Czech Trumpet Repertoire and Style

An Investigation of Essential Czech Musical Elements and Music from Communist Czechoslovakia

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PURPOSE

This research project seeks to build a wider awareness of the extensive work by Czech composers and trumpeters during the Communist period of Czechoslovakia. This investigation includes historical discussion of the development of Czech trumpet music, profiles of selected Czech trumpet soloists, and an exploration of what makes this music "Czech".

CZECH TRUMPET STYLE

> The old trumpeters played with a beautiful style, very lyrically and melodically. Even in the greatest fortissimos they did not play very hard or aggressively. They played lyrically and beautifully. I am talking about the trumpeters from the Czech Philharmonic. In this genre, there is an inherent special Czech MELODIOUSNESS, which has been abandoned in recent years.
>
> **- Miroslav Kejmar**

RELATED LITERATURE

Michael Beckerman – "In Search of Czechness in Music." 19-Century Music, Vol. 10, No. 1 (1986)

Bek, Mikuláš, Geoffrey Chew, and Petr Macek – Socialist Realism and Music: Musicological Colloquium at the Brno International Music Festival, 36 (2004)

Bradley, John F.N. – Politics in Czechoslovakia, 1945-1990 (1991)

Gardavský, Čeněk – Contemporary Czechoslovak Composers (1965)

Jůzl, Miloš – "Music and the Totalitarian Regime in Czechoslovakia." International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of Music, Vol. 27, No. 1 (1996)

Mathez, Jean-Pierre – "Special Czechoslovakia." Brass Bulletin No. 78 (1992)

METHODOLOGY

For the sake of maintaining an objective perspective, several sources were consulted and methods approached in completing this research. These methods included:

- *Archival – Consulting the Czech Music Information Centre*
- *Biographical/Interviews – Creating profiles of Czech Trumpet players*
- *Performance Practice – Dictated based on the interviews*
- *Reception History – Based on articles from leading Czech musicologists*

ELEMENTS OF CZECH MUSICAL STYLE

Below are the strategies that Czech composers and performers have used to define or create a Czech Sound:

- Compositional Creativity and Ingenuity
- Use of the Czech Language
- Hussite Chorales
- Czech Landscape features
- Czech Folk music

The Czech Philharmonic section of the 1950s were the harbingers of Czech Melodiousness described by Kejmar:

- Rudolf Lisý
- Jaroslav Kolář
- Jiří Horák
- Václav Pařík

TRUMPETER PROFILES

Below are the trumpet players primarily included in this research who contributed to the production and performance of Czech Trumpet Music:

- Miroslav Kejmar (b. 1941)
- Vladislav Kozderka (1947–2015)
- Ladislav Kozderka Jr. (b. 1974)
- Vladimír Rejlek (b. 1953)
- Zdeněk Šedivý (b. 1957)
- Jiří Šedivý (b. 1957)
- Stanislav Sejpal (b. 1948)
- Jan Hasenöhrl (b. 1961)
- Jan Broda (b. 1958)

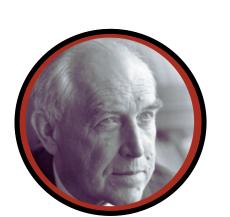Václav Junek (b. 1928) Professor of Trumpet Academy of Arts in Prague

LISTS OF TRUMPET REPERTOIRE

A major part of this research was putting together a catalogue of works that were composed by Czech composers from 1948 and forward. This includes the following number works in the given categories:

12 Works for unaccompanied trumpet or trumpet and electronics
Ex: Ivana Loudová – *Per tromba: Pět studií pro trubka solo* (1969)

60 Works for trumpet and piano
Ex: Hanuš, Jan – Impromptus for Trumpet and Piano, Op. 45 (1961)

29 Works for trumpet and organ
Ex: Fišer, Luboš – Dialogue for Trumpet and Organ (1996)

68 Works for trumpet and ensemble
Ex: Vačkář, Dalibor C. – Concerto for Trumpet, Piano, Drums (1964/1985)

18 Works for trumpet, other solo instruments and ensemble
Ex: Matěj, Josef – Triplet Concerto for Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, and Chamber Orchestra (1976)