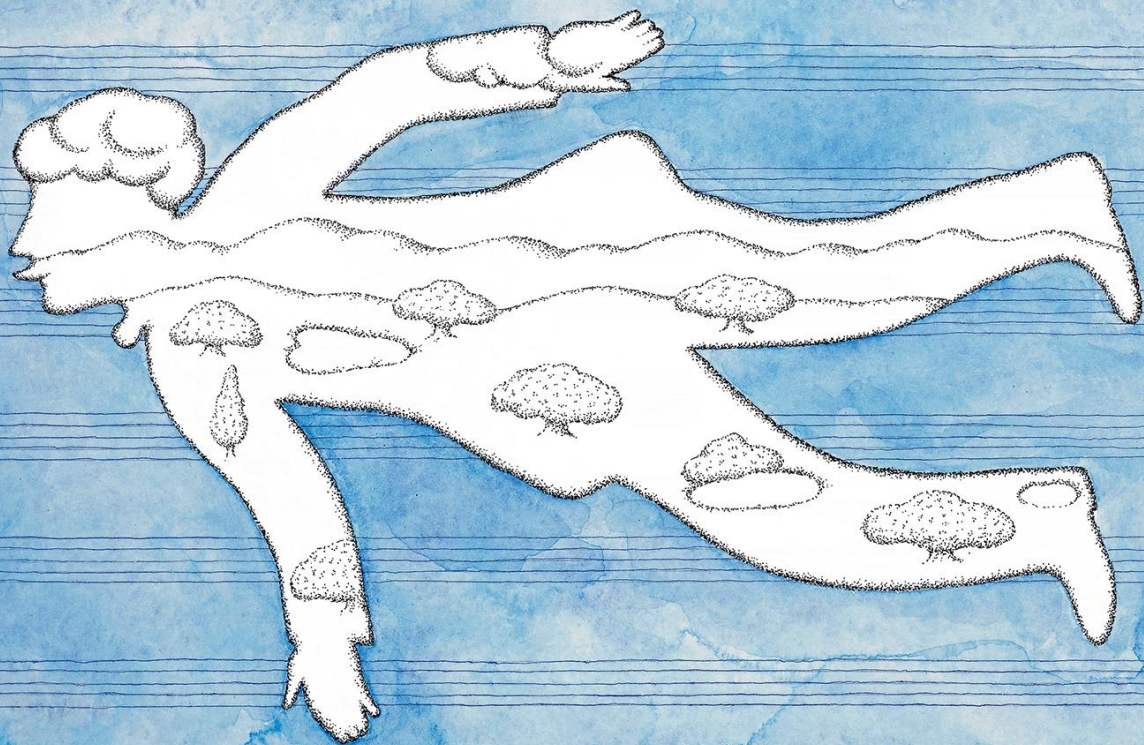
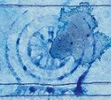
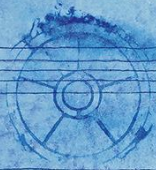


NdB opera



JANÁČEK BRNO 2024

9th International
Opera and Music Festival

1-24/11/2024

janacek-brno.com

With financial support

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The Festival Janáček Brno 2024 went beyond limits

Press release, 26 November 2024

Brno became the centre of the music world in the autumn when it hosted the 9th prestigious international opera and music festival Janáček Brno from 1 to 24 November. With more than 50 productions to choose from, the festival offered an extraordinary showcase of opera and concert works over a period of 24 days focusing on the celebration of the Czech musical tradition in the Year of Czech Music through the works of Leoš Janáček and other Czech composers. The festival, which has established a distinguished international reputation, attracted widespread attention from Czech and foreign audiences, which was reflected in sold-out venues and a positive audience response. The festival is not quite over yet, however; its “echoes” can still be heard on 3 and 4 December in the form of performances of a production of *The Excursions of Mr. Brouček* by the ensemble at National Theatre Brno’s Janáček Opera.

“There is no doubt that Brno is a European cultural metropolis that cannot be ignored thanks to the evolution of Leoš Janáček’s legacy. And the festival is the flagship of these activities. The exclusive festival programme with extraordinary guests is a testament to the way in which National Theatre Brno is capable of organising an extensive and high-quality event of this kind in such a professional manner. I am proud that our productions can hold their own effortlessly in a first-rate European context.” Martin Glaser, Director of National Theatre Brno.

The festival was officially opened by a new production of *The Excursions of Mr. Brouček* by the ensemble at Janáček Opera directed by Robert Carsen – *“The festival fulfilled its goals and offered a diverse view of Janáček’s operatic work in an international context. The co-production with the Berlin State Opera and Teatro Real Madrid opened up a successful path to the world for one of Janáček’s lesser-known operatic works. I consider the staging of productions by leading world artists Robert Carsen and Claus Guth to be an absolutely extraordinary event on the domestic stage, as was the guest performance by the Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin in the production of The Makropulos Affair. The Czech opera scene also offered a controversial staging of Janáček’s work with a new production of Jenůfa by the Moravian Theatre Olomouc.”* Jiří Heřman, Artistic Director of the Janáček Brno Festival.

“The festival also commemorated the works of other Czech composers in the context of the celebrations of the Year of Czech Music. The opera The Charlatan by Janáček’s pupil Pavel Haas returned to the Mahen Theatre after an absence of almost 90 years, and the festival programme also offered performances by the young generation of artists in the form of a programme put together by Brno Conservatory and a trio of world opera premieres by students at Janáček Academy of Performing Arts (JAMU). The ceremonial finale also commemorated the hundredth anniversary of Janáček’s The Cunning Little Vixen.” Patricie Částková, dramaturg of the festival’s opera series.

In addition to opera performances, visitors also had the opportunity of attending a number of concerts – both orchestral and chamber recitals – held at venues all over Brno. *“The thirty or so concerts, whose common denominator in this Year of Czech Music was the music of Czech composers in various contexts from the nineteenth century to the compositions of contemporary composers, were received extremely enthusiastically by listeners and critics. The highlights of the orchestral series included a concert by the Bamberger Symphoniker and Staatskapelle Berlin with Jakub Hrůša. Among the chamber concerts, the performance by tenor Nicky Spence, pianist Lada Valešová and the Navarra String Quartet featuring song cycles by Pavel Haas received a tremendous response. The sold-out Mahen Theatre showed its appreciation for the Evening Songs performed by Adam Plachetka and pianist David Švec and the violin recital by Jan Špaček accompanied by Miroslav Sekera,”* adds Jiří Zahrádka, dramaturg for the festival’s

concert series. The Pavel Haas Quartet, a traditional guest at the festival, also gave unique concerts during the festival, while National Theatre Brno's Janáček Opera Orchestra also gave a symphony concert with violinist Jan Mráček and conductor Robert Kružík.

This year, the festival went beyond limits not just musically, but also in terms of attendance statistics. Receipts for festival tickets amounted to a record 8,233,124 CZK with an average attendance of 91 % at the festival performances held to date. The festival has been visited by 16,603 visitors so far. In comparison with the previous record year of the festival in 2022, this is an incredible increase in receipts of 92.6 % and an increase in total festival attendance of 52.2 %. Even these wonderful figures are not yet final, however! Tickets for our festival "echoes" at the Janáček Theatre on 3 and 4 December are still on sale and the festival will still be welcoming a number of additional visitors in 2024. *"This year's festival fulfilled its motto No limits!... without reservation. Visitors from all over the world coming to hear Janáček's music created a unique festival atmosphere. It is an honour and a commitment for us to have such an exceptional audience at the festival. Something truly extraordinary has been created in Brno thanks to the legacy of Leoš Janáček,"* adds festival secretary Pavel Lojda. The website www.janacek-brno.cz records more than 130,000 visitors in 2024. Press reviews came not just from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, but also from Great Britain, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, Canada and the USA.

In addition to concerts and operas, the festival also prepared an extensive accompanying programme in co-operation with its partners, including exhibitions at theatre buildings and other venues and traditional introductions before performances and discussions after performances. The festival managed to bring Janáček closer to younger generations thanks to a programme for children featuring events such as *Hurvínek in the footsteps of the Cunning Little Vixen*, *Behind the Curtain with The Excursions of Mr. Brouček* and the workshop *When You Hear the Name Janáček!* Visitors could also take a closer look at Janáček's life thanks to a number of special excursions and other accompanying events organised by Brno Tourist Information Centre, such as a special menu prepared from recipes from the cookbook of Janáček's housekeeper Marie Stejskalová at establishments throughout Brno. Jazz evenings were also held under the banner of the festival at Brno's ERA and Zeman cafés.

A number of festival productions could also be enjoyed by audiences in their own homes. Czech Television broadcast an extraordinary live orchestral concert by the Bamberg Symphoniker with conductor Jakub Hrůša and pianist Daniil Trifonov, and Czech Radio presented a live broadcast of a concert by Nicky Spence, Lada Valešová and the Navarra String Quartet featuring song cycles by Pavel Haas. Recordings of both productions can be still be enjoyed for a limited period on their websites. Czech Radio will also be making other recordings of festival concerts available – the concert by Brno Contemporary Orchestra and the folklore concert *Intoxicated by Song* transmitted to the whole world over the EBU network. Thanks to Czech Television and the OperaVision platform, it will also be possible to watch a worldwide live stream of festival "echoes" with a production of *The Excursions of Mr. Brouček* on 4 December. A recording of this performance is also to be broadcast by Czech Radio in addition to Czech Television.

The festival is held with the financial support of the Statutory City of Brno, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Leoš Janáček Foundation and the South Moravian Region. The general partner of the festival is the Bohemian Heritage Fund. Its principal media partners are Czech Television and Czech Radio. Its principal partner is J&T banka. The festival was held under the auspices of President of the Czech Republic Petr Pavel, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Petr Fiala, Minister of Culture Martin Baxa, Governor of the South Moravian Region Jan Grolich, Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno Markéta Vaňková and Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Prague Andreas Künne.

The 10th jubilee Janáček Brno Festival is to be held from 15 October to 17 November 2026. The programme for the festival is to be published in November 2025. Complete information about the festival can be found on the website www.janacek-brno.com.

JANÁČEK BRNO 2024

1 – 24 November

The 9th International Opera and Music Festival

NO LIMITS!...

Selected festival photographs can be downloaded using the link below (thank you for giving credit for any photographs used): www.flickr.com/photos/jb2024/albums

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