

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



Press Release

Barbara Hannigan, the Prague Spring 2026 artist-in-residence, arrives in Prague

Prague, 19 May 2026 | Today's press conference marked the beginning of the rich artistic residency of Canadian soprano and conductor Barbara Hannigan at the Prague Spring International Music Festival 2026. The residency comprises five projects in total: on Wednesday 20 May, she will appear in a chamber recital with French pianist Bertrand Chamayou; on Sunday 24 May, she will perform with the Belcea Quartet; and on 26 May and 2 June, she will appear in two concerts with the Czech Philharmonic, which she will conduct for the first time in her career. On Sunday 31 May, she will also lead a masterclass.

Barbara Hannigan is one of the most original artists of the 21st century. As a singer, she has premiered more than one hundred works and collaborated with composers including Pierre Boulez, Henri Dutilleux, György Ligeti, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Salvatore Sciarrino, George Benjamin and Hans Abrahamsen. She is Principal Guest Conductor of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and Associate Artist of the London Symphony Orchestra, and in autumn 2026 she will become Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. Her exceptional artistic profile is further underscored by a number of prestigious awards. In February 2026, she received the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, Canada's highest honour for outstanding contribution to culture both in Canada and abroad. She is also the recipient of the Gramophone Artist of the Year award, Musical America Artist of the Year and the Polar Music Prize 2025, the Swedish music prize founded by Stig Anderson, publisher and manager of ABBA, which she received alongside jazz musician Herbie Hancock and the band Queen.

In her chamber projects at the Prague Spring, she will perform works by Arnold Schoenberg, Paul Hindemith and Olivier Messiaen, as well as the Czech premiere of the extraordinarily powerful cycle *Jumalattaret* by American composer and jazz musician John Zorn on texts from the Finnish epic *Kalevala*. "This piece is like riding a roller coaster that at times moves very pleasantly and slowly, and then suddenly – wow!" says Barbara Hannigan about *Jumalattaret*. She is equally looking forward to collaborating with Bertrand Chamayou and the Belcea Quartet: "I only present projects I truly want to do. It feels as though I have come to Prague with my best friends – musically and personally," adds Hannigan.

One of the highlights of her Prague Spring residency will be a performance of the opera *La Voix humaine* (*The Human Voice*), in which she will not only sing but also conduct simultaneously. Her performance will moreover be enhanced through a live video feed of her gestures, captured by three cameras placed within the orchestra and projected onto a screen behind the musicians. She will appear once again in the dual role of singer and conductor at the closing concert in the suite from George Gershwin's musical *Girl Crazy*, for whose recording she received a Grammy Award in 2018. The last remaining tickets for her residency concerts can be purchased online at [festival.cz](https://www.festival.cz) or at the festival box offices in the Rudolfinum and the Municipal House.

Artistic Residency of Barbara Hannigan at the Prague Spring 2026

20 May Barbara Hannigan & Bertrand Chamayou
24 May Barbara Hannigan & Belcea Quartet
26 May Barbara Hannigan / The Human Voice
31 May Masterclass (voice)
2 June Barbara Hannigan & Czech Philharmonic

Photographs:

Portraits: <https://bit.ly/43hAnAM>

Hannigan & Bertrand Chamayou: <https://bit.ly/4tL5GyP>

La Voix humaine: <https://bit.ly/42JnMGj>

Videos:

Profile: <https://youtu.be/nJCiSawmBYY>

Jumalattaret: <https://youtube.com/shorts/TchfVOvrHxl?feature=share>

Hannigan and Bertrand Chamayou: <https://youtube.com/shorts/e8usXEGOATU?feature=share>

La Voix humaine: <https://youtube.com/shorts/Z5O3HNsWgpg?feature=share>

Schoenberg: String Quartet No. 2: <https://youtube.com/shorts/uESHY1JVPyQ?feature=share>

Press Contact

Iva Nevoralová

+420 608 028 054

nevoralova@festival.cz

www.festival.cz