



# Press Release

## First Week of the 2026 Prague Spring Festival

**Prague, 11 May 2026** | During its first week, the Prague Spring International Music Festival will offer a grand opening concert in the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House, the Prague Spring Open Air supported by the ČEZ Group, two concerts by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra featuring Magdalena Kožená and Sir Simon Rattle, and the first festival appearance of the Dutch piano duo Lucas and Arthur Jussen. The 77th edition of the Prague Spring Competition will reach its conclusion, while young artists will also take centre stage in the Music School Salon concert and during the first two of the six masterclasses featured in this year's festival programme.

The opening chords of *Vyšehrad* will launch the 81st edition of the Prague Spring International Music Festival on Tuesday 12 May in the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House. The [Opening Concert](#) will be broadcast live on the ČT art channel, via Czech Television's iVysílání streaming platform, on Czech Radio Vltava, outdoors in Prague's Rieger Gardens, on the Facebook profiles of the Prague Spring International Music Festival, Czech Television and the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, as well as throughout the international network of Czech Centres. Audiences in London, Vienna, Bratislava and Belgrade will also be able to enjoy the concert live in cinemas, while a recorded screening will take place in Tokyo on 14 May. Smetana's *My Country* will be performed by the **Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of its Chief Conductor and Artistic Director **Petr Popelka**.

To mark the festival opening on 12 May, the festival has prepared the **Prague Spring Open Air** event in Prague's Rieger Gardens in cooperation with the festival's General Partner and Opening Concert Partner, **ČEZ Group**. From 15.00, children and adults alike can look forward to a lively interactive programme full of workshops, concerts and the popular AZ Quiz featuring well-known personalities from the Czech classical music scene. From 20.00, classical music lovers will be able to enjoy a live screening of the opening concert at sunset with a view over the Prague skyline. Admission to all Prague Spring Open Air events is free of charge.

On Wednesday 13 May and Thursday 14 May, the 77th edition of the Prague Spring International Music Competition will culminate in the final rounds in the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum. The names of the flute competition finalists have already been announced. On 13 May, accompanied by the **Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra** and conductor **Kaspar Zehnder**, **Mathilde Alvin Besson**, **Iris Daverio** and **Maël Metzger** from France will perform. The names of the three best pianists of this year's competition will be announced on the evening of 11 May. Both final concerts will be streamed LIVE on the [@PragueSpringFestival](#) YouTube channel. For the first time in the history




of the competition, the final streams will also be carried by the [website of the British magazine Gramophone](#). Partners of the Prague Spring Competition 2026 are the **Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the City of Prague** and the **ČEZ Foundation**.

The Prague Spring orchestral series will welcome one of the world's leading orchestras on 14 and 15 May – the **Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra** (BRSO) together with its Chief Conductor **Sir Simon Rattle**. At the festival, the orchestra will present two programmes featuring works by Joseph Haydn, Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann and Igor Stravinsky, as well as the Czech premiere of *Where are You?* by **Ondřej Adámek**, featuring **Magdalena Kožená** as soloist on 14 May.

The first festival weekend will also be rich in musical highlights. On Saturday 16 May, the **Smetana Trio** will return to the Prague Spring after eight years, while on the evening of 17 May the world-renowned piano duo Lucas and Arthur Jussen will appear together at two pianos in the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum for the first time, performing works by Johann Christian Bach, Johann Sebastian Bach and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart accompanied by the period-instrument orchestra **Academy of St Martin in the Fields**.

Sunday's **Music School Salon** organised in cooperation with **MenART Academy** will present the future of music, featuring world premieres of works by **Nikol Bóková, Pavel Samiec** and **Matteo Hager**, whom MenART has long supported in his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London through the Comenium Musicum scholarship programme. The first two masterclasses, in flute and piano, will also take place on Wednesday 13 May and Thursday 14 May, led by outstanding performers and teachers **Barthold Kuijken** and **Joonas Ahonen**. Both artists are members of the jury of this year's Prague Spring Competition.

Tickets for individual festival concerts and masterclasses are available online at [festival.cz](#) and at the [festival box offices in the Rudolfinum and the Municipal House](#).

 Illustrative photos:

<https://prazskejaro.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/PJIntern/IgCIMzB2v-hDS6bHzZA93zxSAdw0SwNYz4jFQ7ufvKVFoGg?e=0uisfZ>

 Open Air photos:

<https://prazskejaro.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/PJIntern/IgCNRsrek6DrSIEjrsIxRmXVAQwZ0cgHHpdx-ptWkDjf578?e=F9ozo7>

Pražské jaro / Prague Spring  
Mezinárodní hudební festival  
International Music Festival



**Press contact**

Iva Nevoralová

+420 608 028 054

[nevoralova@festival.cz](mailto:nevoralova@festival.cz)

**Follow the Prague Spring International Music Competition on social media**

FB: [@PragueSpringCompetition](#)

YT: [@PragueSpringFestival](#)

Instagram: [@imcpraguespring](#)

[www.festival.cz/en/competition/](http://www.festival.cz/en/competition/)