



NEWS RELEASE

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Filharmonie Brno Performs an All-Czech Program— Dvořák, Janáček, and Martinů with Dennis Russell Davies, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

Wed, Feb 15 at 8pm at The Soraya
Tickets start at \$49 at www.TheSoraya.org

(Los Angeles, CA) Feb 2, 2023—The pastoral landscape and folklore of Eastern Europe and America are brought to life through the music of three of the greatest Czech composers – **Dvořák, Janáček, and Martinů** – performed by the Czech Republic’s own **Filharmonie Brno** under the baton of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director **Dennis Russell Davies**. Widely considered to be one of the most innovative and adventurous conductors/programmers in the classical music world, Maestro Davies leads the famed Czech symphony orchestra in a program that includes:

Martinů: Thunderbolt P-47, H. 309

Janáček: Taras Bulba

Dvořák: Symphony No. 9 in E Minor, Op. 95, B. 178 “New World Symphony”

Filharmonie Brno will perform on Wed, Feb 15 at 8pm. Tickets start at \$49 and can be purchased at www.TheSoraya.org.

About Dennis Russell Davies and the Filharmonie Brno

For more than a half-century, renowned American conductor Dennis Russell Davies has conducted many of the world’s finest orchestras and opera companies and is widely considered one of the most innovative and adventurous conductors in the classical music world.

In 2018, Maestro Davis became the Artistic Director & Chief Conductor of the Filharmonie Brno, an orchestra with roots that go back to the 1870’s when then-young composer **Leoš Janáček** endeavored to establish a Czech symphony orchestra in Brno (the traditional capital of Moravia), now the second largest city in the Czech Republic after Prague.

The present orchestra was created in 1956 and has been among the leading Czech orchestras in both size and importance, where the programming of works by **Janáček** has always been at the core of the orchestra's repertory. Appropriately, Maestro Davies' stimulating concert at The Soraya will feature an outstanding all-Czech program of works by three of the greatest Czech composers: **Dvořák, Janáček, and Martinů.**

This concert also marks the first time **Dvořák's astonishing** "New World Symphony will be performed in The Soraya's Great Hall.

About Filharmonie Brno

Since its earliest days, Filharmonie Brno has established a profile as a Janáčekian orchestra, thus making a substantial contribution to the cultural life of Brno – where Leoš Janáček composed nearly his entire oeuvre – and becoming an enthusiastic champion of his music. Since its foundation in 1956, the orchestra has regularly performed Janáček's works in concerts at home and abroad; it has also recorded, multiple times, his complete symphonic works and cantatas.

In its home city, the orchestra offers a rich and trailblazing concert season. Major symphony concerts take place at the Janáček Theatre; the chamber repertoire is performed at the Neo-renaissance hall of the Besední dům, which serves as the orchestra's headquarters. The Filharmonie also holds the Špilberk International Music Festival every summer, performing in the historical courtyard of Brno's Špilberk Castle, in the city's churches, and elsewhere.

In its homeland, Filharmonie Brno is a regular participant at major festivals, including Prague Spring, Moravian Autumn, Smetana's Litomyšl and the Leoš Janáček International Music Festival. The orchestra is a frequent guest at prestigious venues abroad.

Filharmonie Brno has an illustrious history of music-making. Its beginnings date back to the 1870s when its first predecessor an amateur Czech Symphony Orchestra was established under the auspices of Leoš Janáček and housed in the purpose-built Besední dům, the present orchestra's magnificent home. Formed in 1956 after the merger of the Radio Orchestra and the Brno Region Symphony Orchestra, Filharmonie Brno has been regarded as one of the best orchestras in this country.

In Brno, the orchestra gives about 40 concerts in the pleasant ambience and excellent acoustic of Besední dům, as well as presenting regular concert series in Stadion Kounicova (while Janáček Opera House is in reconstruction). In addition, the orchestra performs frequently throughout the Czech Republic, making regular appearances at prestigious Czech festivals such as the Prague Spring (a festival which the orchestra were honoured to open in 2008). Filharmonie Brno made its first foreign tour in 1956 and since then has given well over 700 concerts throughout Europe, USA and the Far East.

The orchestra has collaborated with a number of distinguished conductors, including Karel Ancerl, Jiri Belohlavek, Sir Charles Mackerras, Kurt Masur, and Yehudi Menuhin, and has thrived

on musical partnerships with a number of exceptional soloists: Yefim Bronfman, Rudolf Buchbinder, Elina Garanca, Sophia Jaffé, Wilhelm Kempff, Olga Kern, Gidon Kremer, John Lill, Johannes Moser, Julian Rachlin, Sviatoslav Richter, Fazil Say, and Eva Urbanova, to name but a few.

Filharmonie Brno has often been labelled as a Janáček's orchestra and rightly so. Brno, where the composer lived and worked, has always been a lively centre of his music. Since its foundation in 1956, the ensemble has given well over three hundred performances of works by Janáček at concerts both in the Czech Republic and abroad. It has also recorded complete symphonic and cantata works.

Filharmonie Brno has recorded extensively with Supraphon – nowadays the largest and most prestigious record company in the Czech Republic – and has also made a number of high-quality recordings with Sony Music, IMG Records and BMG, as well as with a number of other well-known record labels. Most recently, orchestra has recorded with Music Sales, Classic FM and Sony BMG, Channel 4, Supraphon, Royal National Theatre in London and Universal. In 1956, when it was formed, Filharmonie Brno started cooperation with Czech Radio, and this relationship has continued up until today.

About Dennis Russell Davies

Dennis Russell Davies' activities as opera and orchestral conductor, and as pianist and chamber musician, are characterized by an extensive repertory stretching from pre-Baroque to the latest music of our time. Widely considered to be one of the most innovative and adventurous conductors/programmers in the classical music world, Davies has successfully challenged and inspired audiences on both sides of the Atlantic as well as in Japan. He is noted for exciting, well-structured concerts and for his close working relationships with such varied composers as Luciano Berio, William Bolcom, John Cage, Philip Glass, Heinz Winbeck, Aaron Copland, Lou Harrison, Laurie Anderson, Arvo Pärt, Hans Werner Henze, Kurt Schwertsik, Thomas Larcher, Balduin Sulzer, and Manfred Trojahn.

After first appointments as Music Director of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the American Composers Orchestra, which he led for 25 years, Davies moved to Europe as General Music Director of the Staatsoper Stuttgart, then Opera Bonn and the Beethovenhalle Orchestra. He subsequently led the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, and the Symphony Orchestra Basel. In 2013, during his long and successful tenure in Linz as Chief Conductor of the Linz Opera and Bruckner Orchester, Davies inaugurated the new Linzer Musiktheater conducting the World Premiere of Philip Glass'/Peter Handke's "Spuren der Verirrten" and Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*.

Since 2018 Dennis Russell Davies is Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Filharmonie Brno. In Autumn 2020 he assumed the position Chief Conductor of the MDR-Sinfonieorchester Leipzig.

As guest conductor in the USA, he has appeared with the orchestras of Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Boston, New York and Cleveland. In Europe he has worked regularly with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and the Concertgebouworkest Amsterdam and has conducted the Berlin Philharmonic, Orchestra Filharmonica della Scala, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Firenze, as well as the Hamburg and Munich Philharmonic Orchestras.

Recent opera engagements include a new production of Peter Eötvös' "Tri Sestry" in Frankfurt and multiple performances of *Salome* and *Wozzeck* at the Vienna State Opera. He has conducted new productions at the Bayreuth and Salzburg Festivals, the Metropolitan Opera New York, the Hamburg and Bavarian State Operas, the Opera National de Paris, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Teatro Real Madrid – a total of more than 140 new productions by many of the theater world's most important stage directors.

Dennis Russell Davies' rich discography includes complete recordings of the symphonies of Bruckner and Philip Glass (Bruckner Orchester Linz), Haydn (Stuttgarter Kammerorchester) and Arthur Honegger (Sinfonieorchester Basel). With his wife and duo partner Maki Namekawa he has recorded extensively, including works by Mozart, Beethoven, Shostakovich, Philip Glass, and Stravinsky (original four-hand versions of "Le Sacre de Printemps", "Firebird", and "Petrouchka").

Born in Toledo, Ohio in 1944, Davies studied piano and conducting at the Juilliard School in New York. From 1997-2012 he was professor for orchestral conducting at the University Mozarteum Salzburg, and guest professor at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno.

Davies is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has been awarded the German Bundesverdienstkreuz, the Austrian Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst, as well as the title "Commandeur des Arts et Lettres" bestowed by the French Government.

Serving as Artistic Advisor to Dennis Russell Davies is Dr. Heribert Schröder, the Artistic Director of the Bruckner Orchester Linz for many years and since March 2019 the General Secretary of the Oberösterreichische Theater und Orchester GmbH.

For media tickets and interview requests, please contact The Soraya Communications Associate [Marie Estrada](#), or PR Consultant [Gary Murphy](#). Access your press kit [here](#).

Calendar Listing:

What: [Filharmonie Brno Perform music by Czech composers Dvořák, Janáček, and Martinů: Dennis Russell Davies, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director](#)

This concert takes audiences on a journey to historic Czechoslovakia. The pastoral landscape and folklore of Eastern Europe are brought to life through the music of three esteemed Czech composers – Dvořák, Janáček, and Martinů – performed by the Czech Republic's own Brno Philharmonic. This authentic and memorable program recalls the spirit of the Czech people during its bucolic pre-World-War II empire.

Program: **Martinů: Thunderbolt P-47, H. 309**
 Janáček: Taras Bulba
 Dvořák: Symphony No. 9 in E Minor, Op. 95, B. 178 “New World Symphony”

When: **Wed, Feb 15, 2023 | 8pm, Great Hall**
Where: **Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)**
 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330
Tickets: **\$49--\$109**
Website: **<http://www.TheSoraya.org/>**
Phone: **818-677-3000**

About The Soraya

Located on the vibrant and diverse campus of California State University in the heart of Los Angeles’ San Fernando Valley, The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, exceling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect LA’s many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work from the Los Angeles region as well as artists from around the world.

Press Contact for The Soraya

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