

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **World traveller Netopil will bring Essen Philharmonic to the Prague Spring Festival**

Prague will be treated to one of the last concerts of the Essen Philharmonic with Tomáš Netopil as its chief conductor. The end of this season will mark the end of a ten-year collaboration with the leading German orchestra, which began after the conductor's engagement at the National Theatre.

The performance of the Essen Philharmonic at the Prague Spring Festival will feature two masterpieces of the Romantic repertoire - *Symphony No.5* by Antonín Dvořák and the Prague Spring premiere of the *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra* by the English composer Edward Elgar. The soloist will be one of the world's finest contemporary violinists, Frank Peter Zimmermann.

*"The Violin Concerto ranks alongside the Cello Concerto and the Enigma Variations as one of Edward Elgar's greatest symphonic works. Unlike them, however, it is practically unknown in our country. I am very happy that an artist like Frank Peter Zimmermann will be able to introduce it to the Prague audience,"* says festival Programme Director Josef Třeštík.

*"In Essen he is our regular and always rare guest. The performance at the Prague Spring Festival will be the culmination of our cooperation this year,"* says Tomáš Netopil and continues: *"The Fifth Symphony is one of those that we have missed in the repertoire of this season. I am very happy that it can be heard at the Prague Spring Festival in our performance."*

*"The Essen Philharmonic has a very deep and intense relationship with Czech music thanks to our long-standing cooperation, and I think not only thanks to it,"* says Tomáš Netopil. During his time in Essen, he performed with the orchestra, which divides its creative energy between symphonic works and opera productions, such as the Greek Passion, Her Shepherdess, Rusalka, and symphonic music by Josef Suk, Karel Husa and Antonín Dvořák. Jiří Heřman, Ondřej Havelka or the duo Skutr.



Tomáš Netopil is known to Prague audience primarily as chief conductor of the National Theatre Orchestra (2009-2012), which, in addition to Czech works, excelled in the Mozart repertoire. He is also one of the two principal guest conductors of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he opened the 2018 Prague Spring Festival. His opera productions in Europe are highly regarded. In addition to two dozen productions in Essen, he also scored Katya Kabanova at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Her Shepherdess in Amsterdam and The Makropulos Affair in Ghent, Belgium.

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Photographs of the Prague Spring 2023 concerts are available here:  
[https://bit.ly/PJ2023\\_foto](https://bit.ly/PJ2023_foto)

Photographs from the festival concerts can be found [here](#).