

## **Dvořák Prague launches pre-Christmas sale, luring spectators with the "From the New World" Symphony performed by the acclaimed Anima Eterna Brugge Orchestra.**

Prague, 23 November 2015 – The Dvořák Prague International Music Festival, which opens the concert season every year in September, is already now giving Christmas presents. The traditional pre-Christmas sale of tickets for a selected festival concert starts today. Music aficionados can give their loved ones a Dvořák matinee featuring the Anima Eterna Orchestra from Bruges, Belgium conducted by Jos Van Immerseel. The iconic "From the New World" Symphony will be for the first time at the festival performed on period instruments, that is musical instruments used at the time the work was composed. No less spectacular will be an authentic rendition of the Water Goblin symphonic poem, which displays in a triumphal fashion Dvořák's sonic imagination. The concert will be held in the Dvořák Hall at the Rudolfinum on 17 September 2016.

Tickets in stylish Christmas packaging are available for special prices starting at CZK 190. Also on sale are gift vouchers worth CZK 500, which can be used to buy tickets for any concert after advance sale begins. Tickets and vouchers can be purchased at the Dvořák Prague Ticket Center (Palackého 1) and online at [www.dvorakovapraha.cz](http://www.dvorakovapraha.cz). The ninth season of the Dvořák Prague Festival will take place during 5 to 23 September 2016. The complete program will be published in March 2016.

The Belgium-based orchestra **Anima Eterna Brugge** is one of the most important European ensembles that specialize in historically informed performance. Founded and until this day headed by conductor Jos Van Immerseel, the orchestra performs works by composers that range from Monteverdi to Gershwin. The number of its members depends on the current repertoire and can be anywhere between seven and 80 musicians. In the nearly 30 years of its existence, Anima Eterna has established excellent international repute and has regularly performed at the world's most prominent concert venues. The orchestra has made a large number of recordings, including a remarkable anthology of Schubert's symphonies and a recently recorded compilation of works by Antonín Dvořák and Leoš Janáček.

The Belgian conductor, multi-instrumentalist, and recent septuagenarian **Jos Van Immerseel** is one of the most versatile personalities on the current music scene. At the beginning of his artistic career, he played organ and harpsichord, mainly focusing on the renaissance and baroque repertoire. Later, he expanded his focus to music from the classicistic and early romantic periods. He earned excellent reputation in this area, particularly as regards performing Mozart's and Beethoven's piano works, which he has played in prominent concert halls throughout Europe. He has made a number of highly acclaimed recordings as a soloist (such as a complete anthology of Beethoven's piano concertos), a member of chamber ensembles (such as Franz Schubert's piano trios), and a conductor.

**The Dvořák Prague International Music Festival** is a prominent cultural and social event that celebrates the musical genius of the most globally recognized Czech composer, pays homage to the ensemble of Dvořák's works, and allows listeners to discover lesser-known compositions. This year, Dvořák Prague was visited by 15,000 spectators. This season's opening concert featured star cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the Czech Philharmonic. Other memorable performances included a recital by violinist David Garrett and a concert dedicated to compositions of Arvo Pärt performed by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Czech Radio Symphonic Orchestra. High accolades were received by this season's Chamber Music Society series curated by pianist Ivo Kahánek, as Kahánek's solo recital and concerts by the Emerson String Quartet and the Czech-based Lobkowicz Trio thrilled audiences in sold out concert halls. The Dvořák Prague Festival is organized by the Classical Music Academy, which also bestows the Antonín Dvořák Prize. In 2015, the award went to cello master Yo-Yo Ma. The artistic director of the festival is Marek Vrabec.

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