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# NOVÝ DOMOV



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## Dinner with PM Stephen Harper

Tribute to Liberty (TTL), established in 2008, is a Canadian charity whose mission is to establish a Canadian memorial to commemorate the victims of Communism. In September 2009 Tribute to Liberty received approval from the National Capital Commission (NCC) to build a Memorial to Victims of Communism and in May of 2012. Land was allocated between the Library and Archives Canada and the Supreme Court of Canada on Wellington Street in Ottawa.

The Canadian Memorial to the Victims of Communism, located in the nation's capital, will stand forever as reminder of the unspeakable suffering borne by the victims of communist regimes around the world, and as a tribute to the liberty and hope that Canada has provided to the refugees who escaped that tyranny.

In support of the fundraising for the construction of the monument, the Tribute to Liberty (sitting on the board is Czech and Slovak community's Robert Tmej) organized a fundraising dinner as commemoration of the victims of communism, with the attendance the Prime Minister of Canada Stephen Harper. Among those present were many personalities, representatives of community organizations in Canada as well as representatives of the media. The fundraiser was held at the Toronto Congress Center on Friday, May 30. Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered these remarks at the Tribute to Liberty Dinner in Toronto:

"Distinguished guests, colleagues from the Parliament of Canada, ladies and gentlemen.

We know the reason why we're gathered together this evening, but let me briefly share with you the how.

"In 2008, Tribute to Liberty approached our Government with an idea and a question. First, the idea: to help construct a monument in our Nation's Capital that would honour for all time the hundreds of millions of men, women and children who have struggled and continue to struggle against the tyranny of communism, those who lived and those who, tragically, did not. "And second: would our Government work with them in carrying out this vision.

Now you already know our answer. In 2010 in the Speech from the Throne,

our Government made known our strong and clear support for Tribute to Liberty's vision of a memorial to those who have suffered under communism. Let me take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Tribute to Liberty, in particular,

to you, Board Chair Klimkowski, to current Treasurer, past Chair Forstmanis, to the entire board, to all of the donors.

The goal you have been working towards is important to Canadians, past and present, but it is especially so for future generations. "For they must be forever reminded – forever – that the freedom and peace they stand to inherit was earned through struggle and sacrifice, and must always be cherished as a precious and unique thing.

There are others who also deserve – some of my colleagues I know who also deserve – special thanks: Jason Kenney and the members of his team who have been invested in this project from the very beginning, John Baird, Shelly Glover, Senator Linda Frum, certainly Senator Yonah Kim-Martin, Senator Ngo, and of course my thanks to each and every one of you, because I know each and every one here has been a supporter.

Thank you for your generous and ongoing support. And give all the organizers a very big hand for what they've done.

Now friends, our work is nearly done. In fact, the Jury will be selecting the winning monument design team in a matter of months. And so, as they – as you – carry out this noble task, know that you have the admiration and appreciation of Canadians.

For you mark a chapter in human history that is truly harrowing.

During the 20th century, communism's poisonous ideology and ruthless practice slowly bled into countries all around the world, on almost every continent. The result was nothing short of catastrophic.

"More than one hundred million souls were lost, an almost incomprehensible number.

We must never forget that these are not numbers, they are not statistics. They were mothers and fathers, sons

and daughters, friends and neighbors. Their futures, their potential, their hopes and dreams, were stolen from them. Our hearts break for those who suffered and we mourn for those who



were crushed. In Canada, we feel this pain so acutely because nearly one quarter of all Canadians were either held captive by communism's chains or are the sons and daughters of those who were.

Indeed, throughout the 20th century, Canada became a haven for those fleeing communist governments, as Robert described to us, and a new home to those who wanted to live in freedom.

And so, over nearly 100 years they came – your grandparents, mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters – you came, from Russia, Estonia, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Cambodia, the former Czechoslovakia, the former Yugoslavia, the former East Germany – I could go on – Vietnam, China, North Korea, Cuba, Albania and others.

And when these freedom-seekers arrived, many having risked their lives to get here, instead of communism's oppression, they found Canadian safety. Instead of communism's restrictions, they found Canadian freedom. Instead of communism's grim determinism, they found Canadian opportunity. Instead of communism's fear, they found Canadian hope. Safety, freedom, opportunity, hope. That was Canada. And that is still our Canada today."

-bs/vk-

More information about the background of Tribute to Liberty can be found on their website through which you can also make a financial contribution. Together with your financial contribution you may write your family's story and send it to: <http://www.tributetoliberty.ca/> Photo Jill Thompson (Cuts in editorial staff) pictures ➤ 8

This is a question which I get asked from time-to-time, and in various forms, is one many of my congregation also get asked by their family and friends. So for anyone contemplating a visit to the delightful city of Prague, or thinking of coming to live in the Czech Republic in the near future, here is my answer to this question.

There is an inevitable tendency to think that where I normally live is safe, and to question the safety of anywhere else. This comes about because of familiarity – I am familiar with where I live and therefore I think it is a safe place. The worst offenders in this regard are Americans, partly because roughly two thirds of the American population, have never set foot outside the borders of their own country.

The reality is, that of all the nations in the developed Western world, the United States of America is actually one of the least safest places to live. It has one of the highest murder rates per head of population – 4.7 per 100,000. Compare this to the United Kingdom, where the rate is 1.2 per 100,000. And the Czech Republic? The most recent figures from 2012, show a murder rate of 0.8 per 100,000. So in simple terms, there is the answer to the question in the title of this post.

As in any major city, there is a certain risk of petty theft which any visitor or resident needs to be aware of. This usually takes the form of pickpocketing in busy places, such as Charles Bridge on a sunny summer's day, or in

## Is Prague safe?

By Ricky Yates

crowded tram and metro carriages. Simple precautions, such as making sure your handbag or rucksack is closed properly, and not putting your wallet in your back trouser pocket where a thief can easily access it, are the best ways to avoid becoming a victim of this sort of crime.

Petty theft used to be a far bigger problem in Prague some years ago, than it is now. Because petty theft was giving the city a bad reputation, there was a major police effort to crack down on it, before it caused further damage to the important tourist trade. The effects of this is born out by my own experience which I do accept may not be statistically accurate.

I have now lived in Prague for nearly five-and-a-half years. During the first eighteen months of my time here, two members of my congregation were victims of petty theft. One had her shoulder bag slashed whilst on a crowded tram, and various bank and credit cards stolen. The other had her mobile phone taken from her pocket whilst travelling in a crowded metro carriage. Since then, I'm only aware of one other congregational member who has suffered in this way – another female who had her iPhone stolen, though she admits she was rather careless with it.

One other way in which tourists can become victims of street crime, is to respond to shady individuals in the streets, who offer to 'change money' for you. Just ignore them and instead use a bank. Or draw Czech currency from an ATM using your bank debit card. You will get a far better exchange rate, without the risk of having your wallet snatched or being given counterfeit notes.

Quite honestly, the greatest risk to life and limb in Prague, are trams and motor vehicles. In simple terms, do not have an argument with a Prague tram – you will always lose! Except where a pedestrian crossing is controlled by lights, trams to do NOT stop for pedestrians. That is the reason the words 'Pozor Tram', are painted on the tarmac before crossing tram lines!

Officially, all motor vehicles are meant to stop and give way to pedestrians at zebra crossings. Unfortunately, there are a proportion of Czech drivers who either ignore this law or believe that their urgency to reach their destination, is vastly more important than your right to cross the road in safety. Just be aware of this and exercise your right of way with caution.

Even late at night, Prague is a very safe city. I know from personal experience that I would much prefer to travel on the Prague Metro late at night, than on the London Underground. Several other people that I know, have expressed similar sentiments. Of course, there are a few areas of the city which are best avoided late at night, in particular, several streets off Václavské náměstí/Wenceslas Square. This is where certain of the more unsavory aspects of city life can be seen, and young ladies are best advised not to walk through there wearing short skirts, or there is the risk of being mistaken for what they are not!

However, with that one proviso, and by taking simple precautions against petty theft, Prague is a very safe city both to visit and in which to reside. A place with far less dangers than many other cities in the developed Western world. Source: <http://rickyyates.com/is-prague-safe/>, February 12, 2014



Tribute to Liberty Board Members



Mr. Robert Herjavec and Mrs. Wendy Malysak



Mr. Stephen Harper and Mrs. Alice (vpravo) and Mr. Robert Tmej



Ambassador Mr. Milan Kosar and Mrs. Anna Janous



Mr. Peter Linhart and Mrs. Milly and Mr. Ivo Syptak

## EGBERT IS NORTH OF TORONTO

Recently I visited an interesting place nestled in the woods of Simcoe County, surrounding nearby Egbert. More about that in an interview with a teacher at the Ontario Vipassana Centre in Egbert, Ontario. Egbert is north of Toronto, about half way between Alliston and Barrie.

**Mr. Hamilton, Can you please tell me a little about the history of Vipassane Meditation?**

Vipassana was the meditation taught by Gotama the Buddha, 26 centuries ago in northern India. After about 1000 years, this teaching was lost in India, but in that period it had spread to all surrounding countries. One of the countries where it went and where it was preserved was Burma. There, Vipassana was handed down through the centuries until modern times. About four decades ago, my teacher, Mr. S.N. Goenka returned it to India, the land of his forefathers. He actually was fulfilling the mission of his teacher, Sayagyi U Ba Khin. Since his arrival in India in 1969, the technique of Vipassana has spread around the world. There are now over 140 centres worldwide for the teaching of Vipassana, including three in Canada. Locally the Ontario Vipassana Foundation has been putting on courses several decades, first at rented sites and now at our centre near Barrie.

**Is your Foundation associated with any sect or religion?**

Although we teach and practice the teachings of Gotama, the Buddha, we are not associated with seccration group. The Ontario Vipassana Foundation is dedicated to our teacher's mission, the transmission of Dhamma as far and wide as possible. Dhamma je universal. Anyone of any tradition or background can attend our retreats and get the same benefits. Dhamma is the Pāli word for the Teaching of the Buddha.

**How does Foundation finance itself?**

The Ontario Vipassana is a non-profit charitable organization. All courses and the running of the centre are paid for by donations made by course participants who have completed a course. So when someone comes to a course, all the expenses for that person have been paid for by someone who attended an earlier course. At the end of the course a new mediator may also give a donation according to his or her means. This is the ancient tradition of dāna, a Pāli word meaning charity.

**What exactly is Vipassana?**

Vipassana is method of self-observation. But the foundation of the technique is morality. In 10-day retreat we start by resolving

to lead a harmless life... at least for the next 10 days, the duration of the course. This base of morality is absolutely essential to the Path.

Then we try to focus attention on the incoming and outgoing breath. This is not as easy at one might think, because a torrent of distractions starts to arise in our minds. The meditators are instructed to learn how to ignore these thoughts and feelings and to keep observing the breath.

After a few days the mind settles down and they are then instructed to focus on their bodily sensation, trying to keep a calm mind while learning how to experience change within. This is also very difficult to do, but by persistent effort, learn how.

The effect of this practice is to cause hidden habit patterns to surface. These are the deep-lying conditioning of the mind which we have established by all our past actions. Many of them are harmful to use, because they cause us to learn the part these sensations play in his or her life and in the perpetuation of our personal misery. Vipassana is really a struggle with our hidden demons... one in which we can emerge victorious.

**You said this comes from Buddha. If an adherent to some other religion attends one of courses,**

You're teaching my religion in the name of Buddha!

Actually, Vipassana complements all religions. After all, what is the purpose of religions? All religions, in their simplest form, teach the same thing: Live a oral, righteous life with a disciplined mind, while trying to come and closer to some ideal.

Vipassana helps everyone do that. We teach morality, living and working harmlessly and lovingly. We teach control of mind by focusing out attention upon ourselves and learning to overcome the impurities of our minds. We teach a way to purify our minds at the deepest level and thereby come out of the harmful mental habit patterns which cause us to harm ourselves and others which keep us so unhappy. And we each universal loving kindness. That's all. No religion can have any objection to that.

It is only at the external levels that different faiths find conflict; at the level of external appearances or the level of beliefs, dogmas and ritual practices... not at the level of experiencing Truth, because Truth is universal.

**How about those with no particular faith?**

They are also human beings. They also can experience the



**es, would this practice interfere with their personal faith in any way?**

People of all faiths come to Vipassana courses and many of them have the same thing to say:

truth about themselves about the suffering inherent in living in this world. They also can be relieved of this misery of craving, hatred and ignorance.

Is this practice intended

## Best cars to own 2014: It's no joke, Skoda takes top three slots in Auto Express customer satisfaction awards

By RAY MASSEY

**SKODA YETI VOTED BEST OVERALL CAR FOR THIRD YEAR RUNNING. SKODA BEATS RIVALS LIKE BMW AND MERCEDES-BENZ FOR RELIABILITY AND QUALITY**

Skoda really has turned the joke on its head by scooping the top three slots in a major car satisfaction survey of more than 50,000 UK motorists.

As part of its spectacular hat-trick, the Skoda Yeti took top honours for the third year running in the Auto Express 'Driver Power' poll scoring high marks for reliability, build quality and running costs – as well as being voted the easiest car of all to drive and the best overall sports utility vehicle. The winning Yeti was followed by the second placed Citigo with a satisfaction rating of 92.6 per cent which also saw it crowned best small car and also named 'most affordable to run'. The Superb saloon clinched third place overall to give a clean sweep for Skoda on the podium with a satisfaction rating of 91.6 per cent making it the best family car. To buy the three cars together would land a total bill of £44,510, with the Yeti starting from £19,815, the Superb at £16,605 and Citigo £8,090.

The hat-trick success for the firm knocked the smile off the faces of many automotive rivals. Only BMW's motorway mile munching 5-series saloon came close, getting fourth place with a satisfaction rating of 91.45 per cent, which also earned it the accolade of 'best executive car.' Korea's Kia Rio clinched fifth spot at 91.11 per cent.

The best performing British car was the MG6, assembled by MG's new Chinese owners at Longbridge in the West Midlands, which received an overall satisfaction rating of 90.9 per cent.

Toyota's 'green' petrol-electric hybrid Prius was in seventh spot at 90.9 per cent satisfaction, followed by Germany's BMW 1-series, the Renault Captur, and the tenth-place Kia Cee'd. The 2014 Auto Express Driver Power car owner survey also revealed that British motorists are happier with their cars than ever before – with satisfaction levels increasing significantly from when the poll first launched in 2002.

More than 50,000 drivers rated their cars on a check-list of areas including build-quality, reliability, performance, running costs, road-handling and ride-quality, ease of driving comfort, practicality and levels of 'in-car tech'. The average satisfaction rating of a car in the Driver Power Top 100 was 88.36 per cent – a rise of seven percentage points over the comparable figure of 81.75 per cent in 2002.

### DRIVER POWER AWARDS 2014

Here are the top ten cars in the Auto Express Driver Power 2014 awards – along with their satisfaction rating: 1. Skoda Yeti - 92.78%, 2. Skoda Citigo - 92.62%, 3. Skoda Superb - 91.68%, 4. BMW 5 Series - 91.45%, 5. Kia Rio



- 91.11%, 6. MG6 - 90.92%, 7. Toyota Prius - 90.90%, 8. BMW 1 Series - 90.84%, 9. Renault Captur - 90.84%, 10. Kia Cee'd - 90.81%.

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief Auto Express, said: Skoda has done a brilliant job of building cars that people love. They really are having the last laugh. Skoda entered the crossover class with the Yeti in 2009 and it proved an instant hit, with demand outstripping supply as soon as dealers opened the order books. The car's appeal hasn't waned, and the company kept its latest update very simple. It's great to see the Skoda Citigo in the top three, too it's a fantastic city car that appeals across many levels. Mr Fowler added: 'The

MG6 marked the dawn of a new era for the British brand and has proven very popular with owners.' The Driver Power survey gave detailed results of the top 100 cars plus 50 more just outside the top 'ton'. In 150th place was the Vauxhall Antara at 82.88 per cent satisfaction just ahead of the Volkswagen Passat MkV and Suzuki Swift Mkl at 82.95 per cent. Audi, Peugeot and Volkswagen had most cars in the Driver Power Top 100 with seven models each. The highest individual score in any category is the Volvo V70 MkII's 99.44 per cent for practicality. But the Range Rover Sport Mkl's rating of 65.63 per cent for running costs is the worst individual category score.

Off-roaders and 'sports utility vehicles' SUVs are the most popular class, accounting for 31 of the Top 150 cars. Biggest faller is the Volkswagen Golf Mk VI, which has plummeted 73 places. Alasdair Stewart, Brand Director for Skoda UK said: 'This is another incredible result for Skoda. We're delighted that our customers are so passionate about their cars. We know that expectations are higher than ever, so to lock out the top three positions in this year's survey is a great achievement for everyone at Skoda. ■

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/cars/article-2611229/Best-cars-2014-Skoda-takes-slots-Auto-Express-awards.html>, 24 April 2014



The Kindred Spirits Orchestra has performed since 2009, to a great acclaim, sold-out audiences, and standing ovations at the legendary CBC Glenn Gould Studio in downtown Toronto. As of the 2011, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra has also established a 6-concert subscription series at the Flato Markham Theatre, in addition to 3 community-outreach and 2 educational concerts. Led by the charismatic Maestro Kristian Alexander, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra is enjoying an enormous popularity among York Region's residents and continues to attract avid audiences across the Greater Toronto Area.

The Kindred Spirits Orchestra performs a wide range of compositions by Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, Handel, Tchaikovsky, Haydn,

## Interview with director MAESTRO KRISTIAN ALEXANDER

Brahms, Mendelssohn, Chopin, and many others. Ardent supporter of contemporary music, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra created, also in 2011, Markham Contemporary Music Festival, an annual event that has brought to life great pieces of the 20th century by Lutoslavsky, Stravinsky, Philip Glass, Honegger as well as by illustrious Canadian composers such as Garry Kulesha, Brian Current, Larysa Kuzmenko, Daniel Friedman, Kevin Lau, and Constantine Caravassilis. During the past few years alone, the orchestra has regularly worked with internationally renowned soloists such as pianists Christina Quilico, James Parker and Maxim Bernard, violinists Jacques Israelievitch, Joelle Kee and Marc Djokic, cellist Rachel Mercer, soprano Rebecca Whelan, and tenor Keith Klassen, among many others.

Here are some quotes from important people about the Kindred Spirits Orchestra:

"The performance of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Kristian Alexander was inspiring, powerful and transformational. The musicians were exhilarating and the audience moved. It was one of the most exciting performances I have seen in a while..." Jacques Israelievitch, violinist (former concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra)

"Performing with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Kristian Alexander was a wonderful experience." Christina Quilico, pianist

"I had a terrific time making new friends and sharing great music with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra." Jamie Parker, pianist (University of Toronto Chair of Piano Performance)

"This was a really great concert..., the orchestra sounded fantastic!!! And the choice of music was excellent." Alexa Petrenko, host (National Classical Radio 96.3 FM)

"The wonderful opening night of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra is still resonating in our minds... The musical program, covering the full range of 19th century German music was well balanced and beautifully executed." Walter Stechel, Consul General of Germany in Canada

"Kindred Spirits Orchestra plays an important role in promoting arts and culture in Ontario through their outstanding musical performances." The Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of culture

"I commend the Kindred Spirits Orchestra for their efforts to inspire, uplift, educate and entertain their audiences

► 10

► to eventually convert people to Buddhism?

This practice will convert you to happiness. There is no need to call oneself a 'Buddhist' or anything else. The Buddha only wanted to share what he had discovered... the way out of misery. Anyone can practice this teaching without being formally converted from one religion to another. No one will be asked to become a Buddhist.

At the beginning of the course, as part of the opening formalities we all take refuge in Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha. But this is clearly explained to mean: taking refuge in Truth. Here Buddha represents the element of enlightenment within us all. We are really taking refuge in enlightenment

which is universal. So also with Dhamma, Truth of nature, and Sangha, the community of all the saintly people of all backgrounds who have conquered themselves and become liberated from misery.

### What do the participants achieve from this practice?

Those who learn this meditation technique will have a tool which help them face the ups and downs of life with a balanced mind. Not only that... they will have the means to strip away all harmful mental conditioning that causes them to roll in misery... the blind habit patterns of the unconscious mind.

What is the Vipassana Founda-

### tion's interest in our community?

It is not just community we are interested in reaching. Dhamma is for all. People from many communities come to our retreats. This course was originally taught in Hindi and English, but as people from all over the world came to India and took the course, they caused it to be translated into dozens of languages. At our center north of Toronto, we have teaching materials in most of the languages spoken by Ontario's immigrant communities.

At Ontario Vipassana Centre we have held courses in English, Hindi, Farsi, Burmese, Russian and Chinese. ■

Thank you very much for your kindness, Věra Kohoutová

# Český šéfdirigent Káhirského symfonického orchestru navštíví Toronto

Do Toronta přicestuje český dirigent Jiří Petrdlík, aby s torontským tělesem Kindred Spirits Orchestra předvedl v sobotu 28. června ve 20.00 v CBC Glenn Gould Studio koncert. V Česku náleží absolvent Hudební fakulty AMU v Praze k nejvýraznějším tvářím mladé dirigentské generace.

Jeho dosavadní profesní život se doslova odehrává v notové osnově různých hudebních žánrů, stylů a epoch. Nechybí ani úspěšná účast v soutěžích, spolupráce s předními světovými orchestry, renomovanými operními scénami, členství v odborných porotách, patří k zakladatelům Společnosti Zdenka Fibicha, angažuje se v oblasti sborníkové muzikologické, publikační a pedagogické. Je skvělým reprezentantem své vlasti, jejíž muzikální historii již po tři sezóny oceňují až v dalekém Egyptě. Konečně, rozhovor s 37letým umělcem slova jen potvrzuji.

## CO VÁS PŘIVEDLO K TÉTO PROFESÍ?

K dirigování jsem inklinoval již od dětství, ale nikoliv díky rodinné tradici - v naší rodině totiž nikdy nebyli profesionální hudebníci. Spíš mně to připadalo jako něco exotického, podobně jako astronaut nebo kapitán na zámořské lodi. Nicméně jsem nejprve začal hrát na klavír, později na pozoun a pak jsem se již nějak tak přirozeně začal zabývat dirigováním. A když došlo na nutnost volby povolání, věděl jsem již přesně, že chci být dirigentem.

## VAŠE DIRIGENTSKÁ PŮSOBNOST JE POMĚRNĚ ŠIROKÁ. CO UPŘEDNOSTŇUJETE?

Máte pravdu, jsem spíše typ univerzálního dirigenta, než nějakého úzkoprofilového specialisty. V současné době mám na kontě zhruba 1500 vystoupení, z nichž velkou část zaujímá práce v divadle. Několik posledních sezón se však více věnuji koncertním podiumům. A v neposlední řadě musím zmínit i sborové dirigování, které je mým relaxem od divadelního nebo symfonického provozu. Nemám problém nastudovat barokní operu, balet, melodram či broadwayský muzikál a podobně široký záběr mám i v případě symfonických orchestrů.

## PROČ JSTE PŘIJAL PRÁVĚ NABÍDKU DO TORONTA?

Nabídku na koncert v Torontu jsem přijal díky návrhu uměleckého ředitele KSO pana Kristiana Alexandera na vzájemnou spolupráci. Já jsem uměleckým ředitelem a šéfdirigentem Káhirského symfonického orchestru a s panem Alexanderem jsme se dohodli na jeho vystoupení s mým tělesem v Káhiře, které se uskutečnilo v listopadu loňského roku. Následně jsem byl pozván na koncert s jeho orchestrem do Toronta.

## JAKÝM ZPŮSOBEM SE ČLOVĚK MŮŽE STÁT UMĚLECKÝM ŘEDITELEM A ŠÉFDIRIGENTEM TĚLESA V PRO NÁS TAK NAPROSTO EXOTICKÉ ZEMI?

V roce 2011 jsem byl pozván do Káhiry, abych s tamním symf. orchestrem provedl Smetanův cyklus symfonických básní Má vlast. Bylo to první souborné provedení v Africe. Na základě úspěšného koncertu mi vedení orchestru učinilo nabídku, zda bych měl zájem o pozici uměleckého ředitele a šéfdirigenta, a tak jsem od sezóny 2011/12 v čele tohoto tělesa. Mimochodem, velkou inspirací pro mě v tomto případě byla Talichova a Ančerlova interpretace Má vlasti. Ančerla bych rád připomenul i proto, že po roce 1968 našel zájemci a umělecké uplatnění právě v Torontu.

## LIŠÍ SE TYTO POSTY TAM OD STEJNÝCH TŘEBA V EVROPĚ?

V podstatě se neliší až tak moc, základní principy práce jsou stejné - kromě toho, že šéfdirigent, který řídí největší procento koncertů, se dále stará o dramaturgii jednotlivých programů, rozhoduje o hostujících umělcích, vyhlašuje konkurzy na volná místa v orchestru atd. Je to samozřejmě časově náročná práce, ale i tak se mohou věnovat dalším aktivitám,

jako je řízení Pražského smíšeného sboru, práci v divadlech, pedagogické a muzikologické činnosti a pohostinským vystoupením, jako je právě to v Torontu.

## KTERÝ Z HUDEBNÍCH SKLADATELŮ JE VÁM OSOBNĚ NEJBLIŽŠÍ?

Nemohu říci, že mám oblíbeného jednoho skladatele. Je mi samozřejmě blízká česká hudba, a to nejen Dvořák či Smetana, ale např. Oskar Nedbal, Josef Suk, Zdeněk Lukáš a další. Ze zahraničních skladatelů mám v oblíbě opět celé spektrum autorů např. Bacha, Haydna, Berlioze, Schumanna, Mahlera, Wagnera, Brittena, Lutoslawského a další. Zvláště hlubokým dojmem na mě v poslední době působí Bruckner.

## MÁTE SVŮJ VZOR MEZI SVĚTOVÝMI DIRIGENTY?

Nedá se říci, že mám jeden či dva vzory. Spíše se z každého dirigentského výkonu snažím poučit, ať už v pozitivním nebo negativním slova smyslu. Jako student Jiřího Bělohlávky jsem byl z našich dirigentů výrazně ovlivněn i jeho osobou, ze světových dirigentů na mě přímo působil bývalý šéf Newyorské filharmonie Kurt Masur. Poslední dobou se zabývám analýzou dirigentských kreací Sergiu Celibidacheho.

Ze zahraničních dirigentů, kteří soustavně působí v České republice, za všechny jmenuji alespoň výtečného francouzského dirigenta Serge Baudoa, dlouholetého šefa pražských symfoniků. Ze sborníků na mě klíčový vliv měl Miroslav Košler.

## CO POVAŽUJETE ZA SVŮJ DOSAVIDNÍ NEJVĚTŠÍ ÚSPĚCH?

V obecné rovině to, že moje vášeň je zároveň mým povoláním, které mě vnitřně naplňuje a materiálně zabezpečuje. To považuji za velký luxus. Když se podíváte kolem sebe, tak zjistíte, jak málo lidí má tuto výsadu. Moc si toho vážím.

## CHTĚL JSTE NĚKDY NÁSLEDOVAT NĚKTERÉHO ZE SVÝCH UČITELŮ?

Nechtěl. Nikoliv jako projev neucty, ale proto, že nejpoctivější a nejlepší cesta, jak něčeho dosáhnout, je vlastní úsudek a práce. Učitelé jsou mi velkou inspirací, ale jak kterou skladbu budu dirigovat a jakým způsobem ji budu zkoušet, to je něco, co si



každý musí vyjasnit sám v sobě. VAŠE PRÁNI DO NEJBLIŽŠÍ BUDOUCNOSTI? Mohu-li považovat za nejbližší budoucnost nadcházející léto, tak bych si přál trochu odpočinku o prázdninách, uprostřed hor a krásné přírody. Doufám, že se mi to podaří.

Děkuji, Maestro, za Vaši vstřícnost a za Váš čas.

Připravila Věra Kohoutová

Info: Glenn Gould Studio, main floor of the Canadian Broadcasting Centre, 250 Front St. West Toronto, www.cbc.ca/glenn Gould/about/location.html, tel: 1(866)943-8849, (416)205-5000, dále čtete rozhovor s Kristianem Alexanderem, hudebním ředitelem Kinder Spirits Orchestra Toronto, str. 9 a 10. ■



Šéfdirigent Jiří Petrdlík

## Interview with MAESTRO KRISTIAN ALEXANDER

► form pg 9 *through the power of music. Your efforts go a long way to developing an appreciation of all forms of music in our communities." Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of Markham*

### Why have you chosen a Czech conductor this time?

The Kindred Spirits Orchestra frequently invites internationally guest soloists and conductors to perform with the orchestra. According to Maestro Kristian Alexander, Music Director of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, "Working with soloists and conductors presents a great opportunity for the musicians to keep their skills sharp and polished. It also reflects the orchestra's mission to create and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with artists from various parts of the world and develop adequate conditions for cross-pollination of ideas and cultures."

### Who is your favorite Czech composer?

They are many great Czech composers, Dvorak, of course, being probably the most frequently performed today. But also Christophe Wilibald Gluck for whom Czech was first language. His work in the 18th century led to many important reforms in the operatic genre. There is Hummel whose Trumpet concerto is one of the two most often heard pieces, together with Haydn's Trumpet concerto. Czerny who studied composition and piano with Beethoven and wrote many of the etudes played by young pianists today. Smetana and his Má vlast, Janáček with the Glagolic Mass, I would even mention Mahler who was born in Bohemia as well as Joseph Suk, Jan Kubelík and Bohuslav Martinů. There are so many of them...

### This time Mr. Jiří Petrdlík comes up. What has led to this choice?

Maestro Jiří Petrdlík is one of most respectable European conductors of his generation. When we invited him to visit Canada and guest conduct the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, he was Permanent Conductor of the National Theatre Brno and Music Director of the Municipal Theatre Brno. Since then he has been Permanent Conductor of the Pilsner Theatre as well and now regularly performs with the main opera companies in Europe and America.

### ...and the repertoire?

The repertoire was chosen in collaboration with Maestro Petrdlík and is truly remarkable. The program commences with Weber's Overture to his heroic opera Oberon, the last he would compose. Next, the teenage violin sensation, Nicole Li, joins Maestro Petrdlík and orchestra, performing Saint-Saëns' dazzling third violin concerto. Closing the program, is Brahms' delightful Symphony No. 2, which has warmed the hearts of music lovers for generations. ■



Exteriér a interiér Káhirského operního domu, který sídlí symfonický orchestr  
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