

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 Střejček** 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 *Anežka 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**.