



Dvořák Prague Festival's Christmas Present – A Concert by Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich Featuring Lisa Batiashvili and Gautier Capuçon

Prague, 2 December 2014 – As every Advent season, advance sales of tickets have begun for the opening concert of the next edition of the Dvořák Prague Festival. On Saturday, 19 September 2015, Prague's Rudolfinum will host Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, a famous European ensemble with a respectable history of 150 years. At the baton will be Lionel Bringuier, a young conductor who will share the stage with two soloists that have achieved stardom despite young age: violinist Lisa Batiashvili and cellist Gautier Capuçon. Together, they will perform Johannes Brahms's Double Concerto for Violin and Cello. The program will also feature Antonín Dvořák's famous Symphony No. 8 in G Major. To provide contrast with the program's romantic overtones, the evening will begin with the concert overture Con Brio written by the contemporary German composer Jörg Widmann.

Tickets for special pre-Christmas prices starting at CZK 390 and vouchers valid for any festival concert worth CZK 500, sold in a Christmas gift packaging, can be purchased from today, Tuesday 2 December 2014, in the Dvořák Prague Ticket Center at Palackého 1, through the Perfect System and Ticketpro networks, and at branches of the Prague Information Service. Tickets are also available online at www.dvorakovapraha.cz. The complete program of the eighth edition of Dvořák Prague will be unveiled at a ceremony held on 25 March 2015.

Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich is one of the oldest orchestras in Europe. Its remarkable history dates back to as early as 1868 and is intertwined with numerous excellent conductors, such as Rudolf Kempe, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, and David Zinman. The ensemble regularly collaborates with soloists who rank among the cream of the crop of today's music scene: Joshua Bell, Alfred Brendel, Julia Fischer, Hélène Grimaud, Gidon Kremer, Radu Lupu, Yo-Yo Ma, Maria João Pires, and numerous others. The discography of Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich includes over 40 recordings.

The orchestra is headed by **Lionel Bringuier** who has remarkable conducting experience as well as numerous achievements under his belt despite young age. In addition to former tenures with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León, he conducts such prestigious ensembles as the Cleveland Orchestra, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Bamberger Symphoniker, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. An avid promoter of contemporary music, he has staged world premieres of many works by today's composers, including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Bruno Mantovani, Philippe Fénelon, Eric Tanguy, and others.

Georgian violin player **Lisa Batiashvili** is among the most respected soloists of the new generation. She started playing at the age of four years and holds the ECHO Klassik Award, the MIDEM Classical Award, and a prize from the International Jean Sibelius Violin Competition held in Helsinki. Her virtuosity has shone alongside such famous orchestras as the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Staatskapelle Dresden, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and others. Batiashvili, who records for the prestigious Deutsche Grammophon label, plays a violin made by Guarneri del Gesù in 1739.

Young virtuoso **Gautier Capuçon** is considered one of the most outstanding cellists of his generation. He records on the Erato (Warner Classics) label and as a soloist performs with such renowned ensembles as the London Symphony Orchestra and the Berliner Philharmoniker and such star conductors as John Eliot Gardiner, Daniel Barenboim, and Valery Gergiyev. Capuçon's performance will not be his first appearance at the Dvořák Prague Festival; during the 2009 edition, he performed Dvořák's Cello Concerto B Minor and in 2012, he took part in a performance of Beethoven's Triple Concerto.

The Dvořák Prague Music Festival is an important 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's edition saw record-high number of spectators, as the festival welcomed star soloists and such globally renowned orchestras as the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Fedoseyev, an elite selection of members of the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras – the Vienna-Berlin Chamber Orchestra, pianist Krystian Zimerman, violin virtuoso Vadim Repin, and the festival's orchestra in residence – the Czech Philharmonic. A performance of Alfred, Dvořák's formerly unknown first opera, staged in collaboration with the Czech Radio and the ArcoDiva Publishing Company attracted attention of pundits from around the world. The festival is organized by the Classical Music Academy, which also bestows the Antonín Dvořák Award. In 2014, the prestigious award went to Jiří Bělohávek and was delivered at New York's Carnegie Hall several weeks ago.

General partner: **KKCG Investment Group**

With support of: **City of Prague and Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic**

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