

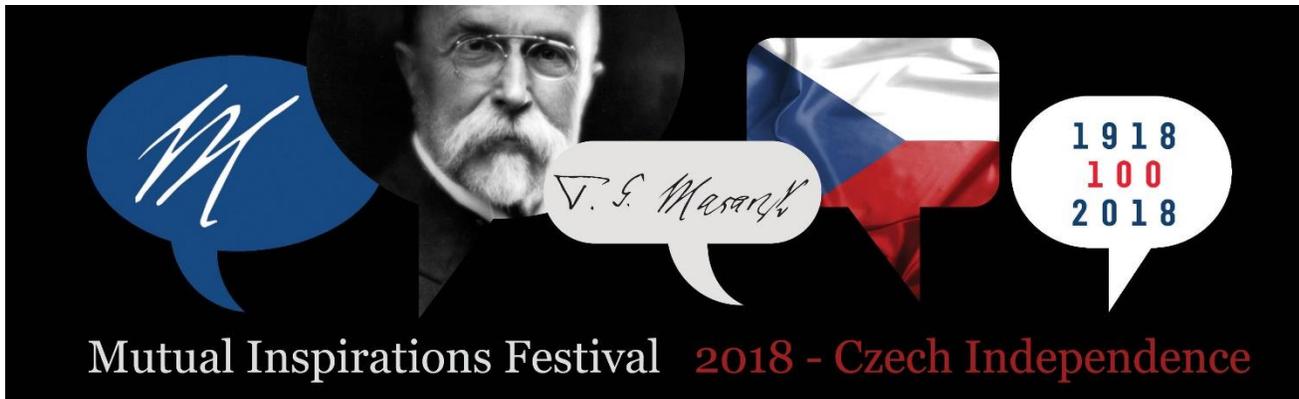


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Festival Celebrates Independence

September 6-November 20, 2018 | www.mutualinspirations.org



The Embassy of the Czech Republic announces the *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2018–Czech Independence*, celebrating the centennial anniversary of freedom and independence through over a dozen events at prestigious institutions in the Washington, DC, community from September 6-November 20, 2018.

“The year 2018 is a very special year as the Czech people mark 100 years of independence and sovereignty. It is a time for reflection on a centennial of struggle for freedom and democracy as well as celebration of the transatlantic inspiration and friendship, which helped us get to where we are today,” said Ambassador Hynek Kmoníček.

The Mutual Inspirations Festival (MIF) is an annual initiative organized by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, concentrating on the mutual influence between Czech and American cultures and the feats of personalities who have led the way. “The Mutual Inspirations Festival annually honors one extraordinary personality. This year’s festival honors all the people who have contributed to 100 years of Czech independence,” said Ambassador Kmoníček.

For its ninth year, the Mutual Inspirations Festival brings to the forefront the many talented artists who are transforming the Czech Republic through the arts.

The main festival highlight is the Prague Philharmonic Children’s Choir with over 30 youth performing such works as Dvořák’s *Ave Maria*, Schubert’s *Psalm XXII*, and Bernstein’s *Gloria Tibi* at the Washington National Cathedral. The internationally-renowned Czech Philharmonic Orchestra under new director Semyon Bychkov will also perform a special concert of Antonín Dvořák’s triumphant Seventh Symphony at the Kennedy Center.

Additionally, the top Czech theatre company Svanda Theatre will showcase the plays: *The Good and the True*, *Protest*, *The Debt*, and *Pankrác ‘45* at Georgetown University. Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will give the keynote address at a special conference *From Masaryk to Havel and Beyond: The Struggle for Democracy*. A series of programs at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage will spotlight young Czech female artists, including classical pianist Karolína Syrovátková, jazz singer Martina Fišerová, and mezzo-soprano Pavlína Horáková.

“I remain humbled by the last century’s trials, tribulations, and triumphs and raise my glass to the next one hundred years of democratic independence,” said Ambassador Kmoníček.

This September-November, get in the spirit of freedom with exceptional talent from the heart of Europe. Come celebrate and toast to a season of inspiration.

FESTIVAL LAUNCH / EXHIBITIONS

- On September 6, at 6 pm, the Embassy of the Czech Republic launches the *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2018 – Czech Independence* with the opening of the exhibition *The Good 100*. The last century has seen its ups and many tumultuous downs as the Czech people struggled for self-determination and democracy. To reflect on the positive moments in each of the one hundred years, students at the University of West Bohemia have created an exhibit, demonstrating groundbreaking discoveries, artistic creation, achievements, and vibrant life. RSVP required: <https://thegood100.eventbrite.com>.
- On October 4, at 5 pm, the Embassy of the Czech Republic and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, to jointly commemorate the centennial anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia, will open the exhibition *Czechs and Slovaks on Their Difficult Road to Peace and Independence* at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Reservations required. For more information, visit www.mutualinspirations.org.

THEATRE

- On September 20, at 4 pm (post-show talkback) and 7:30 pm, Svanda Theatre will perform *The Good and the True*, a play about two Holocaust survivors, directed by Daniel Hrbek at Georgetown University in the Devine Studio Theatre. The play weaves together testimonies of two Auschwitz survivors who led similarly extraordinary lives, but never actually met: athlete Miloš Dobrý and actress Hana Pravda. Tickets: goo.gl/mh5NtA.
- On September 21, at 8 pm, and September 22, at 4 pm (post-show talkback), Svanda Theatre will present the one-act plays *Protest* and *The Debt*. What happens when two writers meet - one who is not allowed to write and the other who writes whatever he wants? What if the first one has a surprising proposal for the second one? Brilliant Václav Havel's dialogue is confronted with the dramatic attempt of a debuting author. Tickets: goo.gl/ivSYzf.
- On September 22, at 8 pm, and September 23, at 2 pm, Svanda Theatre brings the play *Pankrác '45* to the Davis Center's Gonda Theatre at Georgetown University. Based on the real-life incarceration of five women in the Pankrác Prison during a time of post-WWII national cleansing in Czechoslovakia, this story explores the relativity of guilt, responsibility for one's actions, and the struggle to survive within the machinery of history. Tickets: goo.gl/SGy1Bi.

CONCERTS

- On September 30, at 6 pm, Czech pianist Karolína Syrovátková, called "a true poet of the piano" (*ABQ Review*), will perform the solo concert *20th Century Czech Composers*, featuring such composers as Suk, Janáček, Fibich, and Kaprálová at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. Admission is free.
- On October 22, at 6 pm, Prague-born jazz singer Martina Fišerová introduces her original songs in the concert *Jazz Shift*, meshing harmonic sophistication with unpretentious and personal expression on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. Admission is free.
- On October 29, at 8 pm, the Czech Philharmonic, the Czech Republic's premier orchestra, returns to DC under its new music director, Semyon Bychkov, for a signature program featuring Antonín Dvořák's triumphant Seventh Symphony and a rarely heard work by the 20th-century composer Luboš Fišer in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Tickets: <http://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/subscribe/calendar/view.aspx?id=3774>.
- On October 30, at 7:30 pm, the Prague Philharmonic Children's Choir, one of the most prestigious choirs in the Czech Republic, performs a special selection of Czech and international classics in celebration of 100 years of Czech independence at the Washington National Cathedral. The choir will cover such beloved songs as Dvořák's *Ave Maria*, Schubert's *Psalms XXII*, and Bernstein's *Gloria Tibi*. Tickets: <https://cathedral.org/event/czech-centennial-concert/>.
- On November 11, at 6 pm, Czech mezzo-soprano Pavlína Horáková will perform selections from her rich repertoire of music, ranging from classical to jazz, on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. Admission is free.

LECTURE / RECITAL

- On October 12, at 6 pm, Javier Arrey, heralded as one of the most sought after bel canto baritones of the new generation, presents his favorite Antonín Dvořák songs in an evening of Czech music at the Embassy of the Czech Republic. His former voice teacher and mentor, Professor Hanns Stein, will deliver the lecture *Czech Composers and Their Influence on Universal Music* before the concert. Tickets: <https://czechmusic.eventbrite.com>.

CONFERENCE

- On October 18, at 10 am, the Embassy of the Czech Republic will hold a prestigious conference, *From Masaryk to Havel and Beyond: The Struggle for Democracy*, with a keynote address by former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. Reservations required. Forthcoming information: www.mutualinspirations.org.

FILMS

- On September 18, at 7 pm, Bistro Bohem will screen the film *Cosy Dens (Pelišky)*. Set during Christmas 1967, the film centers on two neighboring families who stand on opposite sides of the political spectrum, while their children find love and dream of life in the West. Admission free. RSVP required: bistrobohem@gmail.com. (Director: Jan Hřebejk, 1999, 116 min., Czech with English subtitles.)
- On September 29, at 2:30 pm, the National Gallery of Art will present the Washington premiere of director João Moreira Salles's cine-essay *In the Intense Now*, in the East Building Auditorium introduced by Michael Kraus. The film is a poetic experiment in the communication between personal history and global events, as Salles mixes tourist footage recorded by his own mother on her trip to China at the start of the 1966 Cultural Revolution with found footage of rebellion from May 1968 recorded in France, Czechoslovakia, and Brazil. Admission is free. (João Moreira Salles, 2017, 127 min., subtitles)
- On October 10, at 8 pm, the Avalon Theater will screen the dramatic film *Family Friend (Rodinný přítel)*. Set in the early 40s during German occupation, three brothers covertly working for the Czech resistance are discovered and sent to Nazi concentration camps. Their wives and children await their return, residing together in one house. A family friend watches over them and falls in love with one of the women. Tickets: www.theavalon.org or at the box office. (Jan Hřebejk, 2017, Czech with English subtitles)
- On November 20, at 7 pm, Bistro Bohem will screen the smash hit *Those Wonderful Years that Sucked (Báječná léta pod psa)*, a bitter-sweet comedy, adapted from a novel by Michal Viewegh, chronicling the life of a Czech family from the 1960s to just after the Velvet Revolution. Admission free. RSVP required: bistrobohem@gmail.com. (Directed by Petr Nikolaev, 1997, 109 min., Czech with English subtitles)