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Radek Baborák releases a unique recording of 20th-century horn concertos

The collaboration between horn player and conductor **Radek Baborák** and the **Animal Music** label has led to two new unique recordings. On an album of songs by **Gustav Mahler** from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (*The Boy's Magic Horn*) collection, his **Baborák Ensemble** accompanies – in new arrangements – leading Czech opera singers **Kateřina Kněžíková**, **Markéta Cukrová**, and **Adam Plachetka**. On the other disc, which features concertos for horn and orchestra by **Jiří Pauer** and **Reinhold Glière**, **Baborák** performs as a soloist, presenting these essential horn works of the 20th century accompanied by the **FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra** and their principal conductor **Tomáš Brauner**.



On “**Horn Concertos**”, out on **November 26th 2021**, **Radek Baborák** and the **FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra** with their principal conductor **Tomáš Brauner** introduce two essential yet seldom recorded works of the horn literature of the 20th century: concertos for horn and orchestra by **Jiří Pauer** (1919–2007) and **Reinhold Glière** (1875–1956), created in the 1950s, six years apart. The recording was made in the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House in Prague in collaboration with **Sono Records** (sound designers **Pavel** and **Adam Karlík**) and musical director **Sylva Smejkalová**; it is a co-production between **Animal Music** and the **FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra**. The design is by **Jonatan Kuna** at **Studio Najbrt** and the photographic duo **Shobty.us**.

“**Horn Concertos**” will be launched on the occasion of concerts by the **FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra** with **Tomáš Brauner** at the **Smetana Hall of the Municipal House** on **November 24th and 25th 2021**, at which Radek Baborák will perform Pauer’s horn concerto. **Anna Broušková** and **Ondřej Broušek** will christen the album at the first of these concerts; Broušek’s composition “*Pražská kavárna*” (“*Prague Café*”) will also be performed at both concerts. / <https://www.fok.cz/cs/tomas-brauner-radek-baborak>

The album was published by Animal Music as part of its Edition 2021, kindly supported by a **grant from Prague City Hall**, and is distributed internationally (in physical and digital form) by **SUPRAPHON**, and is also available at the publisher’s e-shop, www.animalmusic.cz.

PAUER, GLIÈRE: HORN CONCERTOS

Both the composers represented on this album, **Jiří Pauer** and **Reinhold Glière**, lived and worked under the conditions of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, respectively, and belonged among the artists loyal to the regime, officially celebrated, and active in various leading administrative positions. At the same time, they were responsible for creating excellent compositions and educating other significant artists across several generations, and often managed to rebel against the regime and defend artistic quality wherever it was necessary (Pauer, for instance, fought for the rehabilitation of **Václav Talich** after WWII). Their concertos for horn are among the best of their compositional legacy, and are also amongst the most popular pieces in the horn repertoire.

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Radek Baborák, one of the leading horn players in the world, is ideally suited to performing these pieces. He said of the birth of this recording: *“It was a great delight for me to record this album along with the FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra and their principal conductor Tomáš Brauner, who is a dear friend as well as an excellent professional colleague. The fact that this happened in difficult times – and not only for culture – makes it all the more valuable. Both pieces are affairs of the heart: I have played them many times and I truly wished to document them on record. I am very lucky to be recording them now, when I feel I am at the right age and level of experience, experience that is indispensable and that I put back into my performance. I wish the album did not only serve for enjoyable listening but also to educate students of the horn, to give them energy and a desire to let the horn sound in its fullness and power.”*



RADEK BABORÁK



The phenomenal horn player and conductor **Radek Baborák** has been in the notional first league of international music since his youth. Aged only eighteen, he became the first horn of the Czech Philharmonic, a position he later took up at the Munich and Berlin Philharmonics. His instrumental mastery has long placed him among the world elite and he performs and records as a soloist with the most significant world orchestras, conductors, and chamber ensembles. After leaving his orchestral

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position in Berlin in 2010, Baborák has expanded his focus to include not only solo performances and conducting engagements but also the activities of his own quintet, the “Baborák Ensemble”, which he expands into larger chamber ensembles, including the “Radek Baborák Orquestrina”. The line-up of his ensembles is adapted to the various projects, which generally take the form of commissioned arrangements of pieces originally created for other instrumentations. Since the 2020/2021 season, Baborák has been the principal conductor of the West Bohemian Orchestra Mariánské Lázně, the oldest continually operating Czech symphony orchestra. / www.baborak.com

TOMÁŠ BRAUNER

Tomáš Brauner is among the most sought after composers of his generation. Since the 2020/2021 season, he has been the principal conductor of the FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra. From 2018 to 2021, he was the principal conductor of the Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra in Zlín and the principal guest conductor of the Pilsen Philharmonic, where he served as principal conductor from 2013 to 2018. Between 2014 and 2018, he was also the principal guest conductor of the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra. He regularly collaborates with other leading symphony orchestras and opera houses, including the Czech



Philharmonic, PKF Prague Philharmonia, Münchner Symphoniker, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, Nürnberger Symphoniker, the Cracow Philharmonic, National Radio Orchestra Romania, the Slovak Philharmonic, Philharmonie Südwestfalen, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of Colours Athen, the National Theatre in Prague, the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre in Ostrava, the Prague State Opera, or the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico. / www.tomasbrauner.com

FOK PRAGUE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra is the official orchestra of the capital city of Prague. It was established in 1934 and it is based in the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House, one of the best known art nouveau buildings in the city. Every season, the orchestra plays fifty concerts in Prague and a number of guest performances abroad. Principal conductors have included Rudolf Pekárek, Václav Smetáček, Jiří Bělohlávek, Petr Altrichter, Gaetano Delogu, Serge Baudo, Jiří Kout, and Pietari Inkinen. Since the 2020/2021 season, the orchestra has been led by Tomáš Brauner, with Jac van Steen acting as principal guest conductor. The artistic reputation and international respect of the orchestra is enhanced by collaborations with internationally acclaimed conductors (Václav Talich, Rafael Kubelík, Karel Ančerl, Sir Georg Solti, Seiji Ozawa, Zubin Mehta, Sir Charles Mackerras, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Eliahu Inbal, Muhai Tang, Helmuth Rilling, and others) and leading soloists. The FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra has performed repeatedly in most European countries and the United States, and regularly visits Japan. It has also travelled to Latin America, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Korea, Turkey, Israel, and, more recently, to Oman or China. The orchestra’s long tradition is attested to by an extensive catalogue of gramophone, radio, and television recordings. / www.fok.cz

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