

# Almuni Recital

**2017–2018 Season**  
**100th Concert**

Tuesday 24 October 2017  
Dalton Center Recital Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**EMA KATROVAS, Soprano**  
**Timothy Cheek, Piano**

**“Sung into the Distance: songs of Vítězslava Kaprálová  
and Bohuslav Martinů”**

**Bohuslav Martinů**  
1890–1959

***Koleda milostná (Love Carol) (1937)***

**Vítězslava Kaprálová**  
1915–1940

***Píseň milostná (Love Song) (1938)***

**Bohuslav Martinů**

***Tři písně pro Červenou Sedmu (1921)***  
(Three Songs for the Červená Sedma Cabaret)

- I. Balada letní (Summer Ballad)
- II. Bar (The Bar)

**Vítězslava Kaprálová**

***Sbohem a šáteček (Waving Farewell) Opus 14 (1937)***

**Vítězslava Kaprálová**

***Zpíváno do dálky (Sung into the Distance) Opus 22 (1939)***

- I. Píseň tvé nepřítomnosti (Song of Your Absence)
- II. Polohlasem (Under One's Breath)
- III. Jarní (Spring)

**Bohuslav Martinů**

***Nový špalíček (New Songbook) (1942)***

- I. Bohatá milá (The Rich Girlfriend)
- II. Opuštěný milý (The Abandoned Boyfriend)
- III. Touha (Longing)
- IV. Zvědavé dievča (The Inquisitive Girl)
- V. Veselé dievča (The Happy Girl)
- VI. Smutný milý (The Sad Boyfriend)
- VII. Prosba (The Plea)
- VIII. Vysoká veža (The High Tower)

Soprano **EMA KATROVAS** studied at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, where she received her Masters degree. During her undergraduate studies at Western Michigan University (WMU), she premiered numerous compositions by her classmates in the composition department and prepared and sang a recital of 20th century Czech music at WMU's Lee Honor's College. In 2011, she was selected for the OperaWorks summer program in California. She was a finalist in the Opera Grand Rapids Young Vocalist Competition (2013) and won the Expectation prize at the Vissi d' Arte International Competition (2016). She played various roles at the Prague Academy of Music, most notably Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* (W.A. Mozart.) While still a student, she began singing at professional opera houses across the Czech Republic. She regularly sings Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (W.A. Mozart) with the Kammer Oper Prague and toured Germany and Austria as the First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* with the F.X. Šalda theater in Liberec, where she subsequently sang La Charmeuse in Massenet's *Thaïs*. She has a strong interest in Baroque music and participated in the Baroque School of Music in Holešov (2016), where she was selected to be a soloist in the final concert of Bach's *St. John's Passion*, and was selected to be an active participant at the Bach Masterclass in Leipzig in 2017. In 2017, she debuted at the Silesian Theater in Opava as the First Nymph in *Rusalka* (A. Dvořák). Katrovas is also a translator from Czech and published a collection of poetry by Pavel Šrut, *Paper Shoes* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2008), and short stories by Bohumil Hrabal (*Calque*, 2009 and *Hayden Ferry Review*, 2010).

Pianist and vocal coach **TIMOTHY CHEEK** is well known for his work in Czech vocal music. His books *Singing in Czech: A Guide to Czech Lyric Diction and Vocal Repertoire*, with a foreword by Sir Charles Mackerras; a series on Janáček's opera libretti; and his books on Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* and Dvořák's *Rusalka* are recognized internationally as authoritative resources for singing in Czech. He has been especially instrumental in championing the works of Czech female composer Vítězslava Kaprálová (1915–1940), through international lectures, a CD of her songs with soprano Dana Burešová for Supraphon (nominated for the best recording of 2003 by the Czech journal *Harmonie*), live performances, and his critical edition of the songs with Amos Editio. This work recently culminated in a week-long festival of Kaprálová's 100th birthday in 2015 at the University of Michigan that included several world premieres.

In 2009, the Czech song cycle *Apple Train* by renowned Czech composer Sylvie Bodorová was written for Cheek, soprano Laurie Lashbrook, and dancer Bohuslava Jelínková, who premiered the work in Sydney in 2010. In 2011, Cheek performed with bass-baritone Stephen Morscheck at the Rudolfinum, Prague, for the celebration of the rededication of Prague's Woodrow Wilson statue (destroyed by the Nazis in 1941), and the inaugural awarding of the Wilson-Masaryk Medal of Freedom. The ceremonies included Madeleine Albright, Václav Klaus, and Václav Havel. In 2014, Cheek served on the jury of the 49th International Antonín Dvořák Singing Competition in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, the oldest annual voice competition in the world.

After completing an opera internship at the National Theatre in Prague under the great Janáček conductor Bohumil Gregor in 1995, Cheek went on to receive several prestigious grants for hands-on research in the Czech Republic. He has coached, performed, and taught master classes on Czech vocal repertoire with hundreds of singers at summer festivals, music schools, conferences, and opera houses internationally. Since 1994, he has been on the faculty of the University of Michigan, where he teaches diction classes and a course for singers and pianists, "Czech Vocal Literature." At the university he also serves as music director of Opera Workshop, coaches opera productions, and is an Associate Faculty member of the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Cheek's performances as a collaborative pianist have brought him to seventeen countries on four continents, and continue to be broadcast worldwide.

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