

BEATA HLAVENKOVÁ RELEASES HER SINGING DEBUT

As pianist and composer BEATA HLAVENKOVÁ has released four albums on Animal Music: *Joy for Joel* (2009), *Theodoros* (2013), *Scintilla* (2015) and *Bethlehem* (2017). The album *Theodoros* received the Anděl Award for the best jazz album of the year and all the remaining albums were nominated for the prize. Now, Beata has come with a new solo-authored project with a poetic title SNĚ, in which she for the first time appears in the role of singer. Beata has chosen poems by her favourite authors, Petr Borkovec and Bohuslav Reynek, and set them to music. Two of the songs are based on her own texts and two others musicalize lyrics by Dorota Barová and Martin Vedej. Her main musical partner on this album is OSKAR TÖRÖK (Vertigo, Wojtek Mazolewski Quintet) who has contributed not

only in his traditional role as trumpeter but also as drummer, percussionist and singer. The album has been co-produced by PATRICK KARPENTSKI, Hlavenková's husband who also recorded the guitar tracks. The title SNĚ is a shortcut for everything that the album contains: poems (báSNĚ), songs (píSNĚ) and dreams (SNĚní). On her approach to setting texts and poems to music Beata has remarked: *"I've always been fascinated by the process of attaching a melody to a text which already carries an emotion, its own rhythm and even harmonic atmosphere. What does not appeal to me, however, is mounting a text onto a finished melody,"* In foregrounding the song form on this album, Beata removes her music further away from the limits of jazz within which she used to operate, and brings it forward in the direction of contemporary cross-genre songwriting. Her unique style, however, is still very much recognizable.

The album SNĚ was recorded at the Sono Records Studio, in collaboration with the sound engineer Milan Cimf, and at the Czechmate Studio in collaboration with Patrick Karpentský. The mixing is by Lukáš Martinek and the mastering by Matouš Godík. The album is distributed by SUPRAPHON both on CD and digitally and is also available from the e-shop on the website of ANIMAL MUSIC, both on CD and digitally.



The cross-genre music of Beata Hlavenková is marked by the clearly recognizable style and sensitive, concentrated interpretation. Apart from her own music she also composes scenic music (*VerteDance*), film music (*Dukla 61*, *Zátopek*) and music for children (*Pišlické příběhy*, *Óóó vajíčko*, *Loutky v nemocnici*). She also collaborates with the children's theatre Bajka at the Těšín Theatre. As teacher Beata has maintained a long-term collaboration with the New York University in Prague and has been a mentor for the scholarship programme of the Magdalena Kožená

Foundation MenArt. Currently, she mostly appears as a soloist or in duo with Oskar Török, occasionally she also collaborates with Dorota Barová. In the past she has collaborated on long-term basis with Lenka Dusilová (Baromantika, Eternal Seekers) and many other musicians on the Czech and international music scene (Iva Bittová, Dagmar Voňková, Jaromír Honzák, David Koller and Ingrid Jensen).

The album will be launched at Palace Akropolis on 23 January 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

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