

Petr Verner - violin, viola

Violinist, violist and conductor Petr Verner, began his viola studies with outstanding Czech viola soloist Jan Pěruška. He was then a pupil of Jiří Zíka at the Prague Conservatory, graduating from that school in 1986 to continue his studies with Milan Škampa, Lubomír Malý and Jan Pěruška at the same city's Academy of Music (1986-1991). From here it was primarily the celebrated Czech violinist and conductor Josef Vlach who was to have a fundamental influence on his career. Petr Verner participated in international chamber music courses under the guidance of F. Beyer, C. Poppen and E. Feltz in Germany, and with the Melos Quartet in Switzerland. In 1985 he became Principal Viola with the Czech Chamber Orchestra and a member of the Vlach Quartet of Prague, with whom he appeared until 2005. With the latter ensemble he gave concerts in the USA, Japan, New Zealand and most countries within Europe.

Petr Verner is currently a member of the Verner Collegium, the New Pražák Quartet and the Collegium of Gabriela Demeterová, and principal conductor of the BKO. In 2006 he entered into a regular conducting partnership with the prestigious Roxy Ensemble chamber orchestra, whom he has directed in works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Schönberg and Marko Ivanović to date. He has made solo appearances with a number of orchestras including the Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Jenaer Philharmonie, the Czech Chamber Orchestra, the South Bohemian Philharmonia and the Talich Chamber Orchestra. His discography comprises about forty CD recordings covering a wide range of chamber and solo repertoire from all periods in music history.



Barbara Kürstenová - piano, harpsichord

She started playing the piano when she was five years old and decided to study music at primary school already. She graduated from The Prague Conservatory, where she studied under the patronage of Prof. Radomír Melmuka and Prof. Dr. Jaromír Kříž. At the same time, she began playing the harpsichord taught by Prof. Jaroslav Přikryl. Later, she expanded her studies by attending harpsichord courses led by Prof. Helmut Franke and Neal Peres da Costa. At present, she is about to graduate from Masaryk University in Brno, where she studies Theory and Practice of Ancient Music. Since the beginning of her career, she has specialised in chamber music. Her attention is also directed at authentic interpretation of baroque compositions. She is a member of several chamber ensembles, which allows her to keep in contact with a wide range of piano as well as harpsichord repertoires. As a harpsichord player of The Czech Philharmonic Collegium, she recorded with this ensemble in 1997 the CD "The Italian Baroque".

Barbara Kürstenová appears in the Czech Republic as well as abroad. Among her international successes belong, apart from others, concert tours of Japan in the years 2001, 2003 and 2005. Her versatile activities also include cooperation with opera singers. Her performance with Venezuela singer Ivan García, she considers as one of her most powerful music experiences. Lately, she has given a concert of Mozart's works in Haus der Musik in Vienna, where she appeared together with Hana Jonášová, a soloist of The State Opera Prague. She performs on her own harpsichord specially constructed for her at the workshop of František Vyhnálek (Hovorčovice 1998) according to an instrument made by a 17th century Master from German Eisenach.

Petr Verner and Barbara Kürstenová have performed together for several years, not only in solo projects and in a chamber duo, but also in ensembles like Collegium of Gabriela Demeterová and Verner Collegium.