

Prague Spring
International Music Festival
12/5 – 4/6/2026



Press Release

Prague Spring announces the programme of the Rudolf Firkušný Piano Festival 2026

Prague, 23 March 2026 | From 3 to 9 November 2026, the Rudolf Firkušný Piano Festival, presented under the auspices of the Prague Spring International Music Festival, will hold its 14th edition at the Rudolfinum, offering five concerts this year. The festival will welcome to Prague for the first time the piano duo Evgeny Kissin and Sir András Schiff, who will appear together on stage. The winner of the ARD International Music Competition in Munich, Lukas Sternath, will make his festival debut. The Czech performing tradition will be represented by Marek Kozák, recipient of the Jiří Bělohlávek Prize 2025, while the legendary Grigory Sokolov and the winner of the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, Anna Vinnitskaya, will return to the festival after four years.

“The Rudolf Firkušný Piano Festival has, over its thirteen years, become an integral part of Prague’s concert season, as evidenced, among other things, by the high attendance of recent editions. This year, we have prepared five piano recitals, once again bringing together an exceptionally strong line-up of Czech and international artists,” says Prague Spring Director **Robert Hanč**. “The programme will focus primarily on Romantic music of the 19th and early 20th centuries, including works by Czech masters. I am particularly delighted that **Grigory Sokolov** will return – he performs in the Czech Republic more or less exclusively at the Firkušný Festival – and that the duo of **Evgeny Kissin** and **Sir András Schiff** has included our festival in its major European tour, which also includes concerts in Rome, Milan, Amsterdam and Munich. I regard this as a confirmation of the prestige of this Prague Spring’s autumn event,” adds the festival’s Artistic Director **Josef Třeštík**. As for the performers, the festival once again combines established tradition with the energy of young talents. One of the most anticipated appearances will be the debut of Austrian pianist **Lukas Sternath**, winner of the 2022 ARD Munich Competition and holder of the ECHO Rising Star 2024–2025 title, as well as the return of the outstanding pianist **Anna Vinnitskaya**, whose artistic profile includes appearances with the Berlin Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The Czech performing tradition will be represented by **Marek Kozák**, last year’s laureate of the Bach Competition in Leipzig and recipient of the Jiří Bělohlávek Prize 2025 (his festival debut in 2020 was streamed online). The 14th edition of the Firkušný Festival will conclude in grand style with one of the most original pianists on the planet, **Grigory Sokolov**, whose programme – as always – remains a closely guarded secret. Ticket sales open **on Thursday 19 March at 11.00 a.m.** online at firkusny.cz. **An Early Bird discount of 20%** on individual tickets will be available until 4 June.



Artist Profiles

3/11 Evgeny Kissin & Sir András Schiff

Programme: Mozart, Schumann, Smetana, Dvořák

Both Evgeny Kissin and Sir András Schiff have previously appeared at the Rudolf Firkušný Piano Festival (RFPF) in solo recitals; however, they have never before performed together in Prague as a piano duo. Their appearance at the RFPF forms part of an extensive European tour comprising ten concerts, taking them, among other destinations, to Basel, Geneva, Milan, Rome (Santa Cecilia), Amsterdam and Munich (Isarphilharmonie). They performed the same programme at the Salzburg Festival in 2022.

5/11 Lukas Sternath

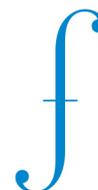
Programme: Liszt, Schubert

A recipient of the ECHO Rising Star 2024–2025 title, Vienna-born Lukas Sternath has, at the age of just twenty-five, already made his debut at the Salzburg Festival, the BBC Proms, the Elbphilharmonie, London's Wigmore Hall and with the Vienna Philharmonic. In 2022, he won eight prizes at the ARD Munich Competition, including First Prize and the Audience Award. The previous year, he garnered several distinctions at the Ferruccio Busoni International Piano Competition in Bolzano, the International Schubert Competition Dortmund and the European Piano Competition Bremen. A pupil of Igor Levit and Paul Lewis, he is currently a BBC New Generation Artist and the first musician in history to curate his own chamber series at Vienna's Musikverein. At the RFPF, he will present a programme united by the theme of a journey. "Schubert's *Wanderer* is full of melancholy and despair, constantly questioning, always in motion, searching for meaning along the path we call life. I look forward to sharing this intimate musical journey with the Prague audience," says one of the most closely followed young stars of today's classical music scene.

6/11 Marek Kozák

Programme: Bach, Smetana, Ravel, Liszt

In 2015, he reached the semi-finals of the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. He is a laureate of the Bach Competition in Leipzig, the Prague Spring International Music Competition and the Concours Géza Anda in Zurich. He has performed with Czech and European orchestras, including the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. At the RFPF, he will present



a programme inspired by dance. “I have chosen devilishly virtuosic Liszt, whose *Mephisto Waltz* was for a long time one of my unfulfilled dreams, charming Bach, Smetana’s dances inspired by folk music, the soaring and poetic Ravel, and salon Schubert,” says Marek Kozák of his programme. He previously performed for RFPF audiences online in 2020; this year marks his festival debut before a live audience.

7/11 Anna Vinnitskaya

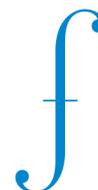
Programme: Brahms, Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Chopin

Anna Vinnitskaya first appeared at the Rudolf Firkušný Piano Festival (RFPF) in 2022, performing as part of a piano trio with violinist Emmanuel Tjeknavorian and cellist Daniel Müller-Schott. In 2007, she became only the second woman in history to win the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. Today, she is an internationally acclaimed artist who has appeared with the Berlin and Munich Philharmonic orchestras, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestre de Paris. In autumn 2025, she performed under the baton of Petr Popelka on a tour marking the 125th anniversary of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. Her recordings have received accolades including the Diapason d’Or and Editor’s Choice from the British magazine Gramophone, with particular praise for her 2021 Chopin album. Music by Fryderyk Chopin will also feature in her Prague recital.

9/11 Grigory Sokolov

Programme: Carte blanche

The Rudolf Firkušný Piano Festival is among the few festivals worldwide at which Grigory Sokolov appears regularly, most recently in 2022. His concerts have the character of an almost mystical ritual. They typically take place in subdued lighting, following his meticulous familiarisation with the instrument in every detail. An artist whose recitals draw audiences from across the globe, Sokolov has, at a certain point in his career, withdrawn from both chamber music and performances with orchestras, dedicating himself exclusively to solo recitals. Each summer, he withdraws from public life to focus on a single programme for the forthcoming season. We will therefore have to wait a few more months for the announcement of his repertoire.



RFPF 2026 Partners

The partners of the 14th Rudolf Firkušný Piano Festival are the **Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic** and the **City of Prague**. The official car partner is **Mercedes-Benz Czech Republic**.

 Artist photographs for RFPF 2026 and the new visual identity: <https://bit.ly/3Nv2Df5>

 Programme leaflet for download: <https://bit.ly/4sAPMaF>

Press Contact

Iva Nevoralová

+420 608 028 054

nevoralova@festival.cz

Follow Prague Spring on social media

<https://www.facebook.com/PrazskeJaro>

<https://www.instagram.com/prazskejaro>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PragueSpringFestival>

Festival web

<https://firkusny.cz/en/>

<https://festival.cz/en/>