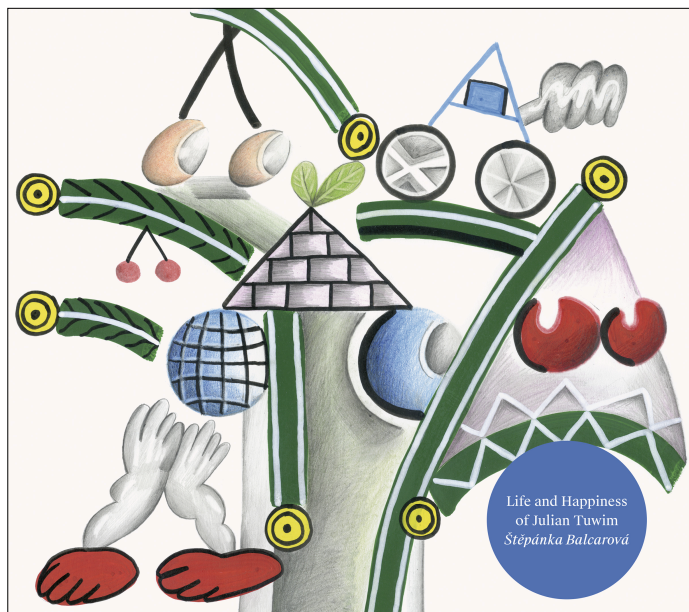


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ŠTĚPÁNKA BALCAROVÁ RELEASES AN ALBUM WITH ANIMAL MUSIC FEATURING COMPOSITIONS ON POEMS OF THE POLISH AUTHOR JULIAN TUWIM



Trumpet player and composer **Štěpánka Balcarová** is known above all as the leader of the successful formation **Inner Spaces** and of the progressive **Concept Art Orchestra** big band (with both these formations she has received the prestigious "Anděl" award in the Jazz Album of the Year category). Her first solo album entitled **LIFE AND HAPPINESS OF JULIAN TUWIM** comprises her own compositions on poems by the Polish poet **Julian Tuwim** (1894-1953). Tuwim's simple, transparent style is deceptive; beneath the surface, the poems teem with complex thoughts and issues. Such is also the composer's congenial, colourful and imaginative music. Her guests on the album are the Polish singer **Małgorzata Hutek** and a Czech-Polish

group of excellent musicians: **Jaromír Honzák** on the bass, **Marcel Bárta** on the saxophone, **Robert Fischmann** on the flute, **Nikola Kołodziejczyk** on the piano, and **Grzegorz Masłowski** on the drums.

The idea to set Julian Tuwim's poetry to music was inspired by the singer Małgorzata Hutek: „For a while we shared a room at the dorm in Katowice. I've always admired Małgorzata's singing and it was back then that the idea of this project originated.” And why has the Czech author chosen poems in Polish? „Polish has such a soft and refined sound. Its nasals are remindful of French but it's also melodious and easy to learn. Besides that I associate the language with many wonderful people and the beautiful period of my student years,” explains Balcarová. On the equal composition of the band's line-up she remarks: “Since this is a setting of poems in Polish I wanted the band to be half Polish and half Czech. My intention was to create something unique by combining brilliant players from the two milieus. Jaromír Honzák and Marcel Bárta have been my idols since my childhood. I was the proud owner of all their CDs and as a teenager I often travelled to Prague for their concerts. Grzegorz Masłowski was naturally my first choice for the drums; we've been colleagues for seven years now in Inner Spaces. His play is sensitive, inspiring and reflective and his sound is just beautiful. Originally, I was considering vibraphone instead of the piano, but at the end I decided to approach Nikola Kołodziejczyk who is a good friend and long-term colleague of both Grzegorz and Małgorzata.”

Štěpánka Balcarová graduated from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice in 2012 and studied composition and music arrangement in Graz with Ed Partyka. She is the leader of several musical projects including the Czech-Polish quartet Inner Spaces, jazz big band Concept Art Orchestra and the 4Step Quartet. She frequently performs with Petr Kořínek's Trialog, in Nikola Kołodziejczyk's avant-garde project Chord Nation and she has collaborated with a number of other distinguished members of the Czech and Polish jazz scene. Her work has been repeatedly awarded a prize for the best jazz composition in the Krzysztof Komeda Composer's Competition.



The **LIFE AND HAPPINESS OF JULIAN TUWIM** album is released both on CD and digitally. The recordings were made at the SONO Records studio in collaboration with sound engineers Milan Cimfe, Adam Karlík, and Pavel Karlík. The cover design is by Andrea Vacovská from Studio Najbrt, illustrations are by Pavla Malinová. The album is part of the Animal Music 2017 edition, published with the support of The City of Prague; it is distributed by Supraphon, both on CD and digitally.

The album **LIFE AND HAPPINESS OF JULIAN TUWIM** will be launched as part of the “Salon Polski” concert series at the Polish Embassy in Prague on 30 October 2017 at 7 p.m. and the following night at the JAZZ DOCK club in Prague (31 October 2017 at 7 p.m.).

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