

Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc

On tour

Concerts in Hungary
and Croatia in May 2024





Olomouc
Moravian
Philharmonic
Olomouc



Budapest
27. 5.
Grand Hall of Liszt
Ferenc Academy
of Music



Pécs
28. 5.
Kodály Centre



Varaždin
29. 5.
Croatian National
Theatre in Varaždin



Dubrovnik
31. 5.
Rector's Palace

Celebrate with us!
The tradition of the Year of Czech Music began exactly one hundred years ago, in 1924, with the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Bedřich Smetana. Since then, with a few exceptions, the Year of Czech Music has been held in every year that ends with the number four. The year 2024 is the year of many anniversaries of Czech composers or composers active in the Czech lands.

Programme of the tour's concerts

Bedřich Smetana
Overture from the Opera "The Bartered Bride"

Josef Suk
Fantasia for Violin and Orchestra in G minor, Op. 24

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70
Allegro maestoso
Poco adagio
Scherzo: Vivace – Poco meno mosso
Finale: Allegro

Ivan Ženatý – *violin*
Zsolt Hamar – *conductor*

Opening words



The celebration of the Year of Czech Music is intertwined with countless cultural events this year. The Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc also joined the celebrations. Throughout this year, it offers a wide range of musical genres from classical to folk music to jazz and alternative. This year's events within the Year of Czech Music also include a commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bedřich Smetana, and the presentation of Czech works is one of the popular programmes with which the Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc regularly travels abroad. Conducted by Zolt Hamar, they will present the music of Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák in Hungary and Croatia. We are music, that is the motto of this year's celebration. Above all, music unites and knows no borders. I wish the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc a successful tour and Czech music a happy journey around the world!

Martin Baxa,
*Minister of Culture
of the Czech Republic*

We shall remember a year with a four at the end. It is a year with too many anniversaries of Czech musicians. Bedřich Smetana has two fours in his biographical data, but four can also be found in the year of Antonín Dvořák, Josef Suk or, in case of cross-over, even Karel Kryl.

Bach rules the German concert halls every ten years – with a five

at the end, Mozart in Austrian ones a year later. We Czechs play in fours. Let us remember it in ten years' time.

Long live the year 2024, the Year of Czech Music.

Miroslav Žbánek
Mayor of the Statutory City of Olomouc





Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to address you on the occasion of the concert of the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc in the beautiful concert hall of the renowned Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music. It is all the greater pleasure for me because I am a Moravian at heart and Olomouc is the place where my grandparents and great-grandparents lived. So let me start by writing a few sentences about the city of Olomouc, which is one of the most charming cities in the Czech Republic, a place with many historical monuments, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Formerly one of the two metropolises of historic Moravia, Olomouc

is now a vibrant and flourishing regional center. Among other things, it is home to the second oldest university in the Czech lands, and the presence of thousands of students gives the city energy and youth. And of course, it is also a city rich in culture, with its own theatre, opera house and philharmonic orchestra, whose art will be on display at the end of May for classical music lovers in Budapest and Pécs, Olomouc's twin city.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Hungary together with the Statutory City of Olomouc would like to dedicate the concert in Budapest to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of our accession to NATO and the 20th anniversary of our membership in the EU. These are two events that unite Czechia and Hungary, as well as other countries in our region. After many centuries of troubled neighborhood, Central Europe has finally anchored itself in the common space of security, democracy and prosperity that the EU and NATO represent. The aim is to work together for the common good and to achieve the maximum degree of unity while preserving our cultural and linguistic diversity. But unfortunately, as today's dramatic times, marked

by economic crises, pandemics, Russian aggression against Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East, show, nothing may last forever, and what we thought was certain and guaranteed is shaken. Worse still, it seems that our unity, without which we cannot face today's challenges and dangers, may gradually begin to crumble. At times like these, it is good to go back to our roots (which is also one of the mottos of the current Czech V4 Presidency), to remember why we chose EU and NATO membership, and to try to use all the means to find common ground again. And as is well known, one of the most effective means of communication is music. Not only is it universally understandable, but it can create an atmosphere that brings people together regardless of borders, nationality or even political affiliation. European classical music certainly has this ability. The Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc will offer a selection of the best that Czech classical music has to offer during its concert in Budapest. So let us be carried away by the universal language of music, let us listen to the works of Czech musical greats such as Bedřich Smetana, Leoš Janáček or Bohuslav Martinů and let us remember what

is essential for all of us – unity in diversity, understanding and tolerance, freedom and cooperation.

I am looking forward to a shared cultural experience and I hope that the concert will inspire many of you to visit Olomouc and my native Olomouc region. You will be warmly welcomed here.

Eva Dvořáková
*Ambassador of the Czech Republic
in Hungary*



Dear lovers of classical music,
Croatian friends,

I am truly pleased that the Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc is returning to Croatia. I was here two years ago when the Philharmonic performed in front of the knowledgeable Croatian audience for the first time and left a great impression.

I am certain that it will be no different this time and consider it particularly significant and also gratifying that such a renowned ensemble will present itself in Croatia the same year in which the world is commemorating the

bicentenary of the birth of the Czech renowned composer Bedřich Smetana.

I would like to thank the management and musicians of the Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc for the trust and the opportunity for the Embassy to be a partner in this great project. I am also grateful to the authorities of the beautiful cities of Varaždin and Dubrovnik for their excellent cooperation.

I look forward to an exceptional experience lived together. And I am already now looking forward to enjoying the concert of the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra in Olomouc this fall. The Czechs and the Croats have shown once again how much they understand each other and how much they want to work with each other.

Milan Hovorka
*Ambassador of the Czech Republic
to the Republic of Croatia*



Ladies and gentlemen,

The Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc is the second oldest philharmonic in the Czech Republic. It was founded immediately after the Second World War in 1945 and has since represented a fundamental cultural pillar of the city of Olomouc and the entire region.

One of the essential and irreplaceable missions of the orchestra is to serve as an attractive article of export related to (not only) cultural diplomacy of the city and region. The Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc possesses a universal

international language in the form of music, which can symbolically as well as tangibly speak to and address people across nations and generations.

I am genuinely pleased that on this tour, the Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc will have the opportunity to perform for the first time in prominent halls of Budapest, Pécs, Varaždin and Dubrovnik as part of this year's Year of Czech Music.

Jonáš Harman
*Director of the Moravian
Philharmonic Olomouc*

Orchestra profile



The Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc is one of the leading and oldest symphony orchestras in the Czech Republic. Based in the historic capital of Moravia, it opened its 78th concert season in September 2023. Throughout its existence, it has been an irreplaceable centre of musical activities in the region.

The Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc was founded immediately after the end of the Second World War, on 26th May 1945. During its development, significant personalities of the Czech and

international music scene participated in its artistic formation. Let us mention the conductors Otto Klemperer and Václav Neumann, the violinists Josef Suk and Gidon Kremer, and the cellist Pierre Fournier. Over the course of its existence, the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc has developed an extremely extensive and varied repertoire. It focuses mainly on the great composers of world music of the 19th and 20th century. However, it also promotes contemporary Czech and world music, as evidenced by the performance of more than 250 new compositions. The orchestra also ranks among the authentic interpreters of the classics of Czech national music culture: Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana, Leoš Janáček a Bohuslav Martinů.

The Moravian Philharmonic has a rich discography and performs at major international music festivals at home and abroad. Above all, it is a cultural institution that contributes substantially to the organisation of artistic and concert life in Olomouc and its regions. It organises the Dvořák's Olomouc festival and the International Organ Festival Olomouc. Its activities also include a range of educational activities for children and young people.

Reduta – orchestra's home venue

The Reduta Hall originally served as a dance hall with a balcony of the same width around the entire perimeter of the hall. For the needs of the Philharmonic Orchestra, a raised stage was built in and the obstructing balcony above the stage narrowed. A large, gilded chandelier hung in the centre of the hall.

As nothing of the original interiors had survived, the authors could lean towards contemporary trends in architectural restoration when deciding how to approach the renovation.

The whole concept of the design is based on a dialogue between the original Empire-style architecture and the modern conceptualization of the interior.

During the renovations in 2001, emphasis was placed on improving the acoustics of the hall, to which the interior was fully adapted. The number of seats for the audience was also increased.

The hall has a spacious foyer on the ground floor, while the Mozart Hall functions as a foyer upstairs.





Ivan Ženatý violin

Mr. Ženatý reaches a broad public without abandoning the world of classical music for even a moment. Besides the technical perfection one would expect, he is also appreciated for his taste, style and a captivatingly beautiful tone.

With his exceptional wealth of repertoire including more than 50

violin concertos, he is a favoured guest artist with many international orchestras. Known for his versatility, his engagements also include solo recitals and chamber music collaborations.

The springboard to his international career came as a result of being a prize winner in the Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition followed immediately by debut engagements with the

Moscow and Czech Philharmonic. Other successes include First Prize at the Prague Spring Competition, as well as being a chosen laureate of the UNESCO International Rostrum of Young Performers. In the subsequent years following his victories, Mr. Ženatý made his orchestral and solo debuts in London, Berlin, Amsterdam, Vienna, Zurich, Tokyo, New York, Buenos Aires, Madrid and Jerusalem.

The musicianship of Ivan Ženatý has been influenced the most by his personal encounters with Nathan Milstein, Ruggiero Ricci and André Gertler. Studies at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow under the tutelage of Igor Bezrodny, had the greatest impact on his technical approach to the violin.

The great Czech musical tradition was passed on to Mr. Ženatý through his mentor Josef Suk, which resulted in many subsequent years of professional partnership and culminated in a recording of the complete works of W. A. Mozart. Other collaborations include great artists such as Yehudi Menuhin, Yo-Yo Ma, Serge Baudo, Valery Gergiev and Neville Marriner.

Ivan Ženatý's recordings have always aroused the enthusiastic acclaim of listeners and music

critics. His prolific output of over 40 CDs includes the complete works of Telemann, Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Schulhoff, Dvořák and Grieg. His new recording of the complete works of Dvořák has attracted extraordinary attention, as has his recording of both violin concertos by J. B. Foerster with the BBC Symphony Orchestra London and its music director Jiri Belohlavek.

A natural counterbalance to Ivan Ženatý's concert and recording activities is his work as an acclaimed teacher. Mr. Ženatý has taught at the Cleveland Institute of Music, at the Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen and in the Fall of 2019 was invited to join the faculty of the Hochschule für Musik in Dresden. Summer activities will include teaching at the Meadowmount School of Music.

Thanks to the Harmony Foundation of New York, Ivan Ženatý plays a rare Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù violin made in 1740.

Conductor

Zsolt Hamar

chief conductor of the Moravian
Philharmonic Olomouc

Born in 1968 in Budapest, Mr. Hamar started playing the piano at an early age. He acquired the basics of composition at the Béla Bartók Conservatory and studied composition with Emil Petrovics and conducting with Ervin Lukács and Tomáš Gál at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music, receiving his diploma with the grade “summa cum laude” in 1995. In the following years, Mr. Hamar won several conducting competitions, including the 8th International Hungarian Television Competition, second prize in Cadaqués in 1996, and first prize in the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) international competition in 1997 and the 6th Antonio Pedrotti International Competition in Trident in 1999.

At the suggestion of the chief conductor Zoltán Kocsis, Zsolt Hamar became the first permanent conductor of the Hungarian National Philharmonic in 1997. From 2000 to 2009, he acted as a chief conductor and artistic director of the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra in Pécs (European Capital of Culture 2010) and from 2002 to 2007 was

the first permanent guest conductor of the Orchestra di Padova e del Veneto. In 2007, Mr. Hamar debuted at the Zurich Opera, often conducting premieres as a guest conductor there. From 2012 to 2016, he worked as the general music director of the Hessian State Theatre in Wiesbaden.

Zsolt Hamar has collaborated with many major Hungarian and international orchestras such as the German Symphony Orchestra Berlin, the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra, the Bruckner Orchestra Linz, the Frankfurt Museum Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra, the Russian National Philharmonic Orchestra and the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra. He is also a regular guest conductor at national operas such as Opera Frankfurt, Opera Gothenburg, Teatro Nacional de São Carlos in Lisbon and Teatro Lirico in Cagliari.

Since 2009, Mr. Hamar has been a permanent guest professor of the Conducting Department at Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, where he was awarded the Docent title in April 2011.

As a professor of the International Bartók Seminar and Festival since 2016, he supports young talented conductors. In 2017, Zsolt Hamar became the music director of the



Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra and since 2020 has been working on his own project *Collegium Symphonicum Hungaricum*, a postgraduate mentoring programme for young conductors interested in expanding their knowledge. Its vision enables

“young masters” to participate in interesting workshops and opens the way for them to collaborate with new orchestras. Zsolt Hamar was awarded the Knight’s Cross and the Ferenc Liszt Prize of the Republic of Hungary.

Composers



Bedřich Smetana

Bedřich Smetana (1824–1884) is commonly considered the founder of Czech national music. After finishing his musical dramatic piece, *The Brandenburgers in Bohemia*, he longed to compose a comical opera piece depicting life in the contemporary Czech countryside. The libretto for this piece was created by writer-journalist Karel Sabina. *The Bartered Bride* opera was finished in 1866 after several textual and musical adjustments; Smetana's second musical dramatic piece soon reached wide popularity among the public and is a paramount symbol of the Czech national opera creation of the 19th century to this day.

The Bartered Bride is rich in distinct musical moments that work well as independent musical pieces. Among the singing parts, there is the introductory choir *Let's Rejoice And Be Merry*, the aria *To Each Their Own* or duets *Faithful Love Can't Be Marred* and *I Know of a Maiden Fair*. Among instrumental pieces are

primarily *Polka*, *Furiant* and *Dance of the Comedians*, and naturally, the *Overture*. It is customary for a composer to write an overture after finishing the opera and include musical themes used in the piece itself. In the case of *The Bartered Bride*, Bedřich Smetana chose an opposite method – he composed the overture with the structure of a symphonic sonata movement before even receiving the libretto from Sabina and later used the musical material from the overture in the parts for choir in the finale of the second act.



Josef Suk

In 1902, Josef Suk (1874–1935), Dvořák's pupil and son-in-law, who was not only a talented composer but an excellent violinist, decided to create a virtuoso concert composition for a violin. Although he gave it the form of a looser one-act fantasy, it is more of a violin concerto of three discernible parts. Suk finished the original version of the piece in August 1902 but, during the

rehearsal, felt the need for extensive adjustments and decided to postpone its execution. It was during the holiday of 1903, spent in native Křečovice, where he finally had time to continue composing and re-write *Fantasy for Violin and Orchestra* into a more compact form. The premiere took place on 9th January 1904 at a Czech Unity for Orchestral Music concert in Prague, conducted by Oskar Nedbal and with a soloist Karel Hoffmann. Both were Suk's co-players from the Czech Quartet, the first stable professional chamber ensemble in the Czech land where Suk performed as a second violin. The first presentation was a triumph, the composition was published by the Berlin publisher Simrock the following year and immediately performed by numerous Czech and foreign soloists.

Antonín Dvořák

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904), the great of Czech music, wrote his *Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70* as a mature artist who had been conquering the world with his compositions for several years. The piece was created in relation to Dvořák's appointment as an honorary member of the Philharmonic Society in London in



June 1884. He started composing the symphony in December of the same year, completed the work in March of the following year, and gave its first performance in London, standing on the conductor's podium only a month later. Before long (in Autumn 1885), the Berlin publisher Fritz Simrock published the symphony.

The *Symphony No. 7* differs significantly from Dvořák's previous symphonic piece. Whereas *Symphony No. 6* stands out as easy-going, optimistic and joyful, the following one is by far more serious, intimate, and even painful. It is known from Dvořák's letter that he wanted to honour his great symphonic model, Johannes Brahms, with this piece. Interestingly, the symphony (or rather its second movement) was 40 bars longer at the London premiere. The composer shortened it immediately after the performance, informing his publisher Fritz Simrock as follows: "Now, the Adagio is much shorter and tighter, and I am now sure that no note is superfluous."

Venues

27th May 2024 – Budapest

Grand Hall of Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music



The Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music

Founded in 1875, the Liszt Academy is the only institution bearing the name of Ferenc Liszt, which the great composer himself had an active role in establishing. The university, which has been functioning for more than 140 years, is the bastion of music teaching and musicology in Hungary. The Grand Hall, boasting unparalleled acoustics, is a legendary concert venue in the Art

Nouveau Conservatory (1907) on Liszt Ferenc Square. Since its reconstruction in 2013, the institution has handled independent professional concert-organizing activities and earned itself a reputation globally both as a university and a concert centre.

The concert will be broadcasted by Hungarian Radio, channel “Bartók” and recorded by Hungarian Television, channel “M5”.

“The classical music world will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Bedřich Smetana's birth in 2024, which is also the Year of Czech Music. We are delighted to be part of the celebration, and we Hungarians are also invited to join in. As part of the series of events, the Budapest Music Academy will perform works by the greatest Czech composers Antonín Dvořák and Josef Suk, as well as the overture to Bedřich Smetana's opera *The Bartered Bride* - the opera that brought Smetana success and Czech music international recognition. The conductor of the evening is

Zsolt Hamar, chief conductor of the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc, and the concert will feature violinist Ivan Ženatý, who we know as a jury member of the Bartók World Competition. Their collaboration is a good example of how European culture and music have values that transcend national borders.”

Dr. Csaba Kutnyánszky,
*Rector of Liszt Ferenc
Academy of Music*



28th May 2024 – Pécs
Kodály Centre



The national tender, invited in 2007 for planning the concert and conference hall, was won by the Budapest Építész Stúdió of the two leading figures, Ferenc Cságoly and Ferenc Keller, who had already earned earnest critical success in connection to the Barbakán Ház built between 1999 and 2003.

The concert hall in the Kodály Centre is one of Hungary's most beautiful world-class concert halls with great acoustics that fulfil all demands. When architects Ferenc Keller, Tamás Fialovszky, Richárd Hőnich and Benedek Sólyom designed the building, they applied the "golden ratio" of arts as their

guiding principle. The building, keeping the proportions set by the Fibonacci sequence in mind, gives a spiral impression from a bird's eye view, and the almost 1000-seat capacity concert hall nests in the protected core of the venue. The white limestone cladding of the building also reminds the casual observer of the spiral shells of a snail, with its long series of windows offering a view and raising curiosity in the approaching visitors.

The resident orchestra of Kodály Centre is the Pannon Philharmonic.

"It is with great pleasure that we welcome the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc to our city. As Olomouc is a sister city to Pécs, maintaining strong ties between our communities is a priority for the leadership of Pécs. A key institution in Pécs, the Kodály Centre is the largest concert and conference venue in the Southern Transdanubian region. Its acoustics are among Hungary's finest, providing the perfect setting for one of the Czech Republic's prominent and oldest symphony orchestras. We are honored to host this concert by Zsolt Hamar and the Moravian Philharmonic as a highlight of

our ongoing collaboration with Olomouc. On behalf of the Pécs city leadership, I extend our warm and respectful welcome to our Czech friends and wish all attendees a delightful experience at the concert."

Mr. Attila Péterffy
Mayor of Pécs

"Zsolt Hamar and his new orchestra, the Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc, are most welcome back home in the orchestra's Hungarian twin city, Pécs. The Pannon Philharmonic is the resident ensemble of the Pécs concert hall with marvellous acoustics, the Kodály Centre. As a former artistic director of the Hungarian orchestra, Zsolt Hamar worked hard for its renewal and development 20 years ago. PFZ is looking forward to welcoming the Moravian Philharmonic playing Smetana, Suk and Dvořák's compositions under the baton of Zsolt Hamar with the violinist Ivan Ženatý's solo in their home."

Horváth Zsolt
Director of Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra, Pécs

29th May 2024 – Varaždin

Croatian National Theatre in Varaždin



The National Theatre in Varaždin, also known as Hrvatsko narodno kazalište u Varaždinu (HNK Varaždin), is one of the cultural symbols of Croatia and an important centre of the arts in Varaždin. Its history dates back to the 19th century. During the 20th century, the theatre went through various periods of

prosperity and stagnation, but it always remained an important centre of cultural life in Varaždin. Today, the National Theatre Varaždin continues to present theatrical performances of various genres, including theatre, opera and ballet, and further strengthens its role in the Croatian cultural scene.

“Distinguished music lovers, dear audience, for many centuries now, Varaždin has been the city of culture and music. It belongs to the central European cultural milieu and the rich tradition of the Varaždin School of Music, national festival Varaždin Baroque Evenings, Špancirfest, and numerous other festivals and events culturally enrich our city. Precisely because of the designed, recognizable and innovative approach to music creation, Varaždin was awarded the status of a UNESCO creative city in the field of music.

Openness towards international cultural cooperation is one of the key segments of our culture; therefore, with open arms and enthusiasm, for the first time in history, we welcome the orchestra of the Moravian Philharmonic, a great and internationally recognized Czech ensemble. We are especially pleased that the concert is taking place in the midst of the Year of Czech Music, which commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of Europe's greatest composers, the great Bedřich Smetana.

Czech culture gave many other world-famous artists and composers, such as Josef Suk, Antonín Dvořák, Leoš Janáček and others.

I also believe that this concert in our exceptional Croatian National Theatre in Varaždin will contribute to the development of the relationship between the two of our historically and culturally valuable cities, Varaždin and Olomouc, as well as between Croatia and the Czech Republic, which have been important carriers of the European culture and art for centuries.”

dr. sc. Neven Bosilj,
Mayor of Varaždin

“The concert of the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc is an excellent way to deepen the cultural ties between the two countries and a unique opportunity for the audience in Varaždin to experience the outstanding musical performance of this ensemble in the very important year of European music heritage.”

Raymond Rojnik, mag. inf.,
Executive Director of the Concert agency Varaždin

31st May 2024 – Dubrovnik

Rector's Palace



It is one of the most beautiful architectural monuments in the old town. In numerous historical events and renovations, the Palace has changed its appearance and style several times, which is why today, the entire Dubrovnik stylistic history is visible in its architecture. As the administrative seat, the Rector's Palace played several vital roles in the community. One of the architectural curiosities is that Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque

elements can be found on the front of the Palace. This mixture testifies to an exciting and turbulent history. For example, as the city authorities kept gunpowder in the Palace, it exploded on several occasions and damaged the building. Rector's Palace is one of the home venues of Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra. The Orchestra's concerts are performed in the atrium of the Palace, a beautiful ambient space that connects all its parts.

“Dear audience and lovers of classical music, last year, I had the privilege to meet with the Czech Ambassador to Croatia, H. E. Mr. Milan Hovorka. We spoke about strengthening future cultural collaboration between our two countries, particularly about the initiative to bring together the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra and the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc. I am delighted that a year later, we can welcome The Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra Olomouc, one of the leading and oldest symphony orchestras in the Czech Republic.

I am certain that this visit and the concerts that Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra will perform in the Czech Republic in October are only the beginning as we have many topics that connect our two countries, so we are looking forward to the future collaborations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate your beloved orchestra on its upcoming 80th anniversary. We understand how important it is, considering that the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra is also celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2025.

In a city like Dubrovnik, with a long and notable historical

continuity, anniversaries are inevitable. They are an opportunity to refresh and deepen our collective memory. But above all, they are a reminder of the importance of our roles as heirs and guardians of our heritage.

The year 2024 marks several events significant to the historical and cultural memory of the city of Dubrovnik. It commemorates the 45th anniversary of the inscription of the Old City of Dubrovnik on UNESCO's World Heritage List, the 15th anniversary of the inclusion of the Festivity of St. Blaise on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and the inclusion of archival funds from the period of the Dubrovnik Republic on the Memory of the World Register in November of last year. These inscriptions make Dubrovnik one of the rare cities in the world whose material and intangible cultural assets have earned the status of universal heritage value.

With these words I wish you a warm welcome to Dubrovnik and, as much as our citizens, I am looking forward to enjoying your musicianship.”

Mato Franković
Mayor of Dubrovnik

Olomouc – Europe's hidden gem

Olomouc, a city of more than 100,000 citizens and the sixth largest city in the Czech Republic, lies in the heart of Moravia, of which it was the former capital. It is home to an ancient university, the archbishopric, a philharmonic orchestra, numerous museums, theatres and clubs, and the venue for hosting interesting events and festivals.

For hundreds of years, Olomouc has been one of the most important settlements in the Kingdom of Bohemia. A rich past has endowed it with a magnificent collection of historical treasures, making Olomouc the second most extensive urban conservation area in our country after Prague.

The original medieval Astronomical Clock, which was transformed in the spirit of socialist realism after WWII, is globally unique. Other sights include the Trinity Column – a UNESCO World Heritage site, six master Baroque fountains and the charming modern Arion Fountain.

There are also numerous reminders of the famous military history of the former Olomouc Fortress. The entire city is encircled by a ring of forts, preserved to this day in an almost unchanged form.

In the beautiful city parks, you can find remnants of medieval city fortifications and the Crown Fortress, today a lively cultural centre. Olomouc is definitely worth a visit!

Do you know that...

- ♦ The Holy Trinity Column has been a UNESCO site since 2000?
- ♦ St. Wenceslas Cathedral boasts the highest church tower in Moravia and the second highest tower in the Czech Republic? One of the three Cathedral towers is 100.65 metres high.
- ♦ Olomouc Town Hall has been serving its original purpose for more than 600 years?
- ♦ on the Upper Square, there is a bronze model of the city, providing a bird's eye view of the historical city centre?



Tourist portal
of Olomouc

St. Wenceslas Cathedral



Hrnčířská ulice (Pottery Street)



Upper Square with Townhall
and the Holy Trinity Column



Panorama of the Olomouc historical centre

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Embassy of the Czech Republic
in Budapest



LISZT ACADEMY
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Embassy of the Czech Republic
in Zagreb



»YEAR OF«
»CZECH«
»MUSIC«
»2024«





2024
The Year of Czech Music

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