

A Musical Journey Through the Czech Heartland

Classical music concert for the IAUS 405: Traversing the Galactic Center in Space and Time, Brno, Czech Republic,
Wednesday, May 20th, Brno Planetarium, 19:30 – 20:30

Performed by: **Brno Double Wind Quintet**

Conductor: **Filip Urban**

Accompanying word: **Zdeněk Mikulášek**

PROGRAM

Antonín Dvořák: Slavonic Dance No. 4 in F major, Op. 20

A graceful "Sousedská" (a traditional folk dance). Listen for the gentle, triple-meter flow of the Ländler that momentarily sparks into a high-tempered middle section before returning to its calm, pastoral roots.

Leoš Janáček: Suite from the opera The Cunning Little Vixen

Written 103 years ago, Janáček's musical language remains strikingly modern and avant-garde. This "Moravian National Opera," originally set in the Brno dialect, portrays the intertwined lives of humans and animals. It is a profound celebration of the eternal cycle of nature.

Vítězslav Novák: Slovak Suite, Op. 32

Novák's masterpiece offers a vivid, atmospheric portrait of life in the Moravian Slovakia region (Moravské Slovácko).

- **I. In the Church** (*V kostele*)
- **II. Among Children** (*Mezi dětmi*)
- **III. The Lovers** (*Zamilovaní*)
- **IV. At the Music** (*U muziky*) – Violin: **Karel Mitáš**
- **V. The Night** (*V noci*)

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

The **Brno Double Wind Quintet** has been a vibrant part of the Brno music scene for **32 years**. The ensemble consists of ten outstanding woodwind players for whom music is a passionate vocation, though their primary careers lie in other fields, including theoretical physics and astrophysics.

Because only ten musicians perform this symphonic repertoire, every player functions as a **soloist**. Tonight's performance is a testament to their dedication, pushing the boundaries of both musical expression and physical endurance.

Filip Urban (Conductor) – A brilliant representative of the young generation of Czech conductors. A laureate of several international competitions, Mr. Urban has already established an impressive career on major European concert stages.

Zdeněk Mikulášek (Musical Director) – dramaturgy, management, and music arrangements together with **Jaroslav Strmiska**.

Karel Mitáš (Violin) – Tonight's special guest for the Slovak Suite is a distinguished member of the Janáček Opera Orchestra of the National Theatre Brno.

Milan Halačka, Jolana Svobodová – flutes

Rastislav Kozoň, Jana Bártková – oboes

Zdeněk Mikulášek, Jaroslav Strmiska – clarinets

Jakub Hladil, Vojtěch Haičman – French horns

Nathalie Khemlová, Petr Klapetek – bassoons