The Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava is heading into Vesmír (Space), where the orchestra will perform most of the 2022/23 season

**The Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava (JPO) has unveiled a new programme - the 69th season already - and launched online ticket sales. There will be a big change for the audience, not in the programme offer maintaining the high standard in terms of dramaturgy, but in the venues of the concerts. These will not take place in the House of Culture of the City of Ostrava in the coming years. The reason is the start of the reconstruction of the building and the extension of the Ostrava Concert Hall according to the design of the American architect Steven Holl. For the time being, the orchestra will perform mainly in the former Vesmír (Space) cinema. There will also be more concerts in the Gong Hall in Dolní Vítkovice and in the Church of St. Wenceslas in Opava. The programme offer of the 69th season of the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra in Ostrava is unique in this sense. The audience can learn more about it from the new season brochure, which will also present the programme of the season in the context of the theme of "resilience". The concept, behind which is the photographer Dita Pepe, permeates the entire brochure. Concert tickets for the 69th season can be purchased online from now and at all our points of sale from 23 May.**

**A word from JPO director Jan Žemla**

Big changes await us in the coming years. We are starting to build a new concert hall in Ostrava. We were there at the very beginning when the conditions of the architectural competition were defined, and now we are there determining the future operation of the whole building. While designing, we have drawn on our concert experience around the world. In recent years, we have deliberately visited a number of excellent concert halls and had the opportunity to explore their technical equipment and operation, which has been absolutely crucial for us.

The temporary relocation of the Philharmonic to the former Vesmír cinema means a provisional compromise, to which we have adapted the repertoire, because the former cinema is not entirely suitable for the largest symphonic compositions. However, I am sure that the listening comfort of our audience will not suffer - the hall is undergoing acoustic adaptation and the dramaturgy of the upcoming season is therefore also adapted to the space. We will perform some of the most classic pieces in Vesmír – from Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, through typical representatives of musical romanticism to compositions by Richard Strauss and Czech composers of the 20th century.

Personally, as every year, I look forward to the opening concert, which this time will show Shostakovich's 'Leningrad' Symphony. There will also be several compositions by contemporary authors. Famous performers will come again, for example cellist Johannes Moser, who returns to JPO regularly. I am pleased that Federico Colli will come again and play together with 'our' Lukáš Vondráček.

**Resiliance – the theme of the brochure of the 69th JPO concert season**

*"The ability to withstand crises and situations of various natures and to cope with the difficulties that have troubled us lately seems to us to be extremely topical for the coming season. This year, the theme of resilience is reflected not only in the visual and thematic part of the brochure, but also in the dramaturgical concept of the whole season, "* says co-author of the brochure concept and photographer **Dita Pepe**, adding *"none of us had any idea that Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7, also called 'Leningrad', would be in its images a new reality today. Shostakovich composed this piece in Leningrad being besieged by the Germans in 1941, despite having been given the opportunity ,as an important composer, to evacuate. Valentin Silvestrov, a contemporary Ukrainian composer, remained in besieged Kiev at the end of February 2022 during the first days of the Russian invasion in Ukraine. While his composition Hymn 2001 was being performed by JPO in Ostrava, he and his family were listening to the sounds of sirens."*

The 2022/23 season brochure offers a complete programme of concerts divided into subscription series, a list of other activities that JPO does as well as stories and interviews on the topic of "resilience". At the beginning of the brochure, there is a map with practical information on the venues where concert goers will meet JPO in the coming season.

Over a dozen people worked on the brochure. Besides Dita Pepe, photographer Petr Hrubeš was also invited to joint the team. The graphic artist Štěpán Malovec gave the brochure its visual form and the texts were written by the writer Jana Poncarová. You can see some of the behind-the-scenes preparations in the photo report [he](https://www.jfo.cz/katalog-22-23/)re. The printed brochure will be available at Janáček Point in the House of Culture from 19 May and will then be distributed to other points of sale.

**Chief Conductor Vassily Sinaisky and his new assistant Maroš Potokár**

**Vassily Sinaisky conducted the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra for the first time in December 2018. After less than a ear,to**

Vassily Sinaisky conducted the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra for the first time in December 2018. After less than a year, he returned to Ostrava to perform Brahms’s and Suk's compositions for the opening concert of the 2019/2020 JPO season. From the following season 2020/2021 he was offered the position of chief conductor, which he gladly accepted. *"The chief conductor is a key person in the existence of every orchestra. We have a clear idea of what his profile should be. It must be an experienced artist who will work with the orchestra, use all its potential and move its skills even higher. Vassily Sinaisky is one of the most interesting personalities we have worked with. He is convinced that JPO has potential and that even after those restrictions in recent years, we can still do some interesting work together, "* adds JPO director Jan Žemla*.*

The position of assistant chief conductor was newly created in the 68th season, which is quite common abroad but still unique in the Czech Republic. It is not just about taking care of the young music generation, but also about the practical impact. The assistant chief conductor is the connecting link between the orchestra and the conductor. **After a three-round selection proces, Maroš Potokár, who is a real talent, became the first ever assistant to the JPO chief conductor.** Maroš Potokár studied the violin, and since he became interested in conducting, he learned the piano during one year. Today he is one of the most prominent personalities of the young generation of Slovak conductors.

Alena Jelínková is in the unwritten position of the second assistant.

**Programme of the 69th Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava season**

**A Symphony series /** The hall of the former Vesmír cinema will resound with great compositions from the 19th and 20th centuries. Due to the more intimate environment, JPO has chosen a more traditional repertoire. We will listen to the best works by Dvořák, Martinů, Beethoven, Strauss, Tchaikovsky or Prokofiev.

**B Symphony series /** The classics in the best performance will be heard this season in the former Vesmír cinema, while a new concert hall is being built. We will hear compositions that are performed with respect by orchestras around the world. For example, Prokofiev's Sinfonia for cello and orchestra, a prelude to the only Beethoven opera he ever composed, Strauss's melodic Burlesque or Schumann's first symphony.

**C series – What we love /** Concert series C is intended for listeners who want to discover and experience the world of classical music in a creative and perhaps slightly unconventional way. Not only will the orchestra play, but the audience will also get involved. Even the conductor will not only conduct and we can expect more than just moderating from the presenter. This will be the actress Markéta Matulová.

**D series – For kids "Pretty problematic season" /** Concerts for the whole family - children, parents and grandparents. They are prepared so that adults and children can enjoy an extraordinary Sunday afternoon. The main characters Vlada and Ota are facing a difficult year. Such a problematic season. That's enough. Everywhere they look, there is a problém everywhere. Additionally, the conductor and the orchestra have problems. That is why it is necessary to come, sit down and support them in finding solutions.

**E series – Young spirit /** JPO likes to give a chance to rising stars, who usually perform with a large symphonic orchestra for the first time in this series. This year, four extraordinary concerts await the audience. They can listen to the art of young people who have successfully passed the JPO interpretation competition. After completing a one-week conducting course, conductors from the Academy of Arts in Zurich will also perform at the joint concert.

**G series - Gong /** In this unique series, symphonic music is combined with other genres, and JPO gives space to original authorial projects. In Gong, which was created in the former gas reservoir of the Dolní Vítkovice area, we have already had the opportunity to hear songs and compositions by various performers together with the JPO orchestra. This year we can look forward to Cirk La Putyka, Tata Bojs, film music or a music tribute to David Stypka.

**K series – Chamber music /** There is something about chamber music – it is classical music in its purest form. No mistake is hidden, perfect interpretive sophistication and attention to detail are required. A deeper relationship, perhaps even intimacy, can develop between the audience and the ensemble, which includes only a few musicians. This year's K series at JPO will mainly present music from the last century, but space will also be given to older compositions. Sonatas by Ravel or Debussy, for example, as well as works by Czech masters Dvořák, Mysliveček or Novák, will be performed.

**R series - Recitals /** The main character of R series is the piano and top performers. Compositions by Baroque and contemporary masters, such as J. S. Bach, G. F. Händel, M. Ravel or the contemporary British composer Thomas Adès, will be performed. There will also be a composition by the author who was the first to perform a solo piano recital, Franz Liszt. World and domestic stars, such as the young Chinese pianist Zee Zee or Inon Barnatan, will sit at the piano. For the first time ever, pianists Lukáš Vondráček and Federico Colli will play together in the duo.

**M Symphony series - Special concerts in Gong /** Something extraordinary, monumental and majestic is coming. In Gong, pieces with a strong story and philosophical subtext, requiring a large orchestra will be performed as part of M series. For instance, Carmina burana with all its joyfulness and the depth of medieval songs that inspired Carl Orff. Or Shostakovich's "Leningrad", which he protested not only against the German siege, but also against Stalin's purges in the 1940s. During the final concert, Georgian Gija Kančeli, among others, will perform his own piece Nu.Mu.Zu, which he composed in 2015.

**O series - Opava concerts /** Concerts by JPO were held in Opava as early as in the 1970s and 1980s. Four years ago, this tradition was revived. The music experience of the Opava Symphony Cycle is enhanced by the unique space of St. Wenceslas Church. This time, the pieces by the most famous classics, such as Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven, will be performed. Significant pieces from the 18th century require the precision and harmony of the orchestra. Therefore, established performers as well as young rising stars will tune and play their musical instruments.

**Ostrava Concert Hall**

An iconic building will be built in Ostrava, which will include a concert hall with a capacity of 1,300 seats. In order for the hall to have first-class acoustics, a scale model of its interior was created in a 1:10 scale. Experts from the renowned Japanese company Nagata Acoustics have been measuring the sound in it for three months so far. *"We are looking for acoustic defects so that the sound is clear and everything the orchestra plays is faithfully transmitted to the audience,"* says **Erik Bergal** of Los Angeles, who is in charge of measuring for Nagata Acoustics and adds *"the Ostrava concert hall with what is known as a vineyard arrangement, will be divided into smaller sections and part of the auditorium will be behind the stage itself. The concert hall is a meeting place for people, there is certain intimacy in it. The one in Ostrava has a stage located in the middle and the people are seated around it. You will sit in the audience and you will be able to watch others. We will all be in one space and communicate through music.”* Photos from the production of the model can be downloaded together with other materials [he](http://www.koncertnisal.cz/pro-media)re.

**We are heading to Vesmír (Space)**

Practical information on moving to Vesmír and more about the project of reconstruction of the House of Culture of the city of Ostrava and extension of the Ostrava Concert Hall: [www.jfo.cz/en/](http://www.jfo.cz/en/), [www.koncertnisal.cz/en/](http://www.koncertnisal.cz/en/)

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