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J.K. MERTZA



NEWS RELEASE of

43rd Guitar Festival of J. K. Mertz

BRATISLAVA, June, 17 – 24, 2018

Guitar Festival of J. K. Mertz doesn't need to be presented to Bratislava's audience. It is part of Cultural Summer and Castle Festival Bratislava for already 43 years. Actual year is dedicated to 100. anniversary of constitution of Czechoslovakia. On festival stage will meet top-level interpreters from Czech and Slovak republic, but there will be also interesting programs of guitarists from China, Greece and popular Spain. The festival offers besides classical guitar pieces also ancient music, flamenco and jazz. On concerts will sound guitar solo but also different kinds of chamber ensembles and combinations of music instruments.

Place: Bratislava - Hall of Mirrors of Primate's Palace, Klarisky Concert Hall, Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, Albrecht House; Hainburg/Donau (Austria) – Martin Luther Church

Date: June 17 – 24, 2018 – main programme; May 12 - July 1 – additional events

Organizer: Society of J. K. Mertz

Czech guitarist **Pavel Steidl** is rightly considered to be the guitarist "Paganini" nowadays. His art is unique, and who has never heard of him, he did not know the true guitar virtuoso. Pavel's playing is a symbiosis of historically instructed approach, open-mindedness and improvisation, and at the same time he is an artist who responds extremely sensitively to the aspects coming from the complicated reality that we are living today. Pavel Steidl was ranked among the 8 most important guitarists of the world in 2003 by the Italian journal Guitart. At the **Opening** concert of the Festival (**June 17, Hall of Mirrors**). Pavel invited also interesting guests - Juraj Tomka (violin) and Eugen Prochác (cello), what makes his dramaturgy even more attractive.

The unique "duet" concert **Night for two (June 18, Klarisky Concert Hall)** will be featuring duo violin and guitar by **Leoš Čepický** and **Petr Saidl** - renowned Czech artists and Slovak guitar duo **Adam Marec - Peter Tomko**, who will introduce a multi-genre and multi-instrumental project that will be attractive not only for the lovers of classical music and traditional artistic approaches.

One of the ideas of the festival is also the presentation of young artists who, according to experts, are "top" guitar players. The audience will have the opportunity to listen to the performances of the winner of guitar competition Forum Gitarre Wien 2017 - **Wu You** from China (**From Classic to Jazz, June 20, Klarisky Concert Hall**) and audience can also enjoy **Final round of 11th International Guitar Competition of J. K. Mertz, (June 22 Hall of Mirrors)** of four finalists of the International Guitar Competition of J. K. Mertz, chosen by a professional jury.

Juraj Burian's and **David Dorůžka's** artistic career joins Berklee College Music in Boston, where they studied and graduated. Each of them belongs to the most important jazz players in their country and their projects are characterized by great creativity and exceptional quality. The idea of the cooperation between Czech and Slovak musicians initiated a unique project of the jazz guitar duo, which will be presented for the first time at this festival (**June 19, Klarisky Concert Hall**) on the concert "**From Classic to Jazz**".

The Prague Guitar Quartet belongs to the world's oldest active ensembles of its kind. From the beginning achieved the ensemble international dimension and the quartet was very early one of the top ensembles, performing at many events around the world. It is not surprising that the art of the PGQ was the main inspiration for the creation of the Slovak version - **Bratislava Guitar Quartet**, which is more than 10 years younger. These very active ensembles will meet on one stage and the audience will also enjoy the interesting "Czech-Slovak" cooperation. **Night for four (June 20, Hall of Mirrors)**.

A special guest of the festival is **Štěpán Rak**, who became a model of modern guitar playing in Czechoslovakia and his rich composer's activity has been heard all over the world. His musical activities go beyond the boundaries of musical art only, and their meanings interfere with wider societal contexts. The project of this concert will be based on importance of work of John Amos Comenius. It speaks not only about the need for education, but also about the humanity and moral values of human, which are increasingly scarcely present in society. **Vivat Comenius! (June 21, Klarisky Concert Hall)**.

The phenomenal **Duo Melis - Susana Prieto** and **Alexis Muzurakis** draw attention of the music society in 1999 at the International Guitar Festival in Volos, Greece. Their musical journey continued on to Berlin Philharmonic, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, and Merkin Hall in New York. Experts compare them today with the famous Assad brothers, or the legendary duo of Lagoya - Presti. The concert will take place thanks to the support of the Spanish Embassy in Bratislava. **Duo Melis** will perform an impressive consist of works by Spanish and Argentine composers too. (**June 22, Hall of Mirrors**).

Thanks to the activity and support of the Embassy of Spain in Bratislava, the festival also offers an extraordinary concert featuring a unique combination of classical and flamenco guitar music. The **Lo Cortés No Quita Lo Gallardo** performed by Spanish **José María Gallardo del Rey** and **Miguel Ángel Cortés** means, in a free translation, "Courtesy does not exclude boldness." (**June 24, Hall of Mirrors**).

All of the concerts will be held at 7 p.m. and tickets are available in Ticketportal Network or an hour before the concert at the place of the event.

Annual tradition parts of the festival are related events - concerts, international guitar competition, masterclasses, lectures, presentations and seminars.

Other concerts of the festival will offer for example the unique project of the first introduction of the work of the Bratislava lutenist and composer Paul Durant. Slovak lutenists **Igor Herzog**, **Jakub Mitrík** and baroque ensemble **Solamente Naturali** will perform the composer's collected work. **Paul Durant in the Albrecht House (July 1)**.

There will be also two additional concerts held in cooperation with Albrechtforum, two additional concerts: **Guitar in the garden on "the Kapitulská street Courtyard" (May 12, Garden of the Albrecht House)** and **Guitar in the Albrecht House (June 16)**. The first one will be a musical invitation for the festival performed by students and teachers of Bratislava's Conservatory and Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. The second concert will belong to students of Prague's Academy of Performing Arts **Vít Dvořáček** and **Martin Cába** and their **Duo CD**.

A new innovation to this year's festival will also be the collaboration for creating a guitar concert in the Austrian border town of Hainburg an der Donau. "**Guitar in the Martin Luther Church**" will be held in cooperation with the "Freunde der evangelischen Kirche in Hainburg/Donau" and Evangelische Pfarrgemeinde A.B. Bruck/Leitha-Hainburg/Donau (*July 1, Martin Luther Church*) The interpreters will be winners of the Slovak Conservatories competition **Terézia Hulková** and **Rastislav Sumega** as well as other guests.

The festival is supported using public funding by Slovak Arts Council – main partner and Bratislava Self-Governing Region.

More info at: www.jkmertz.com

Tickets: www.ticketportal.sk

Organiser of event:

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Main sponsor:

Slovak Arts Council

Sponsors and partners:

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