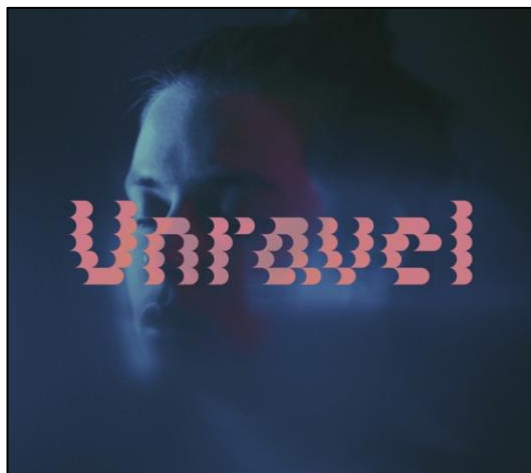


PRESS RELEASE 28 September 2020

## NIKOL BÓKOVÁ COMES WITH HER SECOND ALBUM, *UNRAVEL*



On the jazz scene, pianist and composer NIKOL BÓKOVÁ is last year's major discovery. Her first album, "Inner Place", with which the artist ventured out of her familiar milieu of classical music interpretation, brought her a nomination for the Anděl Award for the best jazz album of 2019. This year, Bóková comes with a new project, *UNRAVEL*, in which she innovatively combines masterful interpretation of demanding classical piano repertoire (Rachmaninov, Ravel, Novák, Korngold and Svoboda) with her own pieces inspired by these classical composers, such as, for example, "Unravel", dedicated to Maurice Ravel. As on the previous album, Bóková is accompanied by an excellent rhythm duo: MARTIN KOCIÁN on the double bass and MICHAŁ WIERZGOŃ on the drums. The perfect coordination of the whole trio whose members seem to breath as one organism, together with the Bóková's play that knows no technical limits and her original

compositional approach are the three main assets of the album. Together with the exquisite quality of the sound, these create a sense of continual surprise when listening to *UNRAVEL*, although the position of Nikol Bóková on the Czech jazz scene has already been securely established by the release of her first album last year. For a classical pianist who has only recently decided to explore the world of jazz and discovered in herself a phenomenal compositional talent, the world of 20<sup>th</sup>-century classical music remains a strong inspirational source. Her reliance on this source combines innovation with respect and spontaneity: *"To browse the music of great composers, to immerse oneself in it and bring it back to life. This is my great passion in life, as well as to let this music inspire me and help me discover my own world of expression, narratives, emotions... these are the constants of a space in which my need to perform and desire to create come together. Unravel springs from that place in which a great respect for the music of the past combines with an acute awareness of my own existence here and now,"* explains Nikol Bóková about her new project *UNRAVEL* which was originally created for the American Spring music festival.

The album *UNRAVEL* was recorded at the SONO Records studio in collaboration with sound engineer Milan Cimfe. The mastering is by Pavel Karlík and the cover is the work of Jonatan Kuna from the Najbrt Studio, using a photography by Jan Vala. The album is distributed by SUPRAPHON on CD and digitally and is available also from the ANIMAL MUSIC e-shop.



NIKOL BÓKOVÁ is one of the greatest Czech musical talents of recent years. In her work she combines masterful performance and classical training with an outstanding compositional genius. With her classical repertoire, which stretches from Baroque to contemporary music, Bóková regularly appears with various Czech orchestras on stages and musical festivals across Europe, as well as giving recitals and recording classical music for the Czech Radio. Together with artist Jan Vala she collaborates on CATAPLASM, a project which combines the world of classical music with her own work and allows listeners a peek into her creative process. Bóková's musical partners from her trio, with whom she has collaborated on two albums so far (*INNER PLACE*, 2019 and

*UNRAVEL*, 2020), are MARTIN KOCIÁN and MICHAŁ WIERZGOŃ, both members of PURPLE IS THE COLOR, a band active primarily on the Austrian scene but on the European jazz scene as well, not least since its triumph at the Central European Jazz Competition in 2018. Nikol Bóková's trio has been selected to perform at the Central European Jazz Showcase 2020 which will take place in Brno in November.

The release concert where the album will be performed will take place on 20 October 2020 in St Lawrence Church as part of the American Spring festival.

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Publisher – Petr Ostrouchov (Animal Music): [info@animalmusic.cz](mailto:info@animalmusic.cz)  
Web – [www.animalmusic.cz](http://www.animalmusic.cz), [www.nikolbokova.com](http://www.nikolbokova.com)  
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