

Veronika Ptáčková is one of the leading Czech **pianists**, distinguished by her extensive artistic career spanning both classical and popular music. Alongside her concert career, she has long been devoted to piano improvisation, original composition and music education. She is also an **improviser, singer, composer, arranger** and **author of relaxation music**.

She began playing the piano at the age of three under the guidance of the renowned Czech piano pedagogue Prof. Zdena Janžurová. From an early age, she appeared as a demonstration student at piano seminars throughout the Czech Republic, which later resulted in the four-part educational video series *Piano Through Play*. At the age of ten, she made her debut as a soloist with Josef Suk's orchestra at Prague's **Rudolfinum**. As a child, she also appeared in musical roles in the films *The Last Butterfly* and *A Pin for a Butterfly*. She graduated from **Jan Neruda Grammar School** and the **Faculty of Education at Charles University in Prague**.

She has won numerous first prizes and absolute winner titles at national and international piano competitions in both solo and chamber music performance. She is highly regarded for her technical brilliance, musical sensitivity and her ability to capture the composer's artistic intentions. She has received special awards for her interpretations of works by **Bedřich Smetana, Bohuslav Martinů, Klement Slavický** and **Leoš Janáček**. In 2001, she made a successful concert debut in **Japan**, where she has been invited to perform repeatedly.

As a soloist, she has performed with leading Czech orchestras, including the **South Bohemian Philharmonic Orchestra**, the **Suk Chamber Orchestra** and the **Prague Chamber Philharmonic**. She has collaborated with distinguished singers such as **Andrea Kalivodová, Tereza Dlouhá, Jiří Rajniš, Roman Janál, Jiří Korn** and **Bohuš Matuš**.

She has extensive experience as an accompanist for vocal ensembles and collaborated for many years with the **Czech Radio Children's Choir**. She has also appeared in literary and musical programmes with **Alfréd Strejček** and **Valérie Zawadská** and has recorded for **Czech Radio** and **Euroradio**.

As an arranger, she has created original arrangements for vocal ensembles, choirs and chamber groups. Her arrangements of *Anežko Česká* and the *St. Wenceslas Chorale* have been performed repeatedly during the **Czech Statehood Days celebrations at the Senate of the Czech Republic** by the vocal quartet **Bohemia Voice**.

Piano improvisation forms the core of her artistic expression. She improvises on themes drawn from classical, popular and jazz music, often based on suggestions from the audience. She is a member of the **Society for Improvised Contemporary Music (SICM)**, an international organisation bringing together performers and educators dedicated to improvisation within the field of classical music. Her improvisations, variations and original arrangements are appreciated for their originality, musical expression and their ability to respond spontaneously to the atmosphere of the moment.

She naturally integrates improvisation into her own creative work through her **Angelic Piano** project, under which she has released several CDs. She creates instrumental and vocal-instrumental compositions and improvisations in the present moment, accompanying meditation sessions, seminars and relaxation programmes.

She also shares her extensive experience in piano improvisation through her educational work. She is the **author and lecturer of piano improvisation courses** for students of Czech elementary schools of the arts (ZUŠ), teachers and professional pianists. Through these courses, she fosters creativity, musical imagination, improvisational skills and the ability for authentic musical expression.

She teaches piano and piano improvisation and works as an accompanist at the **Bedřich Smetana Elementary School of the Arts in Pilsen**. She is also a lecturer at the **South Bohemian Piano Courses and Festival in Písek**.

She is represented by the Czech collective rights organisations **OSA** and **INTERGRAM**.