

## **International Music Festival EVERLASTING HOPE**

### **Festival of not only Terezín composers**

### **Final Report of the Year 2021**

The Everlasting Hope Endowment Fund, the organizer of the festival of the same name, was founded in 2017, when the zeroth year of this music project took place. The main reason for founding the fund and its mission is to develop the legacy of Terezín composers, especially through a live interpretation of their musical works, as well as other forms, such as educational lectures or literary evenings. The aim of the Endowment Fund is also to actively support artistically valuable music, to promote European classical music and European cultural values.

The Everlasting Hope Music Festival, a festival not only of Terezín authors, is based on the idea that it is important to raise awareness of the music and musical works that originated in the Ghetto Theresienstadt, as well as the music that originated during the Holocaust. The backbone of the festival is the neglected works of Terezín artists. It is mainly the work of Viktor Ullmann, Gideon Klein, Hans Krása, Pavel Haas which still remains underappreciated. The vision of the festival is to build a prestigious music holiday with an emphasis on the exceptional artistic quality of both performers and performances, and to care for cultural heritage that might otherwise be forgotten.

Due to the global Covid 19 pandemic, the whole of 2020 was canceled at the last minute, or postponed to the following year. During the beginning of 2021, the organizers were still waiting for the measures associated with the pandemic. In the end they decided to record one of the concerts and broadcast the other live.

On March 13, 2021, a concert was recorded in the Prayer House of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, at which leading Czech artists - Jiří Vodička (violin), Martin Kasík (piano), Irvin Venyš (clarinet) and Jiří Bárta (cello) - presented the Quartet for the end of time by O. Messiaen, Lullaby by G. Klein and Suite in C minor No. 5 by J.S. Bach.

On April 25, 2021, a concert by the jazz trio David Dorůžka (guitar), Robert Fischmann (flute) and Martin Novák (percussion and drums). It took place at the breathtaking newly reconstructed Spanish Synagogue in Prague where it was broadcasted live, during which the artists presented a program of their own original compositions and works by world famous musicians such as John Zorn, Chava Alberstein, Kurt Weill and others.

For the period from October 24 to November 23, 2021, the organizers planned the 4th year of the Everlasting Hope festival, which was a slightly modified copy of 2020. The program included three evenings of classical music, piano recital, children's opera, lecture and evening with cabaret songs and poems from Terezín.

All this was preceded by a performance by the prestigious Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester (GMJO) chamber ensemble at the Terezín Artillery Barracks on 25 August. This orchestra performs on leading European stages and is a incubator of many big names. During the evening, the Serenade for wind instruments Op. 44 Antonín Dvořák and Erwin Schulhoff String Quartet No. 1 .

The festival managed to extend its cooperation with the Musica non grata project, a four-year project of the National Theater, supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Prague. Thus, the opening concert could take place at the State Opera on October 24, at which the

orchestra and soloists of the State Opera, oboist Vilém Veverka, performed under the baton of conductor Olga Machoňová Pavlů. The theater's almost sold-out auditorium could listen to, for example, the Suite for Oboe and String Orchestra by Pavel Haas, the Partite by Gideon Klein, the Emperor of Atlantis Viktor Ullmann, all supplemented by reading an excerpt from the short story The Great White Road by Arnošt Lustig performed by Vilma Cibulková and Tomáš Töpfer.

This was followed by a piano recital by Adam Skoumal on October 26, at which he presented for example, The Reminiscences of Karel Berman, Songs without the Words of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy or Spring by Josef Suk. The echo began with reading an excerpt from the book Three Chapters by Erik Polák, which the Everlasting Hope Festival presented this year as an audiobook with the option to purchase on the Supraphonline.cz website. The book was read by actor Daniel Krejčík, and the musical accompaniment was provided by David Dorůžka.

On November 4, the performance of the great Graff Quartet on the premises of Michnův Palace was on the program, but due to the illness of the members of the ensemble, this event did not take place.

Friday, November 5, then belonged to one of our best wind groups - PhilHarmonia Octet, led by oboist Vilém Veverka, who in the church of St. Simon and Judy performed Gideon Klein's Divertimento for wind octet, then, together with Roman Janál's baritone, presented a selection of Gustav Mahler's Boy's Magic Horn.

On Sunday, November 7, in the morning, the children's performance Brundibár took place in the beautiful premises of the Estates Theater, performed by the Prague Children's Opera. The sold-out auditorium, filled with children and their parents and grandparents. What's more, they were able to hear from Eva Hazdrová-Kopecká about the movement's history and were able to welcome two surviving ladies from Terezín - Mrs. Michaela Vidláková, who recalled her stay at this place during World War II, and Mrs. Hyndráková.

On Wednesday, November 10, a lecture took place in the authentic premises of Winternitz's villa, at which PhDr. Zuzana Peterová together with doc. PhDr. Vojtěch Blodig, CSc. presented in outline the history of the Terezín ghetto and life here during World War II. The lecture was supplemented by reading an excerpt from the book by Mrs. PhDr. Peterová, called Rabbi Feder. The spoken word was then underlined by the tones of the viola, on which our leading violist Kristina Fialová Nouzovská played the Prelude of J. S. Bach and Lullaby and the Prelude of Gideon Klein.

The final evening of the 4th year of the festival could not take place in more beautiful premises than the interior of the Spanish Synagogue in Prague. During this evening, Polish-Norwegian artist Bente Kahan, who together with Israeli conductor Ronen Nissan and the Leopoldinum Orchestra presented Terezín's cabaret songs, poems by Ilse Weber or Tadeusz Rózewicz's Variations and a Variation and Fugue on a Hebrew song by Ullmann.

The Everlasting Hope Endowment Fund was fully involved in the *Theresienstadt project*, which was to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Terezín ghetto. To this end, organizations dealing with Terezín and World War II, such as the Terezín Memorial, the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Holocaust Endowment Fund and the Memorial of Silence, came together to commemorate this terrible epoch of history. Everlasting Hope organized a lecture at Winternitz's villa, the recording and publication of the audiobook Three Chapters, and the closing concert of the festival at the Spanish Synagogue.

The fourth year of the festival is over. Preparations, due to the canceled year in 2020, were long, but they paid off. Organizing any cultural event at the moment is very difficult, mainly due to the ever-expanding pandemic and the number of other cultural events that took place in Prague in the autumn to fulfill their program. However, the reactions of the spectators and listeners of the



Everlasting Hope festival are extremely positive, the organizers are regularly supported in their efforts to continue and organize the next years.

Currently, the organizers are fully dedicated to the preparations for the 5th year of the festival, which is scheduled for February 15 to April 3, 2022.

### **Selected media responses to the festival:**

Czech Television - Events in Culture - on April 25 -  
<https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/1097206490-udalosti-v-kulture/221411000120425/video/835585>

SeznamZprávy - The Everlasting Hope Festival will start the recording of the Quartet for the end of time - on March 8 - <https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/festival-vecna-nadeje-zahaji-zaznam-kvartetu-pro-konec-casu-146203>

Regional Television - The Everlasting Hope Festival presents Terežín authors who perished in concentration camps - on February 1 - <http://www.regionálnitelevize.cz/cz/2-festival-vecna-nadeje-predstavuje-terezinske-autory-kteri-zahynuli-in-concentration-tabs.html?id=49649>

SeznamZprávy - Thursday, October 14 - The Everlasting Hope Festival will offer concerts, lectures and literary readings  
<https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/festival-vecna-nadeje-nabidne-koncerty-prednasku-i-literarni-cteni-177908>

Večerní Praha - Friday, November 5 - The Everlasting Hope Festival invites to Philharmonia Octet and Roman Janál  
<https://www.vecerni-praha.cz/festival-vecna-nadeje-zve-na-philharmonia-octet-a-romana-janala/>

Articles in Lidové noviny, MF Dnes and Deník Právo.  
More information in the appendix.

### **Audience overview on social networks:**

Facebook followers: 1152  
Number of followers on Instagram: 52  
Number of subscribers on YouTube: 34  
Number of newsletter subscribers: 1627

Number of views of the 1st concert 2021 Quartet for the end of time on YouTube: 587  
Number of views of the 2nd concert 2021 Live stream: Dorůžka - Fischmann - Novák presents unknown songs by Jewish authors on YouTube: 635

2nd concert 2021 Dorůžka - Fischmann - Novák presents unknown songs by Jewish authors on Facebook:  
Range: 6000  
Number of views: 1600  
Number of shares: 48



**Photos of 2021 :**

**No. 1**



**No. 2**



**No.3**



**No.4**



**No. 5**



**No.6**



**No.7**



**No.8**







No.9



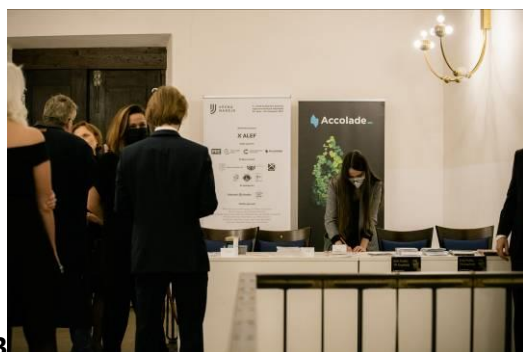
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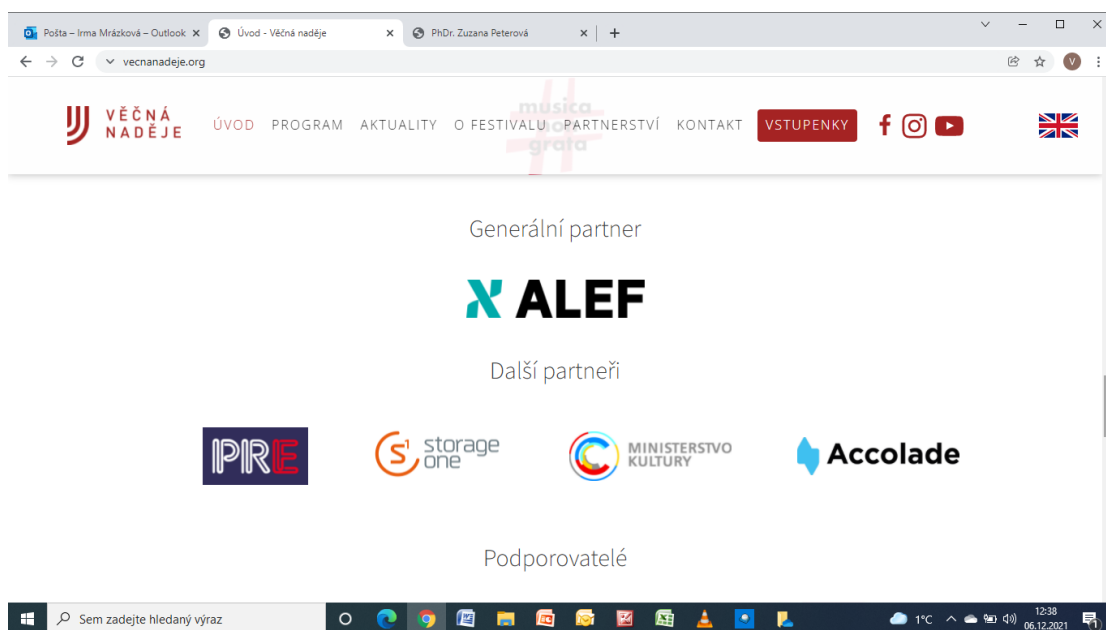
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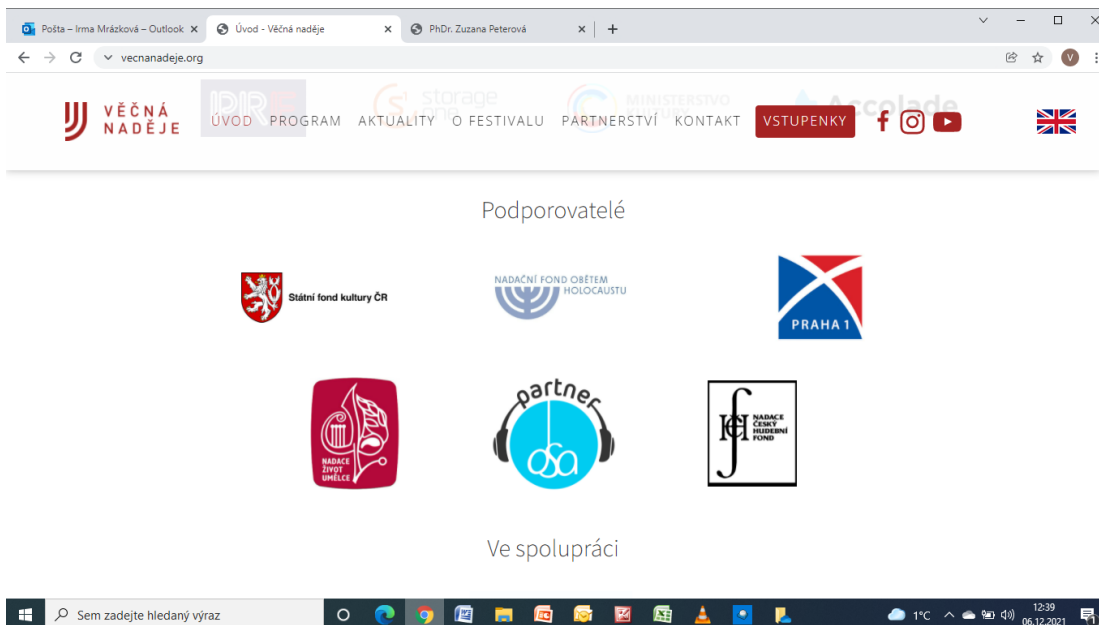


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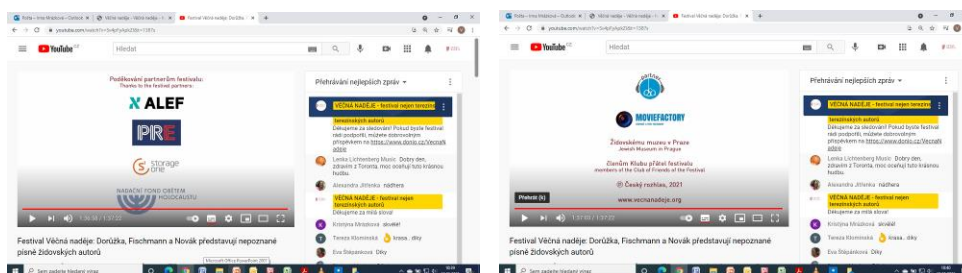


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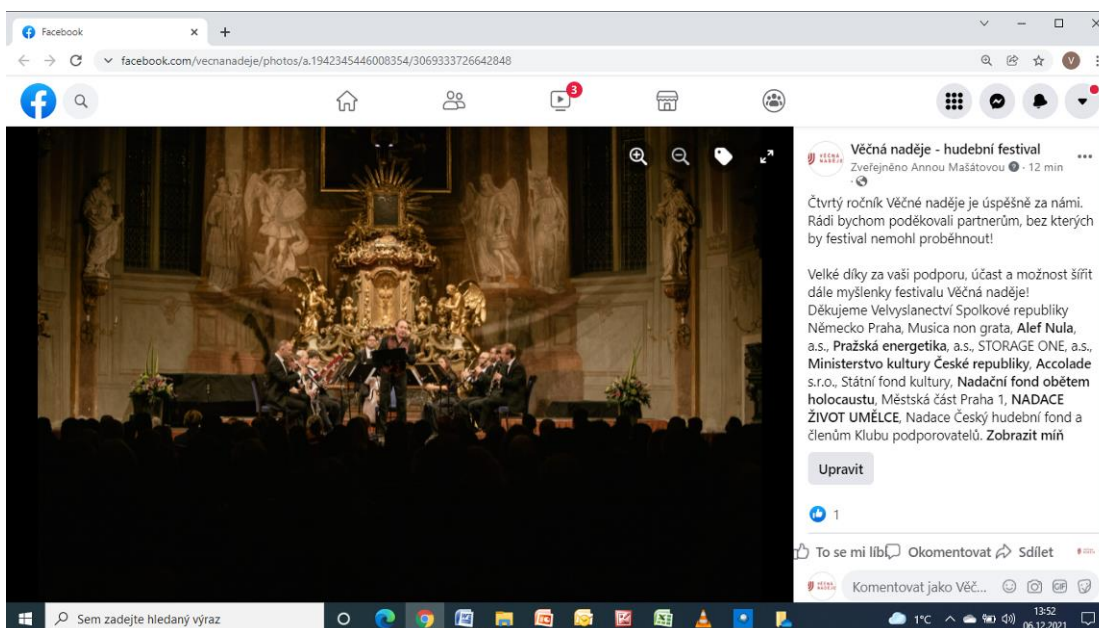




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No. 24



No. 1 - 4: Quartet for the End of Time, Prayer Room of the Czech Brethren Evangelical Church - March 13, 2021;  
No. 5 - 6: Dorůžka - Fischmann - Novák presents unknown songs by Jewish authors, Spanish Synagogue - April 25, 2021;  
No. 7 - 9: Opening concert Music of Terezín Composers, Prague State Opera - October 24, 2021;  
No. 10 - 11 : Piano recital by Adam Skoumal, Church of St. Vavřince - October 26, 2021;  
No. 12 - 15: PhilHarmonia Octet, Roman Janál, Church of St. Simon and Judy - November 5, 2021;  
No. 16 - 17: Children's Opera Brundibár, Estates Theater - 7 November 2021;  
No. 18: Lecture on life and music in Terezín, Winternitz Villa - November 10, 2021;  
No. 19 - 20: Bente Kahan, Ronen Nissan, Leopoldinum Orchestra, Spanish Synagogue - November 23, 2021;  
No. 21 - 22 : official festival website, partner logos;  
No. 23: thanks to the partners in the final titles of the live broadcast of the concert;  
No. 24: thanks to partners on the FB website of the festival.

**Thanks to partners:**

Implemented in cooperation with the National Theater within the project Musica non grata with the support of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Prague

**General partner**

ALEF NULA, as

**Other partners**

Pražská energetika, as

STORAGE ONE, as

Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

Accolade, s.r.o.

**Supporters**

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Artist Life Foundation

Czech Music Fund Foundation

OSA - Copyright protection association for rights to musical works, zs

**Thanks**

members of the Supporters' Club

In Prague on 6 December, 2021

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Ing. Irma Mrázková  
Endowment Fund Everlasting Hope

