

**Veronika Ptáčková** ranks among the leading Czech **pianists** and performers across classical and popular music. She is also an **improviser, singer, composer, arranger** and the **author of her own relaxation music**.

She has been devoted to the piano since the age of three, studying under the renowned Czech pedagogue **Prof. Zdena Janžurová**. As a child she frequently appeared as a model performer at piano seminars throughout the country, which led to the creation of a four-part educational video series *Klavír hrou* ("Piano Play"). At the age of ten she made her solo debut at Prague's **Rudolfinum** with the Josef Suk Orchestra. During her childhood she also appeared in musical film roles in *The Last Butterfly* and *Špendlík na motýla*. She is a graduate of the **Jan Neruda Grammar School** and the **Faculty of Education at Charles University in Prague**.

She has received numerous first prizes and absolute-winner titles at national and international competitions in both solo and chamber performance. She is admired for her technical precision, expressive sensitivity and her ability to capture a composer's intention. Her interpretations of works by **B. Smetana, B. Martinů, K. Slavický** and **L. Janáček** have been awarded special recognition. In 2001 she made a successful debut tour in **Japan**, where she was repeatedly invited to return.

As a soloist she has performed with leading Czech orchestras including the **South Bohemian Philharmonic**, the **Suk Chamber Orchestra** and the **Prague Philharmonia**. She has collaborated with distinguished vocal artists such as **Andrea Kalivodová, Tereza Dlouhá, Jiří Rajniš, Roman Janál, Jiří Korn, Bohuš Matuš** and others. She has extensive experience working with choirs and maintained long-term collaboration with the **Children's Choir of Czech Radio**. She has also performed in staged concert evenings with **Alfréd Strejček** and **Valerie Zawadská** and has recorded for **Czech Radio** and **Euroradio**.

As an arranger she has created original adaptations for vocal ensembles, choirs and chamber groups, including for the project *Sborovna* of **Classic Praha Radio**. Her arrangements of *Anežko Česká* and the *St. Wenceslas Chorale* were performed repeatedly at the **Days of Czech Statehood in the Senate of the Czech Republic** by the vocal quartet **Bohemia Voice**.

**Piano improvisation forms a central part of her artistic expression.** She freely creates on themes and characters of great classical composers as well as popular and jazz music, often improvising directly on audience request. Her original improvisations, variations and cross-genre cover versions are valued for their originality, expressive depth and immediate connection to the atmosphere of the moment.

She also applies her improvisational art in her authorial relaxation project **Angelic Piano**, within which she has released several CDs. She creates instrumental and vocal-instrumental improvisations in the present-moment tuning of "here and now," accompanying meditation sessions, workshops and relaxation events.

She has developed **piano improvisation courses** for teachers, students and professional pianists, focusing on intuitive creativity, musical expression and free pianistic interpretation.

Veronika works as a teacher and répétiteur at the **Bedřich Smetana School of Arts in Plzeň**, where she teaches piano and piano improvisation. She is also a lecturer at the **South Bohemian Piano Courses and Festival in Písek**.

She is a registered author with **OSA** and **INTERGRAM**.