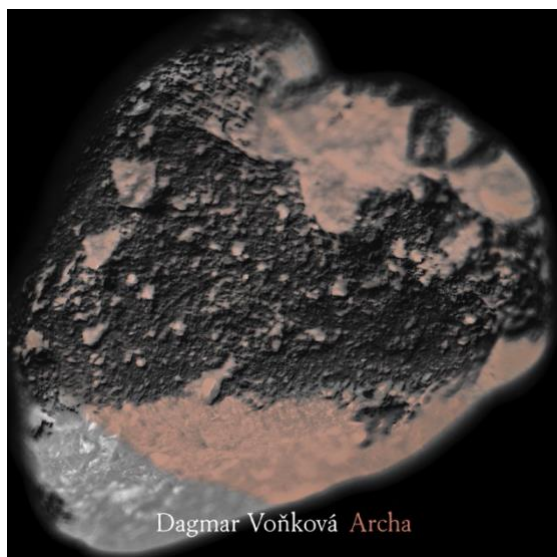


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NEW ALBUM OF DAGMAR VOŇKOVÁ, “ARCHA” (THE ARK) IS BEING RELEASED



In 2018 the legendary Czech singer, guitarist and composer, the one and only **Dagmar Voňková** accepted the invitation by Petr Ostrouchov to celebrate her important anniversary with a unique performance at the Archa Theatre in Prague. Voňková who has specialized in solo performance throughout her career appeared on this occasion surrounded by a band composed of some of the major figures on the local musical, mostly jazz scene who were also invited by Ostrouchov to come up with the arrangements of the individual songs. Together, they provided Voňková's older and more recent repertoire with a new sound based on variety of colours, rhythmical pulses, inventive improvisation and multi-voiced singing. Voňková showed to be in a great form and together with her musical partners she delighted the audiences with a rare musical experience. The concert which took place on 4 November 2018 as part of the Strings of Autumn festival was recorded live and is now released by Animal Music as an album entitled pertinently, **Dagmar Voňková: Archa**. The album brings a selection of

Voňková's best songs, starting with classics such as “Chlapci na tom horním konci” (Boys at the Upper End), “Ej, po poli jsem chodila” (As I Walked the Fields) and “Tobě” (For You), and including some of her newest compositions from the 2017 album *Hostina* (Feast). Together, they testify to the artist's unique approach to composition and performance alike and to her foremost position on the Czech musical scene.

The “all-stars” band consists of **Beata Hlavenková** (the holder of an Anděl Award for Solo Performance on the album *Sně* and in the Jazz Category for her album *Theodoros*), singer and cellist Dorota Barová (Anděl Award recipient in the Jazz Category for her album *Iluzja* [Illusion]), Barová's colleagues from Vertigo, trumpeter **Oskar Török** and saxophonist and clarinetist **Marcel Bárta** (Vertigo is a twice winner at the Jazz Category of the Anděl Awards for the albums *Metamorphosis* and *Daleko* [Far Away]), double bassist **Jiří Slavík** (Anděl Award holder in the World Music category for his album *Mateřština* [Mother Tongue]), the sought-after drummer **Miloš Dvořáček**, folk music multi-instrumentalist **Marian Friedl** (Anděl Award in the Folk Category for the album *Beránci a vlci*) and the guitarist and producer **Petr Ostrouchov** (film music author with six nominations for the Czech Lion Award and the producer, among others, of the album of Vladimír Mišík *Jednou tě potkám* [One Day We Shall Meet] which received six Anděl Awards earlier this year). A special guest of the performance was the singer **Lenka Dusilová**. The live recording was mixed by Milan Cimfe and Petr Ostrouchov at the Sono Studio, the cover is the work of the graphic artist Zuzana Lednická of the Najbrt Studio.



The album is released on CD and digitally on **13 November 2020** and is distributed by SUPRAPHON. It will also be available from the Animal Music e-shop at www.animalmusic.cz.



Dagmar Voňková appeared on the Czech musical scene in the 1970s as a member of the free association Šafrán which was part of the musical underground and gathered artists who did not comply with the communist regime and thus only rarely found an opportunity to record and release their music. Voňková made her name by her unique approach to guitar play and an expressive way of singing, but also by her distinctive compositional method which often drew on folk-song material. In the 1980s, the artist released her two ground-breaking albums, *Dagmar Andrtová-Voňková* (1986) and *Živá voda* (Life Water; 1989) which immediately gained her recognition outside the borders of Czechoslovakia as well. She has appeared at festivals around the world and is still very popular in Japan, for example. The 1990s saw the release of her album *Voliéra* (Aviary; 1996), several folk collections, live recordings from the Skagen festival in Denmark comprised on the album *Dagmar Andrtová* (1996) and several international editions of her albums. Following the turn of the millennium she released the album *Slunci ležím v rukou* (I Am Cradled by the Sun; 2008) in collaboration with Zdeňek Zdeňek, and *Hostina* (Feast; 2017). In 2010, Galén released a collection of her lyrics and poems, entitled *Listí* (Leaves). Jiří Moravčík has pertinently characterised Dagmar Voňková's musical style: *"Had the heathens in the ancient times known the guitar, they would undoubtedly have played it the same way that Dagmar Voňková plays it. Fast and ramblingly, urged by the need to shout it all out, to push out all the sorrow and uncontrollable emotions, or imperceptibly, almost, with those soft touches that make the strings breathe, as if cobwebs are torn, and to lull oneself, one's friends and family, but also anyone new, into a different state of mind, to be bound by no rules and sing from the bottom of one's heart and in accord with one's own temper."*

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