

## The first of a series of vinyl records with music of the film composer Zdeněk Liška is being released



“Zdeněk Liška Archives” is a new editorial project of the Animal Music label. Its aim is to release a limited series of vinyl records featuring a selection of the original recordings of film music by the legendary composer **Zdeněk Liška**. Petr Ostrouchov, the owner of the label and the collection’s curator was granted access by Liška’s daughters to the composer’s personal archive containing audiotapes with recordings of his music for films, as well as his original scores. The first album of the collection includes music to three short animated films of the filmmaker and surrealist **Jan Švankmajer**: **Don Šajn** (Don Juan, 1973), **Leonardův deník 1972** (Leonardo’s Diary, 1972), and **Žvahlav aneb Šatičky Slaměného Huberta** (Jabberwocky, 1973). Of the ten short films by Švankmajer to which Zdeněk Liška provided music, only these three recordings have been preserved in the composer’s home archive. Here is how Jan Švankmajer describes Liška’s brilliance and his specific

approach to composing for film: *“What was amazing about Liška’s music was that, unlike most other film composers, he didn’t attempt to go with the mood of the film and milk the emotions but listened to the rhythm of the movie itself. Especially in an animated film, this helped to greatly enhance the sense of the picture’s pace and drama. He was able to discover rhythms in films that even their authors weren’t aware of.”*

Petr Ostrouchov adds: *“Zdeněk Liška’s work represents a combination of dramaturgical genius, creative audacity, and sound novelty. It is music of unrivalled quality, an ideal to which all of the local (and many international) composers have aspired. His style is extremely versatile, yet you will be able to recognize it within just a few seconds. Liška’s music often contributed to the overall character and quality of the film. It has been a great pleasure exploring his music and scores and discovering how the peculiar sounds have been made. I look forward to working on the following albums in the Liška collection.”*

The cover of the album is by Aleš Najbrt and Marek Pistora from the Najbrt Studio, and features stills from the three films. The cover contains a sleeve note by Pavel Klusák and a personal reminiscence by Jan Švankmajer. The original recordings have been remastered by Pavel Karlík from the Sono Records studios.

By releasing this vinyl album with music to his films, Animal Music has joined the celebrations throughout the year of Švankmajer’s legacy and his important anniversary, including such projects as the retrospective exhibition entitled Disegno Interno at the GASK gallery in Kutná Hora or the exclusive retrospective of Švankmajer’s twenty-two films by the online Dafilms cinema.

The album **Music to Films by Jan Švankmajer** is released exclusively as an LP, as part of the Animal Music 2024 edition, supported by the PPF Foundation and a grant from the City of Prague. The album’s release has also been supported by grants from the State Culture Fund of the Czech Republic and the Czech Music Fund. The album is available from the Animal Music e-shop and from the usual distribution outlets of Supraphon.

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