



PROGRAM

Alexandra Berti and Tomáš Víšek

October 25, 2011, at 7 pm
Embassy of the Czech Republic

Antonín Dvořák

Love Songs, Op. 83

Silhouette in A major, Op. 8 no. 11 (piano solo)

Cypresses (selection of songs)

***** Intermission *****

Four Songs, Op. 2

Legend in B flat major (piano solo, finished by T.Víšek)

Presto in E minor (piano solo, finished by T.Víšek)

Arias from the Opera Rusalka

Sem často přichází (He comes here often)

Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém! (Song to the Moon)

Ó, marno to je! (Oh, it's useless!)

Necitelná vodní moci (Insensible water power)

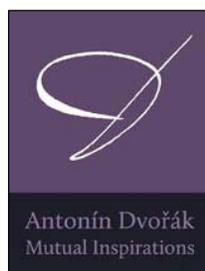
Mladosti své pozbavena (Deprived of my youthful spirit)

Proč volal jsi mne v náruč svou? (Why did you call me into your arms?)

Za tvou lásku (Oh, Darling)

Performed by Alexandra Berti (soprano), Tomáš Víšek (piano)

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL



The *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011 - Antonín Dvořák* runs from September 8, 2011, commemorating the 170th anniversary of the birth of the composer, and ends on October 28, 2011, Czech National Day. The festival features more than 500 local and international artists, 30 concerts and events, and a dozen prestigious venues in the Washington, DC, community. The festival is spearheaded by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg, focusing on the mutual inspirations between Czech and American cultures. For more information about the festival, please visit www.mutualinspirations.org.

BIOGRAPHIES

Soprano



Alexandra Berti studied at the Prague Conservatory (voice), the Conservatory of Jaroslav Ježek, (acting), and the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (voice). Because of her interest in baroque music, she was invited by Helmut Rilling to participate at the Bach Academy in Stuttgart in 1992. In 1995, she became a founding member of the group Musica Salutaris. Berti devotes herself to opera, oratory, concert, and song repertoire and focuses on historical replication of music from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Her opera repertoire concentrates on Bellini, Donizetti, Rossini, Mozart, Verdi, Meyerbeer, and Charpentier. On stage, Berti performed in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Martinů's *Comedy on the Bridge*, Benda's *Barber of Seville* (world premiere), Weber's *Abu Hassan*, Peri's *Euridice* (Czech premiere). Furthermore, she debuted in a scene of Martinů's opera *The Soldier and the Dancer* at the National Opera in Prague. Berti's song repertoire is unusually wide and encompasses not only classical and romantic pieces but also twentieth century works. Czech music takes a special place among her song repertoire.

Additionally, Berti often works with the media. For Czech Television, she repeatedly recorded solos for the TV shows *Hello Music* and *Visits with Mrs. Music*. She also performed in a production of Horálek's opera *Bohemica* (modern premiere) and recorded a television version of Lortzing's opera *Rehearsal* made in the original historical space of the Litomyšl Châteaux Theater from the 18th century. For Czech Radio, she has started to record completely the Teleman cantata project "Harmonischer Gottesdienst" (24 cantatas all ready realized). She has also performed for German television ZDF and French radio as well as partook in a sound recording for a film designated for Czech exposition at the world Expo 2000 Hannover. In addition to working with the media, she has also recorded two solo CDs. Berti has worked with Czech groups focusing on historical music, including Swiss Camerata Helvetica and Czech orchestras. With the Philharmonics of the City of Prague, she participated in recording film music.

Berti's interests include the study of the historical methods and techniques of singing. She is also involved in pedagogical activities. For more information about Berti, please visit www.beriti-soprano.blogspot.com.

Piano

Tomáš Víšek (piano) studied at the Prague Conservatory under Professor Valentina Kameníková and Professor Zdeněk Kožina. He went on to study at AMU (Academy of Arts) in Prague under Professor Josef Páleníček and Professor Zdeněk Jílek, with whom he continued post-graduate studies.

During his studies, he became a many-time laureate in domestic competitions (Ústí nad Labem, Hradec Králové, Mariánské Lázně). In international events, he acquired awards in the Chopin competition in Warsaw (Janina Nawrocka special prize, 1975), Smetana competition in Hradec Králové (2nd prize plus an award for Smetana interpretation, 1978). During the nineties, this success was followed by the Second Prize in Vienna (1992), Second Prize plus Bach-Award in Sicilian Ragusa (1994), and he won the Fifth Prize in the Concours Milosz Magin in Paris (1995).

Besides his awards, Víšek has received praise by critics for his piano recitals in the international festival *Prague Spring* on many occasions and has sold-out the prestigious Dvořák Hall in Prague Rudolfinum several times. He has performed in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Japan, the USA, Egypt, Hungary, Russia, Bulgaria, Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Finland, United Kingdom, Slovenia and Austria. Radio France arranged a separate recital for him, and he also performed for Polish Radio and Television. Furthermore, he has recorded for radio, television (Czech TV cycle *Top of Classics*) and with the Czech music label Supraphon, among others.

Víšek constantly enriches his wide-ranging repertoire by seeking new impetus which enables him to design programs incorporating both famous works of world music as well as lesser known works and composers.