



# Press Release

## Final week of the Prague Spring Festival 2026

[Prague, 1 June 2026](#) | The final week of this year's Prague Spring Festival will conclude in grand style. The artistic residency of Canadian singer and conductor **Barbara Hannigan** will come to a close, while the **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor **Lahav Shani** and pianist **Lukas Sternath**, winner of the **ARD International Music Competition in Munich**, will all make their Prague Spring debuts. Amid the aircraft, automobiles and locomotives of the **National Technical Museum**, the music of **Luigi Nono** will “walk” through the space, the **Jussen brothers’ piano duo** will return to the festival, and the closing concert will feature **Verdi’s *Requiem*** in a dream cast.

On Monday 1 June, Prague Spring presents audiences with a difficult choice. At the **National Technical Museum (NTM)**, a site-specific project will showcase the music of two leading Italian composers – **Salvatore Sciarrino** and **Luigi Nono**. From the work of the latter, violinist **Hana Kotková** and Italian musicologist **Veniero Rizzardi**, one of the foremost authorities on Nono’s music, will perform *La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura* for violin and eight sound tracks, a work they have compellingly integrated into the unique setting of the **NTM Museum of Transportation**. Veniero Rizzardi experienced authentic performances of this piece by Nono himself with violinist **Gidon Kremer** and therefore knows every detail of this work, which is shaped to a great extent by the interaction of the performers within the specific space and moment, and which was inspired by an inscription on a wall of a monastery in Toledo.

At the same time, the **Smetana Hall** of the **Municipal House** will host three major Prague Spring debuts. The **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor **Lahav Shani** and Austrian piano phenomenon **Lukas Sternath** will all appear at the festival for the first time. Sternath is the recipient of eight prizes – including the overall first prize – at the **2022 ARD International Music Competition in Munich** and was named an **ECHO Rising Star** for 2024–2025. The programme on 1 June features **Robert Schumann’s** celebrated piano concerto, into which the composer incorporated the name of his great love **Clara Schumann** in the Italianised form “**CHiArA**”. The concert will also include **Johannes Brahms’s *Symphony No. 2*** and the magnificent score *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Dutch composer **Johan Wagenaar**, inspired by **Edmond Rostand’s** play of the same name.

On Tuesday 2 June, the extraordinary Prague Spring residency of Canadian soprano and conductor **Barbara Hannigan** will come to a close with her second festival programme alongside the **Czech Philharmonic**. This time, she will appear solely as conductor in works by **Charles Ives**, **Joseph**



Haydn and Arnold Schoenberg. She will combine her singing and conducting only in the final work of the evening, the suite from George Gershwin's musical *Girl Crazy*, in which members of the Czech Philharmonic are also expected to sing.

Following the great success of their programme with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Dutch piano duo **Lucas and Arthur Jussen** will return to the stage of Dvořák Hall in the Rudolfinum on Wednesday 3 June. This time, however, they will offer a completely different musical world. Joining them will be percussionists **Alexej Gerassimez** and **Emil Kuyumcuyan**, with whom they will explore the music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Arranged for two pianos and percussion, the programme will include the suite from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*, John Adams's *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and Béla Bartók's celebrated *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion*. Audiences can also look forward to George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* in an arrangement for two pianos, as well as a work for percussion alone. The Czech premiere of *Beyond Stickability* for two percussionists by Alexej Gerassimez will also be given. A festival innovation this year will be a public dress rehearsal for children from primary schools across the Czech Republic, organised in cooperation with the programme Helping Schools Succeed, part of the activities of The Kellner Family Foundation.

Prague Spring 2026 will culminate on Thursday 4 June with a performance of Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* in the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House. The work will be performed by the **Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden**, one of Europe's oldest orchestras, together with the **Singverein der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien** and a quartet of outstanding soloists: **Eleonora Buratto** (soprano), **Elina Garanča** (mezzo-soprano), **Benjamin Bernheim** (tenor) and **Riccardo Zanellato** (bass). The performance will be conducted by one of the most distinguished exponents of the Italian musical tradition, **Daniele Gatti**. As is customary, the closing concert is partnered by **innogy Česká republika**, which is also a Festival Partner of Prague Spring.

The last remaining tickets for festival events are available online at [festival.cz](https://festival.cz) and at the [festival box offices in the Rudolfinum and the Municipal House](#).

 Illustrative photographs: [Prague Spring 2026 - artists photos](#)

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