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Animal Music releases a new CD of Markéta Foukalová and Martin Brunner, SVOU CHVÍLI (A While of One's Own), featuring 8 compositionis based on poems by Věra Koubová, recorded in collaboration with the Prague Symphony

markéta foukalová • martin brunner

svou chvíli



On 3 June 2022 Animal Music releases a new album of singer **Markéta Foukalová** and pianist **Martin Brunner** featuring a live recording of a performance that took place on 10 February 2022 in the DOX+ in Prague. Part of the “Jazz Poetry” project, the performance included the world premiere of Brunner’s cycle of compositions based on poems by Věra Koubová and commissioned by the Prague Symphony Orchestra that also accompanied the performance under the baton of **Marko Ivanović**. Alongside the two protagonists, the performance featured **Vít Křišťan** on Fender Rhodes.

“This project was commissioned by the Czech Symphony Orchestra and I had been given a completely free hand in how I would approach the task. I decided to invite Markéta Foukalová who is a brilliant singer and has an incredible voice. I’ve known Markéta for a long time from the Lanugo band and I’ve always wanted to of my

own music play with her some, so this seemed to be an ideal opportunity. To combine her voice with the symphonic orchestra was something that I felt had to happen! So in the end, I came up with songs for Markéta and an orchestra,” says Martin Brunner.

Brunner’s cycle entitled **Svou chvíli** (A While of One’s Own) introduces the listener to the poetry of **Věra Koubová**, who is a renowned translator but has not officially published her poems. For Martin Brunner these poems became a key source of inspiration. The traditional line-up of they symphonic orchestra is enriched by the Fender Rhodes piano performed by **Vít Křišťan**. *“The Fender Rhodes has a beautiful timbre which sounds great in combination with the piano. But I also wanted to include the performer himself. Vitek Křišťan is an exceptional musician whom I’ve always admired but had no opportunity to play with since we are both pianists,”* explains Brunner.

The album **Svou chvíli** (A While of One’s Own) is the second live recording combining jazz and symphonic music, released from Animal Music in collaboration with the Czech Radio. The recordings have been mixed and mastered at the Sono Records studio. The artwork on the cover of the album is by Jiří John (1966), the cover design is by Tomáš Trnoblanský from Studio Najbrt. The album is released on CD and digitally and will be available from the e-shop on the website of Animal music as well as through the distribution network of Supraphon and diverse streaming services in the world.

The album is published by Animal Music as part of its Edition 2022, kindly supported by a grant from Prague City Hall.

The album will be launched on 22 September 2022 at the **Old Burgrave’s House at Vyšehrad** in Prague, as part of a performance featuring Martin Brunner, Markéta Foukalová, and Vít Křišťan.

A **video** for the song **Světlo za mřížemi** (Light behind the Bars) in a chamber version for piano and voice is available on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55Gb8nYzX8E>

Martin Brunner has been collaborating in his own projects with some of the most prominent figures on Czech jazz scene. Apart from his own jazz-rock formation, Martin Brunner Band (Levels of Life, 2019), Brunner has been dedicating himself to composing music for classical chamber ensembles (Duo Teres, Trio Clavio). He has also recorded an album featuring a jazz trio and the Epoque Quartet (Morning Walks, 2013) and has been one of the core authors associated with the jazz big band, Concept Art Orchestra, collaborating on three of its highly acclaimed recordings (The Prague Six/2015, Vánoce dospělých/2018, 100 years/2020). As pianist and keyboard player, Brunner has performed with many musical formations and diverse soloists, including Lenka Dusilová, Jiří Šimek Electric Madness, Klára Vytisková, Beata Hlavenková, James Harries, Lenka Nová, Michal Horáček, and Lucia Šoralová. He teaches at the Prague Conservatory and the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory and College.

Markéta Foukalová is a singer, composer, lyricist, and voice coach who has been an active performer since she was thirteen. As a seventeen-year-old she won the main prize at the voice competition Zlíntalet and started to perform with Czech pop star Eva Pilarová. In the past years, she has sung with and written for a number of bands, including the trip-hop Gang Ala Basta and the acid-jazz Madfinger with whom she won first prize at The Young Jazz Musician's competition of the Philips International Jazz Festival. She has also collaborated with Michal Pavlíček, Kamil Střihavka, BSP, Michal Prokop, the bands Jasná páka, Hudba Praha, and J.A.R., with Vladimír Mišík on his latest recordings, Matěj Benk on the project Planety, or the jazz big band Concept Art Orchestra, and she has also performed with the classical-music Duo Teres. Her home and main focus, however, has been the band Lanugo which whom she has released four albums to date. A co-founder and the director of children's choir Bežnot, Foukalová also teaches at the Jaroslav Deyl Conservatory and New York University in Prague.

Artwork © Jiří John, 1966; Obnažená Krajina ("Exposed Landscape")

Cover design © Tomáš Trnobranský (Studio Najbrt), 2022

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