



## *Vilém Veverka, oboe*

Winner of the 7th Oboe competition of Tokyo (Sony music foundation, 2003)

Vilém Veverka (1978) is one of the Czech Republic's most respected interpreters. A graduate of the Prague Conservatory (F. X. Thuri) and Prague's Academy of Performing Arts (Liběna Séquardtová), he also attended a number of courses by French oboist Jean-Louis Capezzali. His involvement in the *Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra* was a key spur to his artistic development, as were his subsequent studies under leading German oboist Dominik Wollenweber at Berlin's Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler. A two-year stint with the Berlin Philharmonic (on a Karajan Foundation grant) greatly benefitted his professional development, while the preeminent foreign oboists *Albrecht Mayer*, *Hansjörg Schellenberger*, *Maurice Bourgue* and *Heinz Holliger* provided him with more than mere inspiration. His journey culminated with triumph in one of the most prestigious oboe competitions, the Sony Music Foundation (Tokyo, 2003).

Veverka's performances of contemporary music have won him attention as a soloist. His repertoire includes pieces in all styles, from Baroque to contemporary. He works with outstanding Czech and foreign orchestras (*Prague Philharmonia*, *Prague Symphony Orchestra*, *Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra*, *Brno Philharmonic Orchestra*, *Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra*, *Vancouver Symphony Orchestra*, *Bayerisches Kammerorchester*, *Münchener Kammerorchester*, *Slovak Philharmonic*, *Krakow Philharmonic*, etc.). He has performed several demanding compositions from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in their Czech premiere (*Berio*, *Britten*, *Carter*, *Feldman*, *Rihm*, *Yun*, *Zimmermann*), including concertos by *Martinů* and *Kopelent*. His versatility as an interpreter underscores not only the first Czech complete recordings of Telemann's 12 Fantasias for Oboe solo but also the first complete rendition of Zelenka's Trio Sonatas with the *Ensemble Berlin-Prag*, which he founded in 2011 with members of the Berlin Philharmonic. Veverka is solo oboist with the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, chief of the *Philharmonia Octet* and an ambassador of the French company Buffet-Crampon. In 2014 he was artist in residence at the top German festival Mitte Europa. In September 2015 he brought out his third solo *album* on Supraphon, of concertos by Bach, Vivaldi and Telemann, which he recorded exclusively with Ensemble 18+.

An other solo album on Supraphon is the brand new CD "Impressions" - music for oboe and harp, recorded with the excellent czech harpist Kateřina Englichová (2017).



## *Monika Boušková, oboe*

### Solo-english hornist in Prague Symphony Orchestra

Monika Boušková (1977) graduated from Prague Conservatory (in the class of Prof. František Kimel). During her studies she also attended courses led by the French oboist Jean-Louis Capezzali at French-Czech Academy of Music in Telč.

She was a member of the *Karlsbad Symphony Orchestra* (1998-2000), of the *Pilsner Philharmonic Orchestra* (2001-2005) and since September 2005 she has been an oboist and solo English hornist of the *Prague Symphony Orchestra*.

English horn has become the chief focus of her professional life. With *Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra* and *Pilsner Philharmonic Orchestra* she has performed solo in compositions for English horn by Juraj Filas and Jean Sibelius. For *Czech Radio* she has also recorded compositions for English horn by P. Hindemith, E. Bozza, Z. Košnarová and L. Matoušek.

She is a member of *PhilHarmonia Octet* and together with her colleague of the *Prague Symphony Orchestra* she founded a chamber ensemble *Juventus Collegium FOK*.

In 2012 she founded and started managing *Bohemian Artists* concert agency, which represents several leading Czech artists – soloists or members of chamber ensembles. She produced a documentary movie *Hillborg & Dohnal: Music in motion*, premiered in February 2016.



## *Karel Dohnal, clarinet*

Karel Dohnal is a laureate of international clarinet competitions, such as *Prague Spring*, *Premio Valentino Bucchi in Rome*, *Dos Hermanas in Spanish Seville*, *Pacem in Terris in Bayreuth* or *Young Artist Competition in Belgian Ostend*.

Karel Dohnal graduated from the Conservatory in Ostrava (Petr Bohus) and from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (Vlastimil Mares). He continued his studies at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London (Thea King, Julian Farrell, Joy Farrall), Universität der Künste in Berlin (Francois Benda), Rimsky-Korsakov Saint Petersburg Conservatory (Valery Bezruchenko) and at the Conservatory in Hilversum (Henk de Graaf). Karel Dohnal is also a co-founder of the International master class courses in Ostrava. At the same time, he is also frequently invited as a lector to a variety of interpretive seminars all over the world.

As a soloist performer of works of *C. Nielsen*, *K. Penderecki*, *J. Tiensuu*, *A. Copland* and of numerous other composers. Karel Dohnal played to audiences in many countries of Europe, Asia, North and South America, performing as in chamber recitals as well as under the accompaniment of orchestras, such as *Prague Philharmonia*, *Prague Chamber Orchestra*, *Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra in Ostrava*, *South Czech Chamber Philharmonia*, *Philharmonia in Lvov*, *Philharmonia in Szczecin*, *Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra*, *Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice*, *Czech Chamber Orchestra*, *Talich Philharmonia Prague*, *Hofer Symphoniker* and other ensembles.

Karel Dohnal is also a highly recognized and sought-after interpreter of the contemporary music. He devoted his doctoral thesis to the study of modern clarinet performance techniques, revealing and initiating emergence of many compositions of solo and chamber repertoire of such composers as *Antonin Tucapsky*, *Otmar Macha*, *Jiri Teml*, *Juraj Filas*, *Petr Wajsar*, *Ales Pavlork*, *Ivana Loudova*, *Ondrej Stochl*, *Krzyszimir Debski* and others.

Karel Dohnal has also enjoyed great acclaim with his unique performance of *Karlheinz Stockhausen's Harlequin*, where he as a harlequin in addition to his virtuosic playing the clarinet, demonstrates his comedic and acting talent. Karel Dohnal is one of few clarinetists in the world who performs this exceptionally difficult composition, which has received unsurpassed acclamation from critics as well as from the public.

Karel Dohnal has been introduced in Czech premier and in his own choreography scenic performance of the *Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra by Anders Hillborg* called "*Peacock Tales*" for the Music forum festival in Hradec Králové in November 2015.



### *Irvin Venyš, clarinet*

is by all means an outstanding artist of the young Czech generation. He gained top awards in the world most renowned international music competitions - *Prague Spring, Pacem in Terris Bayreuth, EBU New Talent, Paris, Zurich, Madeira* .

He repeatedly proves these honours at the most prestigious festivals in Europe – Pablo Casals Festival Prades, Festival Mitte Europa, Mozart der Europaer – Mannheim, Prague Spring, Dvořák Prague – and podiums all over the world - Japan, Germany, France, Spain etc. Extraordinary is the range of his musical activities, reaching from classical repertoire through extremely demanding contemporary compositions – world and Czech premiers - Osvaldo Golijov, Betty Oliveira, Isang Yun, Jan Dušek - Concerto for clarinet and orchestra, N-Tech etc.- to traditional folklore. He has collaborated with the world leading artists - *Heinz - Jörg Schellenberger, Radovan Vlatković, Zakhar Bron, Peter Czaba, Igor Ardašev, Sir Libor Pešek, Ralph Gothoni, Elina Vahala, Michel Lethiec, Hagai Shaham, Andre Cazalet or Jean - Louis Capezzali* etc. His musical education is also worth mentioning. He has graduated The Brno Conservatory - Prof. Břetislav Winkler- The Academy of performing arts in Prague – Prof. Vlastimil Mareš and Prof. Jiří Hlaváč (PhD), where he is a professor in the mean time and also spent a year at Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris in the class of professor Michel Arrignon.

In the mean time he frequently records for Czech Radio and Czech Television, Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk, Arco Diva and NAXOS. His recordings on Compact discs contain music from classical clarinet repertoire to works inspired by folklore and jazz.



## *Václav Vonášek, bassoon*

### Contrabassoonist in Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

began devoting to the bassoon at the Plzeň Conservatory, where he studied between 1994 and 2000 under the tutelage of Ladislav Šmídl and subsequently Matouš Křiváček. He went on to study at the Faculty of Music of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in the classes of Prof. František Herman and Prof. Jiří Seidl, graduating in 2005 with a master's degree. He rounded off his education in 2011 by receiving a Ph.D. degree. In 2005 he was awarded a Prize of the Ministry of Education for his excellent study achievements. In the wake of his victory in the Czech-Slovak Talent of the Year 2002 competition, he obtained a scholarship that allowed him to attend the Royal College of Music in London, where he studied with Andrea de Flammis and Martin Gatt. At the Prague Spring 2002 International Music Competition, he won second prize and the Czech Music Fund Award for the best performance of a contemporary Czech composition. In 2004 he came first at the International Double Reed Society Competition in Melbourne and in 2005 won the international competition in Łódź, Poland. Other successes include 3rd prize in Markneukirchen (2006), 3rd prize at the ARD competition in Munich (2008) and victory at the *Prague Spring* 2009 competition.

Václav Vonášek has a great passion for transcribing J.S. Bach's music for bassoon as well as for woodwind ensembles (e.g. the Goldberg Variations for woodwind quartet). He also focuses on pieces for bassoon without accompaniment, which were the theme of this Ph.D. thesis. As a chamber musician has performed with Trio Arundo (2011 Czech Chamber Music Society Award) and the Philharmonia Octet. From 2006 till 2016 he was a bassoonist and contrabassoonist of the *Czech Philharmonic Orchestra*. In the same year, he began working regularly with the Barocco sempre giovane ensemble, with whom he has appeared at *Prague Spring*, *Concentus Moraviae*, *Mitte Europa* and other festivals. Together they also recorded a CD, released by Supraphon in 2013.

Since 2016, Václav Vonášek has been a contrabassoonist of the *Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra*.



## *Martin Petrák, bassoon*

### Bassoonist in Czech Philharmonic Orchestra

It has a wide range of experience in historical and modern music. He started his music career, when he was 9 years old. Subsequently he continued his studies under leading of prof. J. Řezáč (The Czech Nonet) at the Prague Conservatory. During his studies he participated in the 1999 on music courses Szandor Végh under the guidance bassoonist Sergio Azzolini and oboist Maurice Bourgue. Subsequently, he continued his studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in the class prof. F. Herman (*Ars Rediviva, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra*) and J. Seidl (Collegium Musicum Pragenses, Czech Philharmonic), where he began knowledgeable interpretation under the guidance of an excellent musician – organist Lukáš Vendl (*Harmonia delectabilis*). In the Thesis of the Academy of Music, he realized – development, production and early Baroque repertoire for bassoon. After graduating in 2005, he became the member of the *Czech Philharmonic Orchestra*.

In 2008 he founded the instrumental ensemble VENTI DIVERSI ensemble, which capitalized on his experiences from previous collaborations with artists from the MA /A / and with whom in the autumn of 2008 he released his debut CD with works G.Ph. Telemann „La Putain“ which won an award „Best CD of 2008“ by The Prague Post. The ensemble has over the years introduced at many prestigious Czech and international festivals.

In 2016, bassoonist Martin Petrak founded chamber orchestra Haydn Ensemble. He's also the artistic director and conductor of the Haydn Ensemble.

Martin Petrák is a member of *Trio DuBois* and *PhilHarmonia Octet*.

Since 2011 he is assistant professor of University in Ostrava – Faculty of Arts.



## *Přemysl Vojta, french horn*

### Principal hornist in WDR Symphonic Orchestra

is a prize winner of various International competitions, Přemysl Vojta was awarded first prize in the 2010 International ARD competition. He also received the audience prize and the prize for the best performance of a new work and the special award from the New Philharmonie Westfalen. In 2011, after his successful debut at the Beethoven Festival Bonn, he received the prestigious Beethoven Ring Award.

Přemysl is born in 1983 in Brno (Czech Republic), began playing the horn at the age of ten, under the mentorship of Olga Voldánová. After studying at the Prague Conservatory from 1998 until 2004 with Bedřich Tylšar he moved to Germany, where he was a student of Christian-Friederich Dallmann at the Universität der Künste Berlin from 2004-2010. Now is he teaching at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne.

Current engagements include performances as a soloist with the *Academy of St Martin's in the Fields*, the *Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra*, the *Stuttgart Radio Orchestra*, the *Berlin Konzerthaus Orchestra*, the *Wiesbaden state theater Orchestra*, and the *Prague Philharmonic*. He has performed in recitals and solo concerts in prestigious European festivals including the Bonn Beethoven Festival, the Prague Spring, the Festival „Mitte Europa“ and the Mount Olympus Festival in St. Petersburg.

As a student Přemysl Vojta was a Member of the *Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra* and the *European Union Youth orchestra* as well as performing with the *Prague Philharmonia*. He held the position of *Principal Horn with the Staatskapelle Berlin* and *Berlin Konzerthaus Orchestra*. Since December 2015 is he *principal hornist at WDR Symphonic Orchestra Cologne*.





## *Ondřej Vrabec, french horn*

### Solo-hornist in Czech Philharmonic Orchestra

In spite of his age, the conductor and horn player Ondřej Vrabec (1979) is one of the most seasoned Czech artists. Though the majority of his recent musical activities is represented by conducting, he benefits from his rich artistic experience derived from intensive concert career of soloist, chamber and orchestra player dated long before the threshold of his adulthood. In mere 17 years, he sat down for the first time on the first chair of horn section of the *Czech Philharmonic Orchestra* and two years later, he was definitely appointed a solo horn player of this orchestra. He is a graduate of Prague Conservatoire and of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (conducting - prof. R. Eliška, J. Bělohlávek, F. Vajnar and others).

In 2007, he ranked the 4th place in the Prague Spring International Conducting Competition. In 2015 he was finalist of the Tokio International Conducting Competition and gained Honorary Mention. As a solo player he has performed with tens of Czech and foreign orchestras (among others *Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra, Bavarian Chamber Orchestra, Sólistes Européenes Luxembourg, NCPA Orchestra Beijing, Augsburg Philharmonic Orchestra, State Philharmonic Košice, Rzeszow Philharmonic, Lviv Philharmonic*) under the baton of world famous conductors like *Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Edo de Waart, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Ian Volkov, Lü Jia etc.*

He has always been very active on the field of chamber music (*PhilHarmonia Octet, Brahms Trio Prague etc.*)

He created an extensive sound recording library for Czech Radio and several gramophone titles. The profile CD of Brahms Trio Prague, realized in a unique manner in his own music and sound directing, has gained great responses of critics both at home and abroad. The reviewer of the prestigious American magazine *Fanfare* termed it probably the best world recording of Trio Es Dur, op. 40 by J. Brahms being realized so far.