

Kroměříž celebrates sixty

Kroměříž – Shortly before 7 p.m., the Kroměříž castle was filled with fanfares. Brass instruments from the symphony orchestra were welcoming the audience from the balcony in the courtyard. It seemed as if they were trying to say that this Friday would be truly remarkable. Not only was this the finale of the Kroměříž Summer Of Music, but the young graduates of the P. J. Vejvanovsky Conservatory had the opportunity to close the entire series. The student symphony orchestra led by conductor Viktor Kozanek together with a mixed boys and girls chorus, led by chorister Lenka Polaskova, appeared as a celebration of the conservatory's 60th anniversary.

Right from the beginning the audience heard a piece that brought out the atmosphere which dominated the castle perhaps 300 years ago. It was written by the then-trumpeter for his master bishop Karl from Lichtenstein-Castelcorno – P. J. Vejvanovsky. Then the hall breathed in the atmosphere of last century's America. *Rhapsody In Blue*, with Boris Krajny playing piano, is something that you rarely hear live. This pianist, who has performed in thirty-five countries on five continents, is living proof of the quality that the conservatory of Kroměříž produces.

Gershwin's composition prepared the way for another American composer. In the audience there was sitting the composer of a concerto for trombone and orchestra, David Gaines. He wrote this piece for Robert Kozanek, who could in this way present himself as another world-class graduate.

After intermission it was time for the sixty-member school choir, which together with soloists performed Dvořak's *Te Deum*, op. 103 for soloists, choir and orchestra. After great applause, the conservatory musicians added one more Dvořak piece as an encore. The audience heard his larky *Humoreska*.

The programming was done very well, too. Putting contemporary serious music between world famous classics by the likes of Gershwin and Dvořak turned out to be a great idea. Through their collaboration, David Gaines and Robert Kozanek added another very interesting dimension to the performance. Both were rewarded with huge applause.

Antonin Kuznik