

Bohemia Saxophone Quartet



Pavel Fiedler - soprán saxofon

Antonín Mühlhansl - alt saxofon

Pavel Škrna - tenor saxofon

Kateřina Pavlíková - baryton saxofon

Bohemia Saxophone Quartet (BSQ) is a top Czech music ensemble, which has evolved since its foundation in 1990 into a highly professional entity with distinctly specific, well-balanced sound. Due to its rich repertory it has performed not only in concert halls and theatres, but also at alternative as well as jazz stages.

BSQ is characterized by wide, multi-genre dramaturgy encompassing original classical and jazz repertory for a saxophone quartet, original compositions mostly dedicated to the ensemble, and a large number of transcriptions and adaptations of various music styles and genres by the members of the ensemble. In their repertory you find the names of the pillars of historical music periods (Bach, Händel, Mysliveček, Mozart, Dvořák, Smetana, Martinů, Janáček, Gershwin, Bernstein).

BSQ have also initiated writing of many compositions by Czech authors (Martin Smolka, Petr Graham, Pavel Novák-Zemek, Alois Piňos, Emil Viklický, Miloš Orson Štědroň), not only for saxophones, but also larger musical settings. In such cases, invitations have been accepted by outstanding Czech music personalities: Jana Boušková (harp), Jana Brožková (oboe), Vojtěch Spurný (piano), Edita Adlerová (singer), Jaroslav Šolc (flute), Václav Uhlíř (double-bass), Jana Koubková (singer), Monika Knoblochová (harpsichord), Jan Mikušek (dulcimer). Among distinguished foreign guests of *BSQ* belong saxophonists Philippe Portejoie and Dejan Presiček, and Nicolas Prost Trio. Concert compositions for a saxophone quartet and orchestra have been performed by *BSQ* with Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Hradec Králové Philharmonics, Prague Municipal Philharmonics - FOK, Orchestra of the Castle Guard and Police of the CR, Prague Chamber Philharmonic, Brno Philharmonic or Leopold Chamber Orchestra of Lvov. *BSQ* have also collaborated with such renowned conductors as Libor Pešek, Vladimír Válek, Jiří Kout, Ondřej Kukul, Václav Blahuněk, Bohumil Kulínský, Bohdan Dašák and Aleksandar Markovič.

During their existence as *BSQ* the musicians have always followed current artistic trends and have actively participated in major projects, such as a CD with the Brixii Academic Choir, a concert program with the Moens chamber ensemble, a theatre project by Miloš Orson Štědroň „Velký sešit: Singspiel“, a concert program with the Bona Fide Tango Quintet and Soňa Červená, a concert program with the Affetto vocal-experimental ensemble, a collective concert program with the Brass 6 brass ensemble, or a participation in the performance at the National Theatre of Prague „Karel Hynek Mácha.rip“ (music by Marko Ivanovič).

BSQ have become finalists in the IX. Paris competition *Concours International de Musique de Chambre*. They have done concert tours in many European countries as well as in the USA, Israel, Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Indonesia and Kuwait. *BSQ* have performed at many major international music festivals (*Struny podzimu – Strings of Autumn, Prague Spring Festival, Concentus Moraviae* in the Czech Republic, *L'Octobre Musical* in Carthage, *Hofkonzerte im Podewil* in Berlin, *Sächsisch böhmisches Musik Festival, Festival of Nations* in Tennessee, *International Contemporary Music Festival Contrasts* in Lvov, *Klangspuren* in Innsbruck, *Saxophonemesse* in Dresden, *3ème stage d'interprétation et de virtuosité Saxiana* in Paris).

BSQ have been intensively involved in promotion of the Czech contemporary music, have regularly performed compositions of Czech contemporary composers in concert cycles of distinguished Czech music societies *Umělecká beseda, Společnost českých skladatelů* (Society of Czech composers) and *Přítomnost*. The quartet have released four profile CD's: *History of Jazz* with music by Vít Fiala, *Saxcriptions* with compositions by Dvořák, Martinů, Milhaud, Gershwin, Bernstein; *Jazz Inspiration* (Ježek, Joplin, Yellen, Corey, Hnilička, Viklický, Macourek) and *Bohemia Saxophone Quartet* (Bozza, Dřevíkovský, Français, Douša). They have also taken part in recordings of other artists (Petr Pokorný: *Umlkání*, Vladimír Wimmer: *Mazel Tov!*) and have recorded music for the Czech Radio and Television (most recently Concerto for saxophone quartet and orchestra by Philip Glass with Brno Philharmonic at Wanieck Gallery).

As well as outstanding instrumentalists, all musicians of *BSQ* are also experienced active music teachers and the quartet have done seminars and master classes both in the Czech Republic and abroad (Paris, Oslo, Madona, Lvov).

To celebrate the Year of Czech Music 2014 *BSQ* have put together a cycle of concerts *Saxophones in Czech music* to perform the most valuable pieces of music by Czech composers for one up to four saxophones. There will be special guests of leading Czech musicians at each concert.

In 2015, *BSQ* celebrated 25 years of the ensemble with a magnificent concert in Prague, on which occasion the quartet members established the Bohemia Saxophone Orchestra - 20-member saxophone orchestra, directed by Marek Šedivý and performed compositions by J.S. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No. 3), E.H. Grieg (Holberg Suite), J. Suk (Meditation on the Old Bohemian Feast of St. Wenceslas, op.53), A. Dvořák (Slavonic Dances) and S. Reich (New York Counterpoint).

In July 2018, *BSQ* was invited to the World Saxophone Congress in Zagreb to premiere the compositions by Michael Nyman (dedicated to the ensemble).