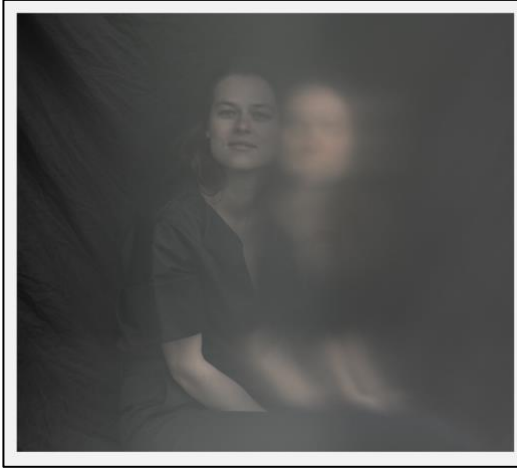


**PIANIST NIKOL BÓKOVÁ RELEASES HER JAZZ-INSPIRED DEBUT ALBUM**

NIKOL BÓKOVÁ is a classical pianist by training and experience. She regularly performs as a soloist with foremost Czech orchestras. Her first such appearance was with the Janáček Philharmonics in Ostrava when she was only nine and she continues to collaborate with the orchestra to this day. She now releases INNER PLACE, her first album with her own music that has been recorded in the traditional jazz-piano-trio line-up: piano–double bass–drums. Bóková's music shows inspiration from jazz, classical music, minimalism and, in some respects, popular music. Her musical partners in this project have been talented exponents of the young jazz generation, MARTIN KOCIÁN on the double bass and MICHAŁ WIERZGOŃ on the drums. *"Recently, I have fallen for the sound of the classical jazz trio and realized that it is the direction I want to be taking. In Martin and Michał, I have found fellow players who have immediately grasped*

*my intention and who have endowed my music with new dimensions thanks to their experience in jazz."* Nikol has her own way of writing down her compositions, putting stress on harmonic functions, important melodic moments and intervals, and does not let herself be tied down by jazz rules and schemes. *"I consider my music as 'songs'; songs in which I can directly tell a story. As opposed to classical music, I view this as a more immediate, in some sense simpler way to express my emotions. I don't feel any need to pertain to a particular genre."* the author explains. Her training and experience in classical music, especially of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is recognizable in her style of playing and composition. Nikol Bóková's compositions are perfectly polished miniatures, simple in form but echoing the harmonic and melodic complexity of classical piano literature. Indeed, Bóková's play, defined to a great extent by her experience in classical-music interpretation, her brilliant technique and dynamic keystroke, is unique in the world of the jazz piano. The album INNER PLACE is characterized by great compositional and interpretive maturity, while it also breathes with the fresh energy of a debut that witnesses an author discovering new musical worlds. In her compositions, Nikol Bóková effortlessly travels between genres, clearly fascinated by the possibilities they have to offer.



NIKOL BÓKOVÁ is mostly known as a classical pianist with a repertoire stretching from the Baroque period to contemporary music. In 2018 she completed her studies at the Janáček Academy of Music in Brno. During her studies she also spent a year as a scholarship recipient at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. She has participated in a number of competitions, workshops and master classes led by foremost world pianists. Playing classical music, she has appeared on stages in Germany, Denmark, Poland, Italy and Slovakia and in 2017 she performed a solo recital at the Janáček May international music festival in Ostrava. Her victory in the Vítězslav Novák International Piano competition in 2015,

where she performed the work of Oskar Nedbal, inspired her to prepare the first complete recording of Nedbal's little known piano works, in collaboration with the Czech Radio. She regularly appears as a soloist with foremost Czech orchestras; in the upcoming season she will collaborate, among others, with the Brno Contemporary Orchestra.

MARTIN KOCIÁN and MICHAŁ WIERZGOŃ are members of PURPLE IS THE COLOR, a band which they founded in 2015 together with the Austrian pianist Simon Raab and saxophonist Štěpán Flagar. The young quartet is mostly active on the Austrian scene, but has also toured across Europe and in 2018 became the winner of the Central European Jazz Competition. Kocián and Wierzgoń are also members of the OSTRICH QUARTET which was the first

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ever Czech band chosen to perform in the final round of the European Jazz Competition in Rotterdam in 2015 where Michał Wierzoń was selected for the best soloist award.

The album INNER PLACE was recorded at the Studio of the Divadlo Orlí theatre in Brno, in collaboration with the sound engineer Jan Košulič. The authors of the cover design are Jonatan Kuna of the Najbrt Studio (graphic design) and Jan Vala (photograph). 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.

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