

JAROMÍR HONZÁK AT 60 RELEASES A NEW ALBUM



Two years after the release of the album **EARLY MUSIC**, Jaromír Honzák, a respected double bassist, bass guitarist, composer and the holder of five Anděl Awards, comes with a new album, entitled **HARD TO UNDERSTAND**. The album was the last title released by Animal Music in 2019 and Honzák recorded it with his regular band, whose other members are foremost players on the Czech jazz scene: **DAVID DORŮŽKA** on the guitar, **VÍT KŘIŠŤAN** on the piano, **LUBOŠ SOUKUP** on the saxophone and **MARTIN NOVÁK** on the drums. The album features seven new compositions by Honzák and two arrangements of the Medieval song “Clausula Tamquam sponsus”. Honzák’s inspiration by Medieval music, which dates back to his studies at the department of Early Music at the Janáček Academy of

Music in Brno, was a strong influence on his previous album **EARLY MUSIC** which received the Anděl Award in the jazz (genre) category. Echoes of the same source of inspiration are prominent also in the arrangements and the compositional methods on the new album. The latter is, however, based on a much freer adaptation of the given concept, while the overall impression is again that of a homogenous whole with a distinguished tone and style. Honzák’s contemplative, sophisticated yet generally accessible and uncomplicated music has always fascinated the audience.

The album **EARLY MUSIC** was recorded, as traditionally, in collaboration with sound engineers Milan Cimfe and Adam Karlík at the Sono Studio. The cover has been designed by the graphic artist Andrea Vacovská from the Najbrt Studio in collaboration with the photographer Dušan Tománek. The project has been supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and is distributed by SUPRAPHON, both on CD and digitally. From the e-shop of Animal Music at www.animalmusic.cz, the album is available both on CD and digitally, in the uncompressed format (WAV), as well as in the MP3. The album **HARD TO UNDERSTAND** will be launched on 10 March 2020 at 9 p.m. at the Prague club JazzDock.



Jaromír Honzák (*1959) has been part of the Czech jazz scene since the 1980s when he completed his studies at the conservatoire. Together with Zdeněk Zdeněk, František Kop and Martin Šulc he founded the Naimä band and he soon became a sought-after accompanist whose universality and talent made him popular with figures such as Karel Růžička, Emil Viklický, Karel Velebný, Vojtěch Eckert, David Dorůžka, Luboš Soukup, Štěpánka Balcarová, Najponk, the Eben Brothers (with whom he has recorded all their albums and with whom he still regularly performs) and Iva Bittová (the Čikori formation,

the album *White Inferno* and the orchestral project *Bell*). Honzák’s musical activities soon exceeded the

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borders of Czechoslovakia; he was guest at a number of jazz festivals all over the world. Among the international figures whom he has accompanied have been, for example, Art Farmer, Phil Wilson, Don Friedman, Alan Praskin, Giovanni Basso and Victor Lewis. In 1989 Jaromír Honzák received a scholarship from the prestigious Boston Berklee College of Music where he studied for three semesters. Jaromír Honzák has recorded nine albums, in the last twelve years he has been working exclusively with the Animal Music label (“Getting There Together” – PJ Music 1995, “Earth Life” – Cube Metier 2000, “Present Past” – Indies 2003, “A Question to All Your Answers” – Animal Music 2007, “Little Things” – Animal Music 2009, “Blood Sings” – Animal Music 2012, “Uncertainty” – Animal Music 2014, “Early Music” – Animal Music 2017, and “Hard to Understand” – Animal Music). Five of these have received the Anděl Award for the best jazz album of the year. Besides Honzák, the above-mentioned albums feature musicians such as Kuba Stankiewicz, Michal Tokaj and Vít Křišťan on the piano, Lukasz Zyta, Jorge Rossy, Jon Fält or Martin Novák on the drums, David Dorůžka, Christian Rover and Peter Binder on the guitar, and Piotr Baron, Chris Cheek, Antonin-Tri Hoang and Luboš Soukup on the saxophone. Jaromír Honzák has also frequently performed with Soukup’s concert formation, including the unique performance with guitarist Lionel Louke at the Strings of Autumn festival in 2019. Honzák has been a very important presence on the Czech jazz educational scene. In 2003 he helped to found the Jazz Department of the Vocational Secondary School of Jaroslav Ježek and for many years he was the head of that department. Currently, he is the head of the newly established Jazz Department at the Prague Academy of Music (music university). He is a respected jazz pedagogue and one of the patrons of the current young jazz generation.

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