

# **ANIMAL**MUSIC

original jazz / classical / contemporary / world music  
from Czech Republic and beyond

Catalogue 2007-2018



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# The lawyer behind it all

## Daniel Konrád

Two major events shape Czech jazz music of the 21st century and both have to do with law. In 2009, a lawyer founded Jazz Dock, Prague's first jazz club that is not oriented solely toward tourists. But two years earlier, another lawyer and a musician named Petr Ostrouchov had founded Animal Music. What started as a one-off experiment soon became a young independent music label. By now, it is a major European jazz record company.

More than 70 releases and 12 years later, Animal Music has worked with most of the leading Czech jazz musicians. The quality, ambition, originality and diversity consistently present on Animal Music's albums could be compared to ECM Records and ACT Music in Munich, Germany, or Fresh Sound Records in Barcelona, Spain. With one difference: this is specifically Czech music.

Historically, Czech jazz needed lawyers to fend off attacks by oppressive regimes. A small musical country in the middle of Europe where jazz was persecuted by the Nazis and at best tolerated by the Communists until the Velvet Revolution overthrew the regime in 1989, the Czech Republic in the early 2000's saw the rise of a new generation of talented young jazz musicians and composers. Much like they needed a jazz club where they could perform regularly, they also needed a record label that would allow them to develop their work.

Most of Animal Music's first releases consisted of long-overdue debut recordings by musicians who had been playing for years but never had the chance to enter a recording studio. By now, the best ones already made major strides. They are collaborating with some of the world's best singers or jazz instrumentalists, often working abroad.

Hammond B3 player Ondrej Pivec, whose 2007 recording *Never Enough* was the first in Animal Music's catalogue, is currently a member of American jazz and R&B singer Gregory Porter's band. Pivec features on its 2017 album called *Take Me to the Alley*, which received a Grammy Award.

Pianist Vojtěch Procházka of the Vertigo sextet, another staple of Animal Music's repertoire, has been partially living and working in Norway. Saxophonist Karel

Růžička Jr. is now based in New York and recruited John Patitucci, Wayne Shorter's longtime bassist, for his last Animal Music album. Trumpet player Oskar Török performs more often in Poland than the Czech Republic. Saxophone player Luboš Soukup, based in Denmark, most recently recorded an album with Benin guitarist Lionel Loueke, a member of Herbie Hancock's band. Other acclaimed musicians featuring in Animal Music's catalogue include American drummers Jeff Ballard and Jeff Tain Watts or Italian pianist Antonio Faraò, not to mention numerous Polish and Slovak artists.

While Animal Music continues releasing and stimulating these musicians' newest collaborations, the label still advances new names – in recent years, bassist Jiří Slavík, trumpet player Štěpánka Balcarová or violoncellist Dorota Barová recorded their debuts for Animal Music. All three represent enormous talents with years of performing experience and are on track to further shape Czech jazz music in the next decade.

Animal Music's catalogue is now already somewhat of an encyclopedia, allowing listeners to reconstruct the musical development of top Czech jazz talents like bassist Jaromír Honzák or guitarist David Dorůžka, who has since recorded for Blue Note Records in Poland and Fresh Sound label in Spain.

There is a succession of recordings by Vertigo, a progressive Czech jazz music ensemble influenced by avant-garde and chamber music.

Other parts of the catalogue present a more conservative take on jazz music – like multiple recordings by pianist Najponk, Prague's most talented performer of American jazz standards.

Moreover, many of Animal Music's recordings of the past decade transcend the jazz genre entirely. Bassists Jiří Slavík and Tomáš Liška both drew upon the Czech folk tradition, releasing emotionally effective music played with the talent, knowledge and freedom of jazz improvisers. Animal Music has also released two albums by women choirs – Gruník, a traditional folk ensemble, and Tiburtina Ensemble, which focuses on Gregorian chant and medieval polyphony.

There is also room in Animal Music's repertoire for foreigners working in the Czech Republic - saxophonists like Andy Schofield and Cyrille Oswald or guitarist Steve Walsh.

Other parts of the catalogue extend into Americana, an amalgam of American folk, country and blues, or classical music, such as the recordings by cellist Jiří Bárta or Radek Baborák, one of the greatest French horn players in the world and a former principal French horn player at the Berlin Philharmonic.

By now, there are even a couple of holiday records: albums by a big band called Concept Art Orchestra and pianist Beata Hlavenková both represent unique takes on the Czech Christmas carol tradition.

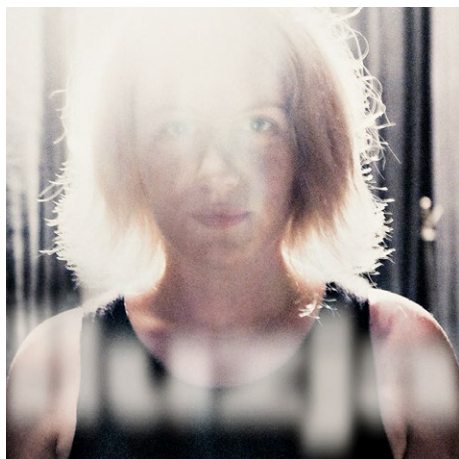
Last but not least, there is the founder. Petr Ostrouchov, 46, is not just a lawyer and record producer, who artistically shaped many of the albums, arranged some of them and played or sung on others. What is most important, Ostrouchov is a highly demanded arranger and composer, having worked on more than 15 Czech and Polish feature films.

Some of his film music, like the recent "Zahradnictví" composed for a film trilogy by the acclaimed Czech director Jan Hřebejk, was also released by Animal Music. But Ostrouchov's perhaps most ambitious project to date is his recording of the music by Zdeněk Liška for Markéta Lazarová, a classic 1967 Czech New Wave film. In 2015, Ostrouchov composed a 90-minute oratorio of Liška's music for the prestigious Strings of Autumn Festival in Prague and later released its recording on Animal Music.

It just goes to show that Czech jazz music could not find a better lawyer than Petr Ostrouchov.

# Best jazz albums 2007–2018

Czech Music Academy Award



Dorota Barová  
Iluzja (2018)



Jaromir Honzák  
Early Music (2017)



David Dorůžka  
Autumn Tales (2016)



Concept Art Orchestra  
The Prague Six (2015)



Jaromir Honzák  
Uncertainty (2014)



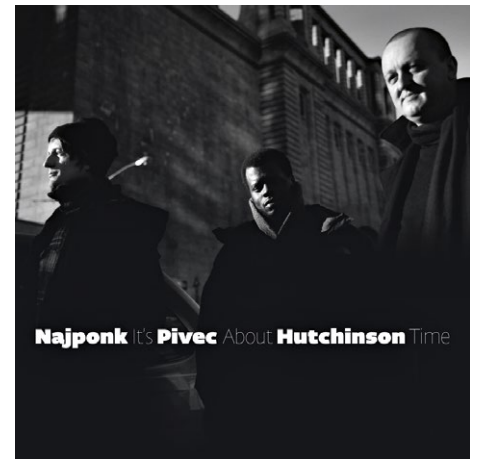
Beata Hlavenková  
Theodoros (2013)



Inner Spaces & David Dorůžka  
Light Year (2012)



Vertigo  
Metamorphosis (2011)



Najponk/Pivec/Hutchinson  
It's About Time (2010)



Jaromír Honzák Quintet  
Little Things (2009)



David Dorůžka  
Silently Dawning (2008)



Jaromír Honzák Quartet  
A Question to All Your Answers  
(2007)

# About us

We are an independent record company based in Prague, Czech Republic.

Since the launch of the label in 2007 we have been releasing the best of original Czech music. Our catalogue of 74 albums released so far features top Czech musicians as well as numerous internationally renowned guest artists and covers a wide range of genres - from jazz to fusion where jazz meets classical, contemporary, folk, and world music.

Our records have been awarded by the Czech Music Academy as "best jazz albums" since 2007 each year (33 of the 74 albums were either nominated or awarded).

We operate our own online store with worldwide delivery where we sell our music on CDs, mp3, wav and some of them also on vinyl.

Upon request, a special user account may be created, enabling music journalists and other industry professionals to download all our recordings from our website in WAV format for free. Please, feel free to contact us.

We distribute our music worldwide, using all usual digital platforms as well as services of local distribution companies in many countries.

## **Our website**

[www.animalmusic.eu](http://www.animalmusic.eu)

## **How to contact us**

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# Catalogue & Artists

# Jaromír Honzák

The award-winning bassist, composer, teacher and “guru” for the whole generation of Czech jazz musicians, Jaromír Honzák, is one of the mainstays of the Czech jazz scene whose reputation and scope of activity have long ago surpassed its limits. Honzák’s work is highly valued for his deep, pensive musicality, his sense of the melodic line and elegant, elaborate harmonies. He frequently collaborates with another distinctive personality, guitarist David Dorůžka, and Polish jazz musicians. Five of Honzák’s albums have been awarded as “best jazz album” by the Czech Music Academy. In winter 2019, a new studio album will be released on the occasion of Honzák’s 60th birthday.



## ANI 069 Jaromír Honzák: **Early Music (2017)\***

This album represents a return to the age-old inspirational sources of modern music in terms of both content and form.

**David Dorůžka** (g, acg), **Luboš Soukup** (cl, ts), **Vít Křišťan** (p, elp, snt), **Jaromír Honzák** (b), **Martin Novák** (d, per)



## ANI 033 Jaromír Honzák feat. Sissel Vera Pettersen: **Blood Sings (2012)\***

An unusual tribute to the work of Suzanne Vega. Honzák’s arrangements of her songs are interleaved with melancholic “winter” impressions and vigorous groovy rhythms; acoustic instruments mingle with electronic sounds over which arches the bewitching voice of the Norwegian singer Sissel Vera Pettersen.

**Sissel Vera Pettersen** (v), **Jaromír Honzák** (b, bg), **Vít Křišťan** (p, elp, key), **Josef Štěpánek** (g, acg, pedal steel), **Łukasz Żyta** (d, per)



## ANI 047 Jaromír Honzák: **Uncertainty (2014)\***

This album places greater emphasis on the melody and counterpoint than Honzák’s other projects. The line-up includes Czech artists as well as new collaborators from France and Sweden.

**Antonin Tri-Hoang** (cl, bcl, as), **David Dorůžka** (g), **Vít Křišťan** (p, elp, snt), **Jaromír Honzák** (b), **Jon Fält** (d)



## ANI 025 Face of the Bass (2011)\*

The only album by the eponymous nu-jazz formation, originally a trio of Jaromír Honzák, the pianist Beata Hlavenková and the drummer Roman Vicha. Combining jazz with electronic music and the minimalist elements of dance music, the project creates its own original genre: “acoustic drum & bass”.

**Michal Nejtek** (key, p, sampler), **Marcel Bárta** (ss, bcl), **Roman Vicha** (d, per, sampler), **Jaromír Honzák** (b), **Beata Hlavenková** (p, elp, snt), **String orchestra**



**ANI 013 Jaromir Honzak Quintet:  
Little Things (2009)\***

Album released on the occasion of Honzak's 50th birthday features Honzak's colleagues of many years from his Czech-Polish quartet - pianist Michal Tokaj and drummer Lukasz Zyta from Poland as well as Czech guitarist David Doruzka, joined here by the American saxophonist Chris Cheek. Thanks to their perfect harmony, the compositions blossom in the unusual beauty and the rich sound.

**Chris Cheek** (ts, ss), **Michal Tokaj** (p, elp), **David Doruzka** (g), **Lukasz Zyta** (d, per), **Jaromir Honzak** (b),  
**String Quartet of PKF - Prague Philharmonia**



**ANI 005 Jaromir Honzak Quartet:  
A Question to All Your Answers (2007)\***

Honzak's first album released with Animal Music, although already the artist's fourth, features Honzak and an excellent trio of Czech-Polish musicians, his frequent co-players of that time.

**Michal Tokaj** (p, elp), **David Doruzka** (g), **Jaromir Honzak** (b), **Lukasz Zyta** (d), **Tomáš Čisteký** (cl, bcl), **Lucie Čisteká** (f), **Vojtěch Procházka** (p)

# Beata Hlavenková

Beata Hlavenková – Czech pianist, vocalist, composer, arranger and producer is one of the most distinctive musicians with her own unmistakable cross-genre sound. Free of genre restrictions and leaning on her deep knowledge of jazz, modern classical music, pop and indie folk, in all her musical projects she weaves together a sensitive and clearly focused performance. She collaborates extensively with Czech and international musicians, composes film and theatre scores and creates arrangements for big symphony orchestras. Her latest film score for an award-winning TV mini-series “Dukla 61” will be released this year on Animal Music label, as well as a her new studio album.

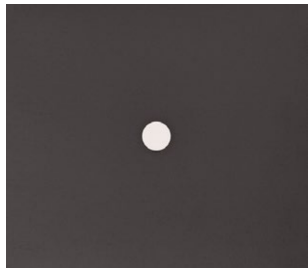


## ANI 066 Beata Hlavenková: Bethlehem (2017)\*

Traditional Christmas songs of the Czech, British, Polish, German and French provenience in Beata's original arrangements or re-compositions for solo piano are accompanied by a handful of her own compositions inspired by Christmas.

All in the author's clearly discernible style.

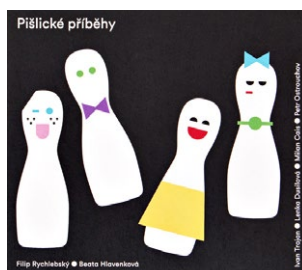
Beata Hlavenková (p)



## ANI 054 Beata Hlavenková: Scintilla (2015)\*

A follow-up to the successful album “Theodoros”, verging on the border between genres and again presented in a thematically unified whole. Beata's piano is augmented by various keyboard and vocal layers with each track featuring one or more guest musicians.

Beata Hlavenková (p, key, elp, v), Julie Dahle Aagård (v), Anders Aarum (key, elp), Jiří Bárta (vc), Kenneth Ekornes (per), Ingrid Jensen (t), Justin Lavash (v, acg), Evan Ziporyn (bcl, cl)



## ANI 052 Beata Hlavenková & Filip Rychlebský: Pišlické příběhy (2015)

Audio-book of children's tales by Filip Rychlebský, narrated by the eminent Czech actor Ivan Trojan and songs composed by Beata Hlavenková and performed, apart from the composer herself, by some of the foremost Czech vocalists and musicians.

Ivan Trojan (narrator), Beata Hlavenková (p, v), Lenka Dusilová (v), Milan Cais (v), Petr Ostrouchov (v, bj), Hedvika Mousa Bacha (hrp), Rastislav Uhrík (b), Jiří Slaviček (d), Patrick Karpentski (uke)



## ANI 037 Beata Hlavenková: Theodoros (2013)\*

An impressive and highly acclaimed solo album consisting of Beata's twelve original compositions of an outstanding quality dedicated to the piano as a solo instrument or recorded in multiple piano layers. The key inspiring factor here has been Beata's fascination with the song form, its simplicity and purity.

Beata Hlavenková (p)



### ANI 029 Eternal Seekers (2012)

Re-release of the successful project from 2008 by an ensemble featuring the foremost Czech singer Lenka Dusilová, the pianist and composer Beata Hlavenková and members of Clarinet Factory quartet. For this album, Lenka Dusilová received the Czech Music Academy Award for the "Singer of the Year".

**Lenka Dusilová** (v, acg), **Beata Hlavenková** (p, elp, v), **Jindřich Pavliš** (cl, bcl), **Vojtěch Nýdl** (cl, v), **Luděk Boura** (cl), **Petr Valášek** (bcl, v), **Tomáš Liška** (b), **David Landštof** (d, per), **Daniel Šoltis** (d), **Milan Cimfe** (bkv)



### ANI 011 Beata Hlavenková: Joy for Joel (2009)\*

Beata's first solo album, that is closest to "jazz" of all her recordings, was recorded in New York with some of the eminent American and Canadian musicians and is made of a set of Beata's own beautiful compositions.

**Beata Hlavenková** (p), **Ingrid Jensen** (t), **Rich Perry** (ts), **Dave Easley** (pedal steel), **Matt Clohesy** (b), **Jon Wikan** (d), **Lenka Dusilová** (v)

# Vertigo

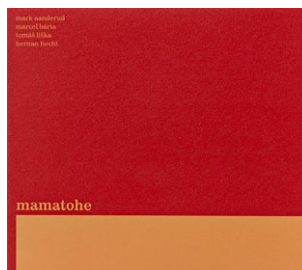
Over 15 years on the Czech music scene, Vertigo is one of the most original formations known and praised for its sophisticated, unpredictable and absolutely authentic sound. The band originated around 2002 as a young dynamic group of musicians united in their search for an original musical expression. Today, all of the band's members (saxophonist and composer Marcel Bárta, cellist, vocalist and composer Dorota Barová, trumpet player and singer Oskar Török, pianist and composer Vojtěch Procházka, bassist Rastislav Uhrík and drummer Daniel Šoltis) are outstanding, sought-after musicians involved in numerous other projects either as leaders or sidemen. A year after Dorota Barová's debut solo album *Iluzja* was awarded the best jazz album, a new album of Vertigo will be released this year.



## ANI 073 Dorota Barová: *Iluzja* (2018)\*

Dorota's long-awaited solo album comprises a collection of songs on poems by Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński, lyrics by Teresa Drozda and Dorota herself. Sung in Polish and recorded in a chamber line-up, the album is intriguing with its profound message, intimate atmosphere and sophisticated simplicity.

**Dorota Barová** (vc, v), **Jakub Vejnar** (b, bg, chapman stick), **Miroslav Chyška** (g, acg), **Beata Hlavenková** (p, bkV)



## ANI 055 Mamatohe (2016)

The international quartet Mamatohe, built around Vertigo's sax player Marcel Bárta, recorded their eponymous album during one day at the close of their 2012 tour. The treasure has been taken out of the vault four years later and mixed. Compositions by all four musicians are based on collective improvisations capturing the band's excellent chemistry and shared musical instincts.

**Mark Aanderud** (p, elp), **Marcel Bárta** (ts, ss), **Tomáš Liška** (b), **Hernan Hecht** (d)



## ANI 056 Vertigo: *Nononononininini* (2016)\*

The latest album of Vertigo with its playful title proves over again that they are without rival in their constant search for a new style of expression. The compositions are more accessible and have "song-like" quality, without losing any of their sophistication and originality.

**Marcel Bárta** (ts, ss, as, cl, bkV), **Oskar Török** (t, fh, v, electronics), **Dorota Barová** (v, vc, electronics), **Vojtěch Procházka** (p, key, snt), **Rastislav Uhrík** (b, bg), **Daniel Šoltis** (d, per, vib)



## ANI 043 Vertigo: *Taj* (2014)\*

Entitled "Taj" ("Mystery"), the album consists of a set of songs giving an impression of a homogeneous composition in nine parts of varying moods. The compositions as well as the performance are as unconventional as ever before with Vertigo.

**Marcel Bárta** (ts, ss, cl, bcl, v), **Oskar Török** (t, v), **Dorota Barová** (vc, loops, v), **Vojtěch Procházka** (p, key, snt, v), **Rastislav Uhrík** (b, bg, v), **Daniel Šoltis** (d, per, v)



**ANI 026 Vertigo:  
Metamorphosis (2011)\***

The third studio project by Vertigo is filled with their characteristic, often surprising but still very authentic music, mostly composed by the saxophonist Marcel Bárta and the cellist Dorota Barová.

**Marcel Bárta** (ts, ss, bcl), **Oskar Török** (t, key, per), **Dorota Barová** (vc, loops, v), **Vojtěch Procházka** (p, per), **Rastislav Uhrík** (b, per), **Daniel Šoltis** (d, per)



**ANI 018 Vojtěch Procházka Trio:  
Amoeba's Dance (2010)**

The debut solo album of Vertigo's pianist Vojtěch Procházka was recorded during his studies in Norway with Norwegian collaborators. The project features Procházka's own compositions as well as original interpretations of music of Herbie Nichols, Kurt Weill, Paul Motian and Ornette Coleman. **Vojtěch Procházka** (p), **Adrian Fiskum Myhr** (b), **Tore T. Sandbakken** (d)



**ANI 021 Muff (2010)**

Another line-up featuring Vertigo's prominent composer and player Marcel Bárta, the experimental band Muff was founded in 2000 and have since gained a cult name by combining genres - jazz rock, electronic - spiced up with humour and both musical and non-musical excursions without frontiers. The eponymous debut album is their only studio recording so far.

**Marcel Bárta** (ts, ss), **Jiří Šimek** (g), **Jakub Zitko** (elp, key & samples), **Jakub Vejnar** (bg), **Roman Vicha** (d, per)



**ANI 008 Vertigo Quintet & Dorota Barová (2008)\***

This album is the first result of Vertigo's collaboration of many years with the singer and cellist Dorota Barová, since 2008 a regular member. Fragile and atmospheric music refined in arrangement and composition is inspired by free jazz, world music and contemporary music.

**Marcel Bárta** (ss, ts), **Oskar Török** (t), **Vojtěch Procházka** (p), **Rastislav Uhrík** (b), **Daniel Šoltis** (d, per), **Dorota Barová** (v, vc)

# Tomáš Liška

Tomáš Liška, double-bassist, composer and leader of Invisible World International Quartet, has participated in many music projects crossing genres from jazz to world music, folk or contemporary and has also been a regular member of the renowned Czech bluegrass band Druhá tráva. His notable recent international achievement was the successful participation at WOMEX 2018 showcase festival.



## ANI 061 Tomáš Liška: Invisible Faces (2017)#

Loosely following on the first Liška's solo project Invisible World, Invisible Faces was recorded with the accordionist Nikola Zarić of Serbian origin, violinist Efe Turumtay of Turkish origin and Czech drummer and percussionist Kamil Slezák. Liška's own compositions are inspired by folk tunes, oscillating between melodic lyricism and rhythmical explosiveness. The band has performed all over Europe and Japan.

**Tomáš Liška** (b), **Nikola Zarić** (acc), **Efe Turumtay** (vn, v),  
**David Dorůžka** (acg, g), **Kamil Slezák** (d, per)



## ANI 046 Tomáš Liška: Bercheros Odyssey (2014)#

Bercheros Odyssey, written as Tomáš's diploma composition to conclude his studies at the Jazz Institute in Berlin, is a six-piece composition for a quintet of string and wind instruments, influenced by jazz, minimalism and classical music and performed by Liška's German-Czech Pénte Ensemble.

**Fabiana Striffler** (vn), **Šimon Marek** (vc),  
**Markus Ehrlich** (cl, bcl), **Natalie Hausmann** (ts),  
**Tomáš Liška** (b)



## ANI 053 Tomáš Liška / Luboš Malina / Michal Nejtek: Fragile Bliss (2015)#

Three musicians, each of them from a different musical background, have come together to record this multi-genre compilation of authentic acoustic music based on jazz as well as folk roots featuring the foremost Czech banjo player and founder of Druhá tráva band Luboš Malina.

**Tomáš Liška** (b), **Luboš Malina** (bj, kaval, tw),  
**Michal Nejtek** (p, sampler), **Kamil Slezák** (d)

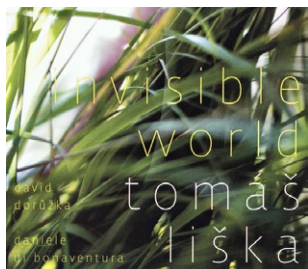


## ANI 034 Marta Töpferová & Tomáš Liška: Milokraj (2013)Ω

Collaboration of Tomáš Liška and the singer Marta Töpferová on an original musical project they both co-penned using their national background, inspired by Moravian and Czech folk music and adding experience they share in the world of contemporary, jazz and world music.

**Marta Töpferová** (v, cuatro), **Tomáš Liška** (b, bk),  
**Stano Palúch** (vn, bk), **Marcel Comendant** (cimb, bk),  
**David Dorůžka** (acg, g, bk), **Luboš Malina** (kaval, tarogato, tw)





**ANI 015 Tomáš Liška:  
Invisible World (2009)#**

Intimate yet very dynamic music of Liška's first solo album combines influences by styles as diverse as flamenco, folk, jazz and tango and was recorded with the guitarist David Dorůžka and the Italian bandoneonist Daniele di Bonaventura.

**Tomáš Liška** (b), **David Dorůžka** (acg, g), **Daniele di Bonaventura** (ban), **Marta Töpferová** (v), **Tomáš Reindl** (per)

# Najponk

An exquisite pianist and musician, Najponk is one of the pioneers of mainstream jazz repertoire on the Czech music scene. Although his albums mainly consist of the "standard" pieces, his recordings are informed by unusual inventiveness and his acute sense of style and rhythm. For each of his records he picks a new collection of gems from the bottomless resources of classic jazz standards, usually accompanied by one or two of his own compositions. The line-up of his co-players, different on each of his records, is impressive.



**ANI 070 Najponk:  
What's Next (2018)**

Najponk's latest album has been recorded together with the famous Swedish double bassist Hans Backenroth and Czech drummer Jiří Slaviček. Featured are more or less known standards by authors such as Bill Evans, Count Basie or Lester Young.

**Najponk** (p), **Hans Backenroth** (b), **Barney Kantor** (g), **Jiří Slaviček** (d)



**ANI 050 Najponk / George Mraz / Matt Fishwick:  
Final Touch of Jazz (2015)**

Najponk has invited the legendary bassist George Mraz and the British drummer Matt Fishwick to join him on his trio album in 2015. This collection of exceptional performances of some of the better- but also less-known items on the list of Najponk's favourite standards includes works by Thelonious Monk and Ron Carter.

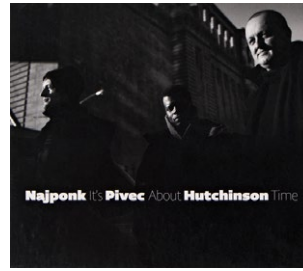
**Najponk** (p), **George Mraz** (b), **Matt Fishwick** (d)



**ANI 045 Najponk: A Child Is Born (2014)**

In addition to jazz classics (Cole Porter, Theolonius Monk), Najponk's solo piano album offers tributes to the contemporary jazz generation (Pat Metheny), instrumental versions of pop music hits (Beatles), bossa nova (Tom Jobim), and much more, all in Najponk's exquisite performance which reaches down to the core of the compositions and presents them in a crystal pure form.

**Najponk** (p)



**ANI 024 Najponk / Ondřej Pivec / Gregory Hutchinson: It's About Time (2010)\***

Najponk and Ondřej Pivec invited the excellent drummer Gregory Hutchinson to join them in their recording sessions in New York. This unique trio album (very probably the only album featuring the unconventional combination of fender piano, Hammond B3 and drums) consists mostly of jazz standards in fresh arrangements.

**Najponk** (elp), **Ondřej Pivec** (B3), **Gregory Hutchinson** (d)



**ANI 030 Najponk / Jaromír Honzák / Matt Fishwick: The Real Deal (2012)#**

Trio album recorded with the eminent Czech bassist Jaromír Honzák and the British drummer Matt Fishwick. This brisk album features Najponk's arrangements of more or less "standard" repertoire including Ellington's "Solitude" and Chaplin's "Smile", as well as an excursion into the work of the French avant-gardist Erik Satie.

**Najponk** (p), **Jaromír Honzák** (b), **Matt Fishwick** (d)

# David Dorůžka

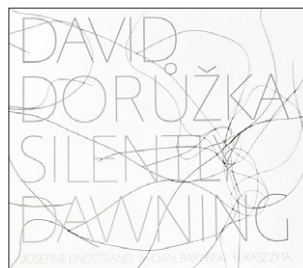
The guitarist and composer David Dorůžka is one of the leading representatives of the Czech jazz scene. He is a distinctive composer with an unmistakable sound and a sought-after sideman performing with Jaromír Honzák and numerous jazz formations mainly in Poland. All three of his solo albums (the debut album *Hidden Paths* was released by Cube-Metier) have been critically highly acclaimed and all received the Czech Music Academy Award for the best jazz album.



**ANI 058 David Dorůžka:  
Autumn Tales (2016)\***

This album was recorded in a standard guitar trio format with an acoustic rhythm section and mainly features David's original songs, inspired by such diverse sources as Jewish music, the oeuvre of Bohuslav Martinů and the Czech interwar popular jazz scene. The bassist Jiří Slavík who is also an excellent soloist and composer has contributed two compositions.

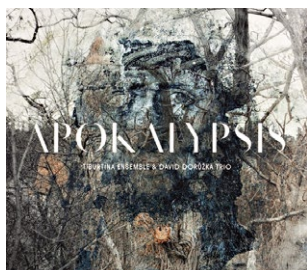
**David Dorůžka** (g, acg), **Jiří Slavík** (b), **Martin Novák** (d, per)



**ANI 007 David Dorůžka:  
Silently Dawning (2008)\***

The second of David's solo albums is composed of his own compositions made on the poems of Emily Dickinson, the Czech 20th-century poet Jiří Orten and the lyrics of the Swedish singer Josefine Lindstrand who performs in all the three languages. The accompaniment is provided by the Polish rhythmic duo Łukasz Żyta and Michał Barański. The intimate and candid music in excellent performance and faultless sound.

**Josefine Lindstrand** (v), **David Dorůžka** (g, acg),  
**Michał Barański** (b), **Łukasz Żyta** (d, per)



**ANI 041 Tiburtina Ensemble & David Dorůžka Trio:  
Apokalypsis (2013)\***

The female vocal Tiburtina Ensemble is one of the leading European performers of Early Music, specializing in the interpretation of Gregorian chant, medieval polyphony and contemporary music. *Apokalypsis* is a crossover project of its own kind compiled from the Spanish medieval manuscript Codex Las Huelgas and several pieces from other sources linked with the New Testament Book of Revelation, featuring numerous improvisations by the jazz trio of excellent musicians.

**Tiburtina Ensemble** (v), **David Dorůžka** (acg, g),  
**Marcel Bárta** (ss, ts, bcl), **Martin Novák** (d, per)

# Ondřej Pivec & Organic Quartet

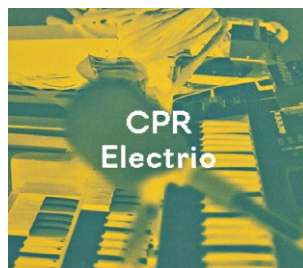
Organic Quartet, one of the impulses behind the creation of Animal Music, was founded by the keyboardist and hammond organ player Ondřej Pivec and his schoolmates from the Prague Music Conservatory – Libor Šmoldas, Jakub Doležal and Tomáš Hobzek around 2005. After Ondřej Pivec moved to the United States where he later became a stable member of the Grammy winner Gregory Porter's band and founded his own band Kennedy Administration, other OQ members have been pursuing their individual careers and recording their solo albums. The quartet reunited 10 years after their last record with Animal Music and released a new album on the occasion of the label's 10th anniversary.



## ANI 062 Organic Quartet: Terms and Conditions Apply (2017)

The album containing new material penned by the band members was recorded using solely analog equipment, without any digital effects, computers or editing involved. The album is also released on vinyl with a comprehensive booklet containing the sheet music.

**Ondřej Pivec** (B3), **Libor Šmoldas** (g), **Jakub Doležal** (ts, ss), **Tomáš Hobzek** (d)



## ANI 035 CPR Electrico (2013)

Karel Růžička Jr., Ondřej Pivec and Russell Carter joined together in NYC to share their great mastery and create music that mixes elements of dance music, r'n'b and funk music. Switching between acoustic and electric instruments, this is music played with the hands that is bound to bring joy and life energy.

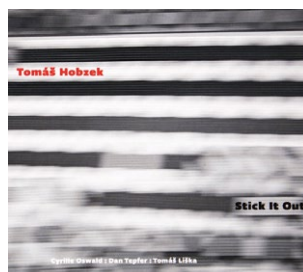
**Ondřej Pivec** (elp, B3, key, prog), **Karel Růžička Jr.** (ts, ss, EWI), **Russell Carter** (d, pads)



## ANI 040 Ondřej Pivec: The Green Card Album (2013)\*

Ondřej's second solo album was recorded in New York shortly after he got his permanent residency permit. Musically based on Pivec's impressive jazz career, even though apparently shifting his sound in the direction of rhythm-and-blues, gospel and pop.

**Ondřej Pivec** (B3, elp, key), **Rasul A-Salaam** (v), **Djoré Nance** (v), **Cheryl Pepsii Riley** (v), **Jordan Peters** (g), **Paul Bollenback** (g), **Dmitry Gorodetsky** (b), **Adam Jackson** (d), **Freddie Hendrix** (t), **Karel Růžička Jr.** (as, ts), **Matthew Hartnett** (tb), **Moses J. Gardner** (bkv), **Cassandra Kellam** (bkv), **Ayana George** (bkv)

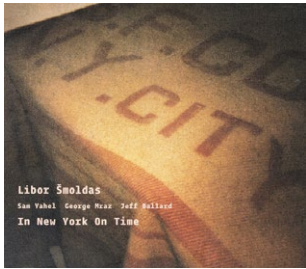


## ANI 022 Tomáš Hobzek: Stick It Out (2010)

The critically highly acclaimed first solo album by OQ's drummer Tomáš Hobzek features New York based pianist Dan Tepfer and the Dutch saxophonist Cyrille Oswald based in Prague.

The album contains Hobzek's own compositions as well as those written by his bandmates.

**Cyrille Oswald** (ts), **Dan Tepfer** (p), **Tomáš Liška** (b), **Tomáš Hobzek** (d)



**ANI 016 Libor Šmoldas:  
In New York On Time (2010)**

OQ guitarist Libor Šmoldas's second solo album was recorded in New York and features some of the world's first class jazz musicians. The album received many great reviews both in Czech Republic and abroad and features Libor's own compositions as well as his arrangements of Frederick Loewe's songs.

**Libor Šmoldas** (g), **Sam Yahel** (p), **George Mraz** (b), **Jeff Ballard** (d), **Zeuritia** (voc)



**ANI 004 Libor Šmoldas Trio:  
On the Playground (2007)**

Libor's debut album chimes with the best traditions of organ trio as a specific formation in the history of world jazz. His six original compositions and two standards are performed with playful and generous energy having its roots in Šmoldas's and Pivec's common experience in the Organic Quartet.

**Libor Šmoldas** (g), **Ondřej Pivec** (B3), **Łukasz Żyta** (d)



**ANI 006 Ondřej Pivec:  
Overseason (2008)**

Ondřej Pivec and his OQ co-player, drummer Tomáš Hobzek, took off to New York in the summer of 2007 to gain new experience. The mission was completed after they spontaneously recorded an album together with the eminent Jake Langley on the guitar and Joel Frahm on the saxophone.

**Ondřej Pivec** (B3), **Jake Langley** (g), **Joel Frahm** (ts), **Tomáš Hobzek** (d)



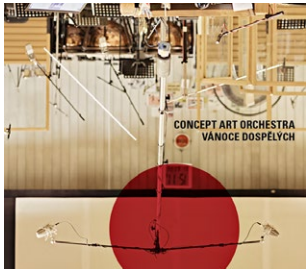
**ANI 003 Ondřej Pivec Organic Quartet:  
Never Enough (2007)**

After a successful and award-winning debut Organic Quartet recorded their second studio album continuing on the path of modern fusion jazz with Pivec's Hammond organ playing a leading role. Their music teems with stunning energy, professional performance and perfect harmony between the band's members. This album marks the launch of Animal Music.

**Ondřej Pivec** (B3, v), **Libor Šmoldas** (g), **Jakub Doležal** (ts, as), **Tomáš Hobzek** (d), **Miroslav Hloucal** (t), **Luboš Soukup** (ts)

# The Prague Six & Concept Art Orchestra

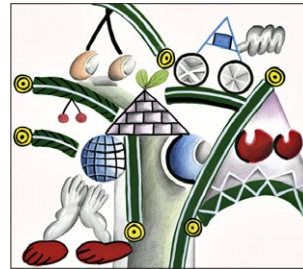
Concept Art Orchestra, a professional modern big band based in Prague, made of prominent Czech, Slovak and Austrian players, led by trumpet player and composer Štěpánka Balcarová, focuses mainly on performing compositions by the members of “The Prague Six”, an alliance of young and progressive composers, Štěpánka Balcarová, the graduate of Kunstuniversität Graz, being one of them. The others are Luboš Soukup, saxophonist and composer, residing for many years in Copenhagen, Vít Křišťan, Martin Brunner and Tomáš Sýkora, all pianists and composers, and Jan Jirucha, Czech trombone virtuoso, featured on all CAO recordings. Along with their careers as composers for CAO, the members of this fellowship have all released acclaimed and awarded solo projects, three of them are members of Inner Spaces quintet.



## ANI 075 Concept Art Orchestra: Vánoce dospělých (2018)\*

Christmas album consisting of Czech Christmas carols arranged for CAO as well as original songs loosely inspired by Christmas, sung by two of the best Czech singers - Dan Bárta and Markéta Foukalová. Arrangements and compositions by “The Prague Six”.

Concept Art Orchestra conducted by Štěpánka Balcarová,  
Dan Bárta (v), Markéta Foukalová (v), Milan Cimfe (v) & guests



## ANI 065 Štěpánka Balcarová: Life and Happiness of Julian Tuwim (2017)\*

Štěpánka's first solo album is compiled from her own compositions made on poems of the legendary Polish writer Julian Tuwim (1894-1953) and presents another face of Štěpánka's composing talent - her extraordinary gift of writing catchy songs. Performed by the Polish singer Małgorzata Hutek and the band made of excellent Czech and Polish musicians.

Małgorzata Hutek (v), Štěpánka Balcarová (t), Marcel Bárta (ts, ss, bcl), Robert Fischmann (f, af, picc), Nikola Kołodziejczyk (p), Jaromír Honzák (b), Grzegorz Masłowski (d)



## ANI 068 Oskar Török / Jiří Slavík / Vít Křišťan (2017)

This original project is a result of the collaboration of Vertigo's trumpet player Oskar Török, the bassist and multi-instrumentalist Jiří Slavík and CAO's pianist Vít Křišťan, author of the majority of the trio's repertoire. Combining their strength in this original set-up with no drums, the album is full of lyrical, playful and energetic compositions.

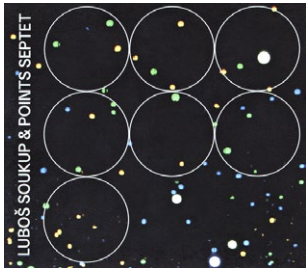
Vít Křišťan (p, elp), Jiří Slavík (b, cl), Oskar Török (t, v)



## ANI 064 Luboš Soukup Quartet feat. Lionel Loueke: Země (2017)\*

Země (“The Earth”) is a critically highly acclaimed album that Luboš Soukup recorded together with his Scandinavian quartet and a special guest: the guitarist and singer Lionel Loueke. Soukup's compositions recorded in the exquisite performance of his band are boosted by Loueke's sensuous energy.

Luboš Soukup (ts, ss, cl), Christian Pabst (p), Morten Haxholm (b), Morten Høsum (d) & Lionel Loueke (g, v)



**ANI 051 Luboš Soukup & Points Septet (2015)**

Luboš Soukup has reunited his band "Points" founded back in 2008 and enlarged it to a septet with a much more experimental sound. The album contains progressive and intimate music on the border between contemporary classical music and free improvisation which the author himself has labelled a "universe of sounds".

**Oskar Török** (t, fh), **Petr Kalfus** (ss, as), **Luboš Soukup** (ts, cl), **Marcel Bárta** (bcl, ts), **Jan Jirucha** (tb), **Jaromír Honzák** (b), **Tomáš Hobzek** (d)



**ANI 039 Martin Brunner: Morning Walks (2013)**

The third album of the pianist and composer Martin Brunner comprises a 10-movement composition inspired by contemporary jazz as well as classical music and was written for a jazz trio and a string quartet. The two ensembles play an equally important role and their constant battling and contesting encoded in the sophisticated arrangements creates an exciting tension.

**Martin Brunner** (p), **Rastislav Uhrík** (b), **Tomáš Hobzek** (d), **Epoque Quartet** (strings)



**ANI 049 Concept Art Orchestra: The Prague Six (2015)\***

The first studio album by Concept Art Orchestra contains first recordings of contemporary compositions by young authors from "The Prague Six", four of whom are also members of the band. The expansive, well thought-out and original compositions which lie at the border of jazz and classical music make use of the orchestra's wide-ranged sound and perfect interplay.

**Concept Art Orchestra** conducted by **Štěpánka Balcarová**, **Dorota Barová** (v), **Ondřej Hauser** (bg), **Jiří Šimek** (g)



**ANI 038 Luboš Soukup Ensemble: Through the Mirror (2013)**

For his debut solo album Luboš Soukup has joined the sound of his "scandinavian" jazz quartet with a 6-piece horns and woodwind section and a string quartet. Soukup's compositions are interlinked by themes and moods, at the border between jazz and contemporary music.

**Luboš Soukup** (ts, ss, cl), **Christian Pabst** (p), **Joel Illerhag** (b), **Morten Hæsum** (d), **Gerard Presencer** (t), **Mads la Cour** (t, fh), **Nicolai Schultz** (f, picc), **Anders Banke** (bcl), **Petter Severin Hangsel** (tb), **André Jensen** (tuba, btb), **Epoque Quartet** (strings)



**ANI 036 Vít Křišťan:  
Imprints (2013)**

Vít Křišťan's debut solo album consists of twelve compositions by Křišťan himself recorded shortly after he graduated from music studies in Poland (Katowice) and Denmark (Odense) and features beautiful guest performances by some of the finest Polish musicians.

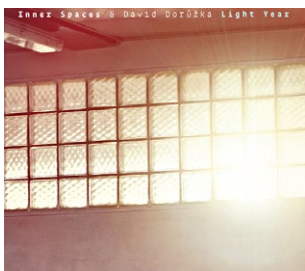
**Vít Křišťan** (p, elp, key, v), **Jaromír Honzák** (b, bg),  
**Roman Vicha** (d, per), **Marek Kądziera** (g), **Oskar Török** (t),  
**Agnieszka Twardoch** (v)



**ANI 017 Points (2010)**

The Points quartet, led by Luboš Soukup, performing without any harmonic instrument, introduces on its eponymous debut album a greatly unconventional repertoire proven by several years of performing and crowned with awards from various prestigious European festivals (e.g. The Getx Festival in Spain or the international Jazz Hoeilaart Competition in Belgium).

**Luboš Soukup** (ts, ss, cl, v), **Miroslav Hloucal** (t, fh),  
**Tomáš Liška** (b), **Tomáš Hobzek** (d, per) & guests



**ANI 031 Inner Spaces & David Dorůžka:  
Light Year (2012)\***

The quintet was founded by Czech and Polish young musicians who met while studying at the Academy of Music in Katowice (three of them are the key members of "The Prague Six"). The generous and cultivated sound of the band, beautiful melodic lines, slowly developing improvisations and general thoroughness of composition are some of the hallmarks of Inner Spaces.

**Štěpánka Balcarová** (t), **Luboš Soukup** (ss, ts), **Vít Křišťan** (p),  
**Max Mucha** (b), **Grzegorz Masłowski** (d), **David Dorůžka** (g)



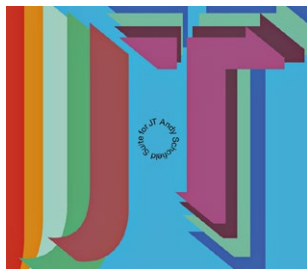
# Other artists



## ANI 072 Karel Růžička Quartet: Grace & Gratitude (2018)\*

Karel Růžička, the Czech saxophonist and composer permanently living in New York since 1997 has developed a singular creative voice. Besides performing with his own trio or quartet on both sides of the Atlantic, he has also appeared as a sideman of many legendary world musicians (George Benson, Hiram Bullock, Mike Stern, Ravi Coltrane and others). This most recent album features an all-stars lineup playing Ruzicka's own compositions. The spontaneous and natural collaboration and synergy brings jazz music of the highest quality in a beautiful analogue sound.

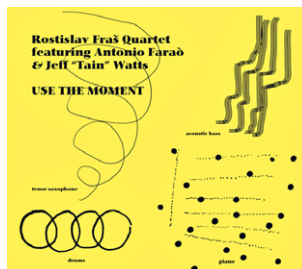
**Karel Růžička Jr.** (ts, ss), **Jon Cowherd** (p, elp),  
**John Patitucci** (b, bg), **Mate Smith** (d, per)



## ANI 074 Andy Schofield: Suite for JT (2018)

The British saxophonist, composer and arranger, has been living in Prague since 2013. For a number of years he was active on the British jazz scene and through collaboration with famous jazz figures such as Kenny Wheeler, Bill Frisell, Peter Erskine, Vince Mendoza and John Taylor. Suite for JT is a seven-piece composition that Andy Schofield created for Manchester International Jazz Festival and dedicated to John Taylor. The studio recording came thirteen years later, in an exquisite performance of players who belong to the elite of Czech jazz scene.

**Andy Schofield** (ss, as, cl, f), **Petr Kalfus** (as, acl),  
**Suzanne Higgins** (f, ts), **Marcel Bárta** (bcl, ts, ss), **Oskar Török** (t), **Richard Šanda** (tb), **Vojtěch Procházka** (p), **Jiří Slavík** (ab), **Daniel Šoltis** (d)



## ANI 063 Rostislav Fraš Quartet: Use the Moment (2017)

Rostislav Fraš, another first-class Czech saxophonist and composer, quickly emerged as a vital element on the Prague jazz scene already while studying at the conservatory. He became a popular sideman, leader of several groups and gradually an acclaimed composer. Rostislav Fraš has invited two giants of the world jazz scene to record his debut solo album – Italian pianist Antonio Faraò and the legendary American drummer Jeff “Tain” Watts. The collection of Fraš's and Faraò's own compositions are performed with fantastic and driving delivery. **Rostislav Fraš** (ts), **Antonio Faraò** (p), **Jeff “Tain” Watts** (d), **Josef Fečo** (b)



## ANI 060 Blue Shadows (2016)

“Blue Shadows” is a joint project of four musicians with different musical backgrounds initiated by Petr Ostrouchov, Animal Music MD and film score composer, shortly after the quartet successfully collaborated on the recording of the score for the Czech TV mini-series. Each of the musicians brought to the project their own original style and skills. The album which mixes genres and influences and is closest to the common term “americana” is mostly instrumental and consists of compositions that were only sketched in the course of recording. The guest singer James Harries provided vocals in two songs.

**Jiří Bárta** (vc), **Martin Novák** (d, per, vn, acg, p, md),  
**Petr Ostrouchov** (g, acg, md, ahp, p, elp, bg, key, bk),  
**Josef Štěpánek** (g, acg, md, bj, pedal steel, h),  
**James Harries** (v), **Milan Cimfe** (bg)



**ANI 059 Jiří Slavík:  
Mateřština (2016)+**

Jiří Slavík is primarily a double-bass virtuoso, having studied both classical music and jazz, but he is a skilled multi-instrumentalist and extraordinary composer who received several prestigious awards already during his studies in Rome and London. After several years of living and performing abroad, he relocated back to Czech Republic where he recorded this album exploring the legacy of Moravian folk music, presenting Slavík's personal search for his own musical roots and, himself being in the role of the vocalist and multi-instrumentalist playing the violin, viola, cello, bass, clarinet, cimbalom and the piano which altogether makes for a rough-sounding "contemporary cimbalom band".

**Jiří Slavík** (v, vn, vl, vc, b, cl, cimb, p), **Marian Friedl** (f, v), **Kateřina Slavíková** (v), **Jiří Pospěch** (v)



**ANI 032 Iva Bittová:  
Zvon (2012)**

Iva Bittová, now an ECM recording artist, is an outstanding and utterly original personality who has worked in many genres including jazz, rock, classical and opera. She has created her own musical universe that's impossible to place in any single category. She has performed in the most famous musical venues all over the world (Concergebouw, Radio FM Hall Tokyo, Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall London) and has collaborated with numerous world-known musicians. "Zvon" (The Bell) is a large-scale project exploring a selection of compositions from Bittová's famous repertoire in new, broad range of sound arranged for a symphonic orchestra by Petr Ostrouchov and Beata Hlavenková. The original minimalistic structure is combined with the multi-layered rich sound of the orchestra and solo instruments.

**Iva Bittová** (v, vn, vl), **Vladimír Václavěk** (v, acg), **David Dorůžka** (g, acg), **Jaromír Honzák** (b), **Miloš Dvořáček** (d, kal, per), **Oskar Török** (t), **Beata Hlavenková** (p, cel), **Petr Ostrouchov** (acg, cel, per, hrp, p, md), **Monika Knoblochová** (hps), **Mario Mesany** (medieval instruments), **Jan Čižmář** (lute), **Lubomír Kovařík** (piccolo t), **Vlastimil Bičík** (p), **PKF - Prague Philharmonia** conducted by **David Švec**, **Schola Gregoriana Pragensis**, artistic director **David Eben** (bkv), **Gruník** (bkv)



**ANI 048 Eviyan:  
Nayive (2015)**

Eviyan is an acoustic trio ensemble co-founded by Iva Bittová, the Czech singer, violinist and composer, one of the Czech musicians who have made a successful career abroad, and two notable representatives of the US alternative music circuit: Gyan Riley and Evan Ziporyn. Their first studio album brings their own acoustic compositions and improvisations rooted in the folk as well as minimalistic and classical traditions.

**Iva Bittová** (v, vn), **Gyan Riley** (acg), **Evan Ziporyn** (bcl, cl, p)



**ANI 028 Steve Walsh:  
Daily Specials (2012)**

Steve Walsh, an American songwriter, guitar player, engineer and producer experienced in blues, jazz, country and rock has been writing and recording for over three decades. He had lived in NYC and Nashville before moving to Czech Republic where he now has a family, tours with his own band and produces albums of local musicians. When back in NYC he regularly performs with The Brooklyn Boogaloo Blowout along with the renowned bassist Viktor Krauss. Walsh's first "Czech" solo album consists of Walsh's own compositions and adapted music and is dominated by his raw electric guitar, supported by very stylish Hammond B3 sound of Jan Kořínek and the rolling rhythm of Liška-Šoltis duo.

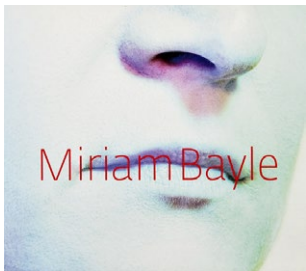
**Steve Walsh** (g), **Jan Kořínek** (B3), **Tomáš Liška** (b), **Daniel Šoltis** (d)



**ANI 027 Projekt Z (2011)**

An original line-up without a bass instrument features an extraordinary Spanish flutist Rodrigo Parejo and some of the finest Czech musicians - Marcel Bárta, Daniel Šoltis and Petr Zelenka. Based on communication on both musical and non-musical level and experimenting with the usual use of musical instruments' sound, Projekt Z brings an authentic music inspired by many genres, sounds and moods.

**Petr Zelenka** (g), **Marcel Bárta** (ts, bcl, v, per),  
**Rodrigo Parejo** (f, voc), **Daniel Šoltis** (d, per)



**ANI 023 Miriam Bayle (2010)**

Prague based Slovak singer Miriam Bayle is praised for her extraordinary art of scat. She uses her dark timbre in an uncompromised swinging style. For her debut album she chose a colourful set of songs and standards from various sources and invited some of the great Czech jazz musicians and artists.

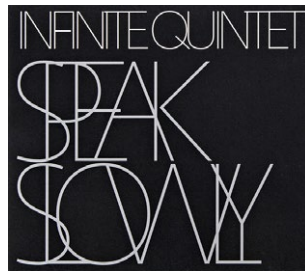
**Miriam Bayle** (v), **Matej Benko** (p), **Radek Zapadlo** (ts),  
**Petr Dvorský** (b), **Pavel Bady Zbořil** (d), **Miroslav Hloucal** (t),  
**Miloš Dvořáček** (per) & guests



**ANI 020 Cyrille Oswald:  
The Wrong Present (2010)**

Cyrille Oswald, Dutch saxophonist, living in Prague since 2008, has been participating in several Czech projects as well as performing frequently in his home country, with the New Rotterdam Jazz Orchestra among others. Oswald's compositions created for his first "Czech" album are rather simple in structure, combining many genres and influences, blossoming in an exquisite performance by some of the best Czech musicians.

**Cyrille Oswald** (ts, ss), **David Dorůžka** (g, acg), **Tomáš Liška** (b), **Daniel Šoltis** (d)



**ANI 014 Infinite Quintet:  
Speak Slowly (2009)**

An outstanding Czech jazz quintet founded and led by trumpeter Miroslav Hloucal, a man of an extraordinary compositional and performing talent. The band was formed back in 2006 by then young students of the Prague Music Conservatory, who nowadays belong to some of the most skilled and respected musicians performing in numerous formations. This first release of the band contains their own original compositions in powerful but also intimate arrangements and is notable for their compositional and performing skills and maturity.

**Miroslav Hloucal** (t, fh), **Petr Kalfus** (as, ss), **Viliam Bérés** (p), **Petr Dvorský** (b), **Martin Novák** (d)



**ANI 012 Lanugo (2009)**

Lanugo is a unique formation founded in 2006 and lead by Markéta Foukalová, one of the most talented Czech singers. The band members are young musicians of the highest professional qualities coming from the circuits of the Czech jazz scene, although jazz is rather a seasoning for the otherwise pop, rock and electro based music, balancing on the edge of acoustic and electronic sound. Their debut album brings original songs by the band members combining influences of acoustic jazz, electronics, pop, rock and classical music, accompanied by an unexpected remake of a standard composition "At Last".

**Markéta Foukalová** (v), **Viliam Béréš** (p, key, prog, bk), **Rastislav Uhrík** (b, bg), **Martin Kopřiva** (d, per, bk), **Miroslav Hloucal** (fh, t), **Mirek Šmilauer** (acg, g) & guests



**ANI 010 Zeuritia (2008)**

The debut album by the Czech jazz and bossa-nova singer Zeuritia is composed of Brazilian bossa novas and sambas (penned by A. C. Jobim, D. Caymmi and many others) as well as jazz tunes inspired by Brazilian music, in fresh sound and modern jazz arrangements, joined by the Polish rhythm duo Tokaj - Barański appearing on other Animal Music recordings of that time.

**Zeuritia** (v), **Libor Šmoldas** (acg), **Michaš Tokaj** (p, elp), **Michaš Barański** (b, bg), **Tomáš Vokurka** (d), **Miloš Dvořáček** (per), **Petr Ostrouchov** (uke)



**ANI 009 Petr Zelenka: Memory Flash (2008)**

Guitarist and composer Petr Zelenka's music is shaped by his strong sense for innovation, improvisation and searching for unexplored forms of expression free of genre restrictions. This album was influenced by contemporary European jazz as well as by Arabic, Scandinavian and Middle-European folk music. It was recorded with great and well-known jazz musicians then living and working mainly in Paris: French saxophonist Olivier Zanut, Israeli double bassist Yoni Zelnik and Canadian drummer Karl Jannuska.

**Petr Zelenka** (g, acg), **Olivier Zanut** (as, ss), **Yoni Zelnik** (b), **Karl Jannuska** (d, per)

# Classical, film soundtracks, folk music and beyond



## ANI 076 Jiří Bárta: Bach The Six Cello Suites, 2CD (2018)

Since the 1990ties, Jiří Bárta has been one of the foremost cellists of his generation and as a soloist and chamber player he has performed on all continents, collaborated with the renowned conductors and orchestras and released several albums with Supraphon, complete Bach's cello suites among them. Jiří Bárta's second complete recording of Bach's cello suites, released by Animal Music, comes 23 years later. Enriched with life experience and new interpretation, superseding the expressivity by meditation and peacefulness, the six suites have been this time recorded on a baroque cello with gut strings bringing them closer to the possible original sound. **Jiří Bárta (vc)**



## ANI 067 Petr Ostrouchov: Zahradnictví (2017)

The album entitled Zahradnictví ("Garden Store") is a selection of film scores composed by Petr Ostrouchov for the eponymous film trilogy directed by one of the most renowned Czech directors Jan Hřebejk. Petr Ostrouchov has authored music to fifteen feature films to date and has had six nominations for the "Czech Lion" Award for the best score. This soundtrack features musicians such as the world-renowned French horn player Radek Baborák, theremin player Carolina Eyck, glass harmonica player Thomas Bloch, organist Ondřej Pivec and many others.

**Radek Baborák (frh), Carolina Eyck (theremin), Juraj Bartoš (t), Thomas Bloch (glass-h), Wojciech Kogut (p, cel), Martin Levický (p), Jiří Leviček (p, cel), Ondřej Pivec (B3), Martin Novák (d), Jiří Slavík (b), Sinfonietta Cracovia** conducted by **Jacek Rogala, Prague Metropolitan Orchestra** conducted by **Adam Klemens**



## ANI 071 Zdeněk Liška: Marketa Lazarová, 2CD (2018)

The Czechoslovak feature film Marketa Lazarová (1967) by František Vlácil is generally considered to be a magnum opus of European cinematography and Zdeněk Liška's film-score represents the height of the legendary composer's legacy that includes music to more than 140 feature films. This album is a recording of the first and so far the only concert performance of the work during the Strings of Autumn music festival in Prague in 2015. Performed as a 90-minute oratorio created by Petr Ostrouchov on the basis of the original manuscript and featuring vocal soloists, actors and the ensembles Martinů Voices and Baborák Ensemble, the production met with high critical acclaim and an enthusiastic response from the audience.

**Baborák Ensemble** conducted by **Radek Baborák, Martinů Voices** conducted by **Lukáš Vasilek, Kateřina Kněžíková (soprano), Josef Moravec (tenor), Josef Somr, Jana Štěpánková, Anna Kratochvilová (spoken word), Kristýna Farag (af), Petr Ostrouchov (sampler)**



## ANI 057 The Stamic Quartet & Aneta Majerová: Weinberg & Bloch Piano Quintets (2016)

Pianist Aneta Majerová and the renowned The Stamic Quartet present here two masterworks of 20th century chamber music by Mieczysław Weinberg and Ernest Bloch, both of Jewish origin who lived alternately in Switzerland and the USA. The unjustly neglected Polish composer Mieczysław Weinberg is considered by some to have been - along with Shostakovich and Prokofiev - one of the three foremost Soviet composers in the 20th century. **Aneta Majerová (p), The Stamic Quartet: Jindřich Pazdera (vn), Josef Kekula (vn), Jan Pěruška (vl), Petr Hejný (vc)**



**ANI 044 Radek Baborák:  
Orquestrina (2014)**

One of the greatest French horn players in the world, conductor Radek Baborák is an outstanding figure on the classical music scene. He has been touring the world as a soloist, co-operating with the best conductors and orchestras, after having left the Berlin Philharmonic in 2010. Because chamber music has always been an essential part of Baborák's musical life, he is the leader and/or member of several ensembles. For his first Animal Music recording, Radek Baborák has selected compositions inspired by dance in its various forms by Astor Piazzolla, Gabriel Fauré, Maurice Ravel and others. Music which is not normally part of the French horn repertoire is performed here by some great soloists and chamber music players. A new album by Radek Baborák, containing solely Astor Piazzolla's tango music, will be released by Animal Music in autumn 2019.

**Radek Baborák (frh), Baborák Ensemble, Epoque Quartet & guests**



**ANI 042 Grunik:  
Ozvěny (2014)**

The female vocal group Grunik from Ostravice on the Moravian-Silesian frontier focuses on authentic performance of a local folk material. Grunik has become known for its rendering of folk songs on the soundtrack of Želary (2003), the Czech film nominated for an Oscar, and also for its contribution to the orchestral album of Iva Bitová, Zvon (2012). The album Ozvěny ("Echoes") consists of songs that the founder of Grunik - Ms Věra Šejvlová (1919-2004) had collected in the mountainous region of the Beskids on the border with Slovakia in the 1940s and 1950s. The recording sessions took place in the open air in the heart of the very landscape where these songs originated. The raw, authentic interpretation of the folk music, free of all arrangements and adjustments, creates a powerful, unforgettable experience.

**Vendula Kotková, Monika Šmírová, Veronika Šalamounová, Markéta Fucímanová, Radka Boháčová, Anna Fícelová & Kateřina Peková (v), Marek Pasičnyk & Michal Fícel (overtone flutes)**



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\* Winner of the Czech Music Academy Award for the Best Jazz Album

+ Winner of the Czech Music Academy Award for the Best World Music Album

# Nomination for the Czech Music Academy Award for the Best Jazz Album

Ω Nomination for the Czech Music Academy Award for the Best World Music Album

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