

Bohemia Symphony Orchestra Prague

BIOGRAPHY

The roots of the Bohemia Symphony Orchestra Prague reach as far as 1961 when a symphony orchestra was founded in Poděbrady, a spa resort about 50 km east of Prague.

The task of the orchestra was to give subscription symphony concerts throughout Central Bohemia until the end of the 1980s. At that time, the political changes made it possible for the orchestra to give concerts abroad. The first concerts were performed in Italy, Britain and Germany already under the name "Bohemia" Symphony Orchestra Poděbrady.

One of the orchestra's most notable performances of the last years took place in Reims during the "Les flâneries musicales" festival supported by the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation in Paris. With the support of this foundation, the "Bohemia" orchestra toured throughout France and gave concerts in most prestigious houses, as Théâtre de Champs Elysées. The orchestra also took part in the Festival de la musique sacrée de Lourdes. After a series of concerts in France and at the Prague National Theatre with Sir Yehudi Menuhin as conductor, a long term co-operation followed with the Opera Theatre in Draguignan and several opera performances at the Istria Festival Pula as well as in Corse. The Bohemia Symphony Orchestra Prague also took part in the concert with Montserrat Caballé and the trumpeter André Bernard at the Opéra de Marseille.

The German concert agency "Hoffmann Konzerte" engaged the "Bohemia" Orchestra conducted by Giuseppe Raffa for numerous opera megaproductions entitled "World Tour Aida", which took place in some of the most prominent European metropolises, eg Marseille, Basel, Munich, Stuttgart, Frankfurt or Amsterdam.

In the recent years the orchestra was several times invited to the Darmstädter Residenzfestspielen.

Another notable event in the "Bohemia" Orchestra's career was the performance of Mozart's Magic Flute at the Grimaldi Forum, Monte Carlo, in 2005. The orchestra also continually co-operates with German and Swiss choirs.

The "Bohemia" orchestra co-operated with famous vocal and instrumental soloists until 1995, when the then state-owned orchestra was dissolved.

The new Bohemia Symphony Orchestra Prague is thus a private orchestra residing in Prague which took up the tradition of the truly renowned Bohemia Symphony Orchestra Poděbrady. Today, the players come from the best Prague symphony and opera orchestras. It is a variable ensemble which is able to satisfy any of your requirements concerning the instrumental cast.

The repertory of the "Bohemia" orchestra today includes all style periods of both the world and Czech music. Naturally, contemporary production occupies an important place. Therefore, the orchestra has experience in all respects.

The quality of players is demonstrated by the fact that many of them associate in chamber formations, so that we can offer a string quartet, a wind quintet and any other small ensembles. The Czech Republic, a country with a rich thousand-year tradition going on up to the present day, lies in the heart of Europe. The Bohemia Symphony Orchestra Prague is a musical institution which provides good continuation to old traditions of Czech musicality.