



Press Release

Robert Hanč Appointed Director of the Prague Spring Festival

Prague, 2 December 2025 | Pražské jaro, o. p. s., the organisation responsible for the Prague Spring International Music Festival, the Prague Spring International Music Competition and the Rudolf Firkušný Piano Festival, announced on 2 December 2025 the results of the international selection procedure for the position of Director of Pražské jaro, o. p. s. At its meeting on 1 December 2025, the festival's Board of Directors appointed Robert Hanč, until now General Manager and Artistic Director of the Czech Philharmonic, as the new Director of Pražské jaro, o. p. s. His appointment was made on the recommendation of the international selection committee entrusted with identifying the most suitable candidate. Robert Hanč will assume office on 1 January 2026.

“Having carefully assessed the concepts submitted and heard the presentations of the four finalists, the selection committee unanimously agreed that Mr **Robert Hanč** was the most suitable candidate for the position of Director of the Prague Spring. The committee subsequently submitted its recommendation to the Board of Directors of Prague Spring,” said **Roman Bělor**, Chair of the selection committee and Director of the Prague Spring from 2001 to 2022, summarising the committee's position. The international selection committee consisted of two representatives of the Prague Spring's Board of Directors, one representative each from the festival's Artistic and Supervisory Boards, two experts from the Czech Republic, three experts from abroad, and one representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

Commenting on his appointment, **Robert Hanč** said: “To take the helm of a festival with such a rich history and international reputation is truly an honour and a profound responsibility. It is with great humility that I wish to build on the legacy of my predecessors and, together with my colleagues, develop it further to the highest possible standard. I greatly look forward to working with the festival's Board of Directors, Supervisory Board and Artistic Board, as well as with the festival team, whose dedication and expertise are essential to the future of Prague Spring. I am confident that, through our shared efforts, we will guide this institution towards further success.”

“The international selection procedure attracted a total of eight candidates, including three addressed directly by the selection committee. Four candidates, two of them from abroad, advanced to the final round, which took the form of an interview before the committee held at the festival headquarters on 24 November,” adds **Milan Němeček**, the current Director of the Prague Spring, describing the details of the process. The proposal of the selection committee was approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors of Prague Spring held on 1 December. “I am

pleased that Prague Spring will be led by one of the most experienced music managers in the Czech Republic, who has unequivocally demonstrated his abilities in his current role at the Czech Philharmonic. I wish Prague Spring continued growth under its new leadership, building on the progress achieved during the tenure of Pavel Trojan,” said on behalf of the Board of Directors **Martin Baxa**, its Chair and the **Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic**.

Mgr. Robert Hanč (born 1977) is a Czech music manager and educator who has served as General Manager and Artistic Director of the Czech Philharmonic since 2011. He studied clarinet at the Pardubice Conservatoire and English Studies, American Studies and Musicology at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University. He further broadened his education through study placements at Queen’s University and the University of London. Between 2005 and 2011 he was Orchestra Manager of the Brno Philharmonic, before joining the Czech Philharmonic.

Composition of the international selection committee

Roman Bělor, Chair of the selection committee, member of the Board of Directors of Prague Spring

Běla Bakulová, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Culture, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

Martin Glaser, theatre director, Director of the National Theatre Brno

Richard Hindls, economist, Chair of the Supervisory Board of Prague Spring, Emeritus Rector of the University of Economics, Prague

Jiří Hlaváč, performer, composer, educator and publicist, member of the Board of Directors of Prague Spring

Sam Jackson, Controller of BBC Radio 3 and BBC Proms

Cornelia Schmid, Honorary President of the KD Schmid artist agency

Miroslav Srnka, composer, member of the Artistic Board of Prague Spring, Professor of Composition at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln

Marián Turner, flautist, dramaturge and music manager, Chief Executive of the Slovak Philharmonic

Jan Žemla, music manager, musicologist and pianist, Director of the Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava and the Leoš Janáček International Music Festival

Download:

Robert Hanč: Business plan proposal for the Prague Spring Festival: <https://bit.ly/4aIAHDg>
(Stručný výtah z návrhu strategické koncepce Pražského jara: <https://bit.ly/4rp7s8J>)

Portrait photograph: <https://bit.ly/4orO9sO>

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