



## Talented American Students Performing Janáček

Press Release from the Czech Center (main office) – October 22, 2020

Students and teachers of the Mannes School of Music by The New School, one of the most prestigious American conservatories, will be honoring the famous Czech composer Leoš Janáček with a concert of his work this month. The audience will have a chance to experience a truly unique performance compiled by the Mannes School which will include not only Janáček's compositions but also poems of his peer Czech artists Jaroslav Vrchlický and Otakar Březina. The performance, initiated by the Czech Center New York, is a part of the annual Mannes Sound Festival and will take place on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Traditionally held in the Czech National Hall, this year's concert will be held online providing an exceptional opportunity to the gifted young artists from New York to reach a global audience.

Regardless of strangeness of this year, the students of New York will not break the tradition lasting for 20 years and will devote one of the Mannes Sound Festival concerts to the Czech music heritage. Janáček's concert undoubtedly belongs to the highlights of this year's program. The first tones of Janáček performed by the young artists can be heard on October 23 via the platforms of Czech Center New York and Mannes School of Music, the New School.

**PAVLINA DOKOVSKA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE MANNES SOUND FESTIVAL:** *“Our festival team is so excited to collaborate again with the Czech Center in New York. I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the director Mr. Konvalina and his wonderful team for giving us the opportunity to pay tribute to the great Czech composer Leoš Janáček, celebrating his life through his music. While we were all hoping to greet you at the magnificent Bohemian National Hall, we are still happy that we can reach out you and present the concert online. You will hear some of the most important piano compositions of Janáček.”*

**MIROSLAV KONVALINA, DIRECTOR OF THE CZECH CENTER NEW YORK:** *“In cooperation with the Janáček Archive of the Moravian Museum in Brno, TIC Brno, Metropolitan Opera and Czech Center New York, we introduced a unique exposition the Genesis and Life of Janáček's Opera Káťa Kabanová this spring. The exposition, accompanied by paper collages of Vendula Chalankova from Brno, was supposed to be the first part of the great re-introduction of this famous piece of opera in America. Nevertheless, the pandemics has changed a lot and both the Czech and American artists agreed on to move the programs online.”*

*The Czech Center New York has also introduced a lecture by Michael Beckeman, professor at New York University, performance of the renowned pianist Kathelyn Bouska, spring video greetings of the Czech cellist Štěpán Filípek or Janáček jam session by the opera singer Kristýna Kůstková and the pianist Michal Šupák. During the fall, the program has been enriched by the young American pianist Isabel Keleti. Miroslav Konvalina highlights that the upcoming concert is supposed to be the peak of this year's program that was devoted to Leoš Janáček and perception and interpretation of his work in the United States.*

**JÍŘÍ ZAHRÁDKA MUSIKOLOGIST AND CURATOR OF JANÁČEK ARCHIV OF THE MORAVIAN MUSEUM IN BRNO:** *“I am very pleased to observe the broad scope and reach of the Janáček project despite the fact it was hit by the pandemics during its early stage. Through the exhibition, we have introduced to America not only interesting details on the ever first release of the opera Káťa Kabanová in Brno, but also information about the history of Janáček's operas in Metropolitan Opera. At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to the Metropolitan Opera Archives for its brilliant cooperation and its thorough care for documentation of Czech operas' history in the most distinguished American opera scene. Furthermore, we have prepared a virtual commented tour through the Janáček's house in Brno where he spent the last 18 years of his life working on his most remarkable pieces.”*

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**The World of Leoš Janáček: A performance by Mannes School of Music's young artists takes place on October 23 at 7 pm (EST), live via [Czech Center Facebook](#)**

**The exposition Genesis and Life of Janáček's Opera Kát'a Kabanová can be seen in the gallery of Czech Center New York.**

*The exhibition is brought by the Janáček Archive of the Moravian Museum in Brno, TIC Brno, Metropolitan Opera and Czech Center New York, with a support of Dvořák American Heritage Association.*

*The concert is presented as part of the Mannes Sounds Festival in partnership with the Czech Center New York.*

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