Ostrava, 2 Feb 2022

**THE PROGRAM OF THE 2022 LEOŠ JANÁČEK INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL HAS BEEN RELEASED**

**The Leoš Janáček International Music Festival brings a varied program for this year. From May 29 to July 1, 2022, festival visitors enjoy thirty festival events in six cities in the Moravian-Silesian Region. The imaginary program axis consists of large symphony concerts by foreign ensembles – the Zagreb Philharmonic or the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, led by the legendary Russian conductor, Vladimir Fedoseev. This year's recitals will feature young performers who are already conquering world stages – cellist Zlatomir Fung from the USA, guitarist Miloš Karadaglić from Montenegro or French harpsichordist Jean Rondeau, who is also the artist-in-residence of the Festival. Enthusiasts of not only classical music will certainly appreciate folklore, jazz, drama and ballet. The complete program and online booking is available at www.mhflj.cz/program.**

‘After the restrictions that have marked the last two years of the Festival, this year we present the program in its traditional full form. In addition to not only classical music events, in this year’s program we also include a wide number of additional events such as exhibitions, tours, debates and matinees with artists, and there will also be a program for families and children. We believe that we will meet the expectations of the audience and that the Janáček Festival will once again live up to its reputation as one of the most important cultural and social events across the borders of our region,’ says Jaromír Javůrek, the director of the Leoš Janáček International Music Festival.

**THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FESTIVAL**

**The Best of the Symphony**

This year's symphony concerts can be confidently described as festival highlights. The Zagreb Philharmonic and soloist Jean Rondeau – already well-known in his thirties – will perform under the baton of Tomáš Netopil, the president of the Festival. It is not a coincidence that this concert is conceived as a ‘listener's treat’. The most anticipated event of the 2022 Festival is the ‘come-back’ of conductor Vladimir Fedoseev, who will return to the Festival in Ostrava where he began his international career thirty-nine years ago with his Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra from Moscow.

**Young Artists on the Stage!**

A characteristic feature of this year's Festival is the number of talented performers who already achieve international fame at a young age. In addition to Jean Rondeau, one of the world's leading harpsichordists today, the festival will also welcome cellist Zlatomir Fung from the USA, the youngest winner of the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in its history, and Milos Karadaglić, one of today's most sought-after concert guitarists from Montenegro.

**Natives of the Region**

Every year, the audience is presents with artists connected with the Janáček Region. This year, the natives of the region are represented by: Beata Hlavenková, a singer and a pianist, an arranger and a composer, who won the Anděl 2019 Award in the category of solo performer; opera singer Patricia Janečková, who won the international singing competition of liturgical music entitled Concorso Internazionale "Musica Sacra" in Rome; and pianist Marek Kozák, the recipient of the prestigious International Piano Competition Géza Andy in Zurich in 2021.

**Additional Events for Wide Public**

Also this year, visitors can look forward to a family weekend in Hukvaldy with workshops for children. Throughout the Festival, there will also be a number of debates and meetings with artists and performers in concert halls and festival cafes, a tour of Hukvaldy Castle, the exhibition entitled ‘František Podešva – Confined by Happy Surrender’ in the Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava, and many more.

**A Music Lover Shall not Live on Classical Music Alone**

The Leoš Janáček International Music Festival is no longer just a festival of classical music – jazz lovers can look forward to a jazz evening with the Robert Balzar Trio, and dance admirers to the ‘dance feast’ performed by the ballet ensemble of the Moravian-Silesian National Theatre. The Ondráš Military Artistic Ensemble will arrange a folklore evening in the Hukvaldy Deer Park. The musical drama Cantata with a stellar cast at the Mír Theatre also awaits the visitors of the Festival.

**Something for Artistic Spirits**

An important part of the Festival is the program for the professional public. This year's historically second master class of the Festival will be held by the excellent violinist, Ivan Ženatý. The master class will be followed by a concert given by the recipients of the Generation competition award – an international competition for composers under 30 years of age.

**FESTIVAL IN NUMBERS:**

30 festival events

22 festival concerts

6 cities of the Moravian-Silesian Region – Ostrava, Hukvaldy, Opava, Frýdek-Místek, Příbor, Ludgeřovice

10 countries of the world where the performers come from – France, Germany, Poland, USA, Russia, Montenegro, Great Britain, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Croatia

and 1 fox (the Little Vixen)

**ABOUT THE FESTIVAL:**

The Leoš Janáček International Music Festival was established in 2018 by merging two important classical music festivals named after Leoš Janáček: Janáček's May and Janáček's Hukvaldy, and it continues their history which spreads over more than 40 years. The goal of the Festival is to present works of classical music in the Moravian-Silesian region with an emphasis on the work and legacy of Leoš Janáček, performed by top Czech and international artists and ensembles. The Festival is a long-term member of the European Festival Association, and together with the Prague Spring International Music Festival also the only members from the Czech Republic, and thus it represents Czech festival events and Czech classical music on this platform as well.

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