

CZECH THE NEWS PORTLAND & SEATTLE



Jaroslav Svěcený & Václav Mácha in Seattle

The CCEC in Seattle (WA) presents a special Czech National Day celebration with an uplifting **performance by Jaroslav Svěcený and Václav Mácha on October 28, 2015 at the Frye Art Museum**. The Frye provides a spectacular and intimate backdrop for the Seattle premiere performance of this accomplished duo.

Acclaimed performer **Jaroslav Svěcený** is one of the most significant contemporary Czech violinists and a prominent figure of the Czech musical stage. In addition to the international accolades he regularly receives, he currently has 46 CDs to his credit, and is a famous popularizer of violin playing who attracts audiences of all ages.

Václav Mácha learned to play piano at the age of 6, and at the age of 15 he became the youngest student of the Faculty of Music of the Academy of Performing Arts. He has garnered awards and accolades at international competitions, given numerous recitals at the largest concert venues in Prague (when he was 15 years old, he gave an solo recital at the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum) and other cities throughout the Czech Republic, across Europe, as well as in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Turkey, and Asia.

For further information and tickets visit:
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/jaroslav-sveceny-and-vaclav-macha-concert-tickets-18858113124>

Dear Friends in Portland and Seattle,

What a wonderful display of unity and love Los Angeles experienced this summer when Special Olympics took place in late July. I would like to congratulate Czech athletes who overcame their mental disabilities and travelled around half of the world to compete at these World Games. Regardless of their success on the field, everybody was a winner. I am glad I was able to say hello to them during their visit at the Consulate and meet their leaders, Vlastimil Harapes, famous Czech ballet dancer, and Martina Středová, national director of the Czech Special Olympic Committee.

Recently, I met several Mayors of important American cities such as Phoenix, Anchorage, and Anaheim. They all are eager to improve ties with the Czech Republic, increase bilateral economic cooperation and meet their local Czech communities. Hopefully, their renewed interest and awareness of the Czech Republic will also bring more investment and trade with our country.

In June, we welcomed the Deputy Minister of Education, Jaroslav Fidrmuc, and the Czech Ambassador to the United States, Petr Gandalovič, to Los Angeles where they attended the annual conference of all Czech schools in North America. For three days, teachers and school directors listened to various presentations on how to finance and support their schools, and exchanged many ideas how to improve their teaching methods. Klára Moldová, the supervisor of all Czech schools in America, and Lucie Slavíková-Boucher, the president of the worldwide organization Czech School without Borders, also participated in the conference.

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Czech Liquor Company R. Jelinek in California

Famous Czech liquor company R. JELINEK has opened a new representation in California, bringing its much-loved products such as the famous kosher Slivovitz closer to Czechs and Americans alike on the west coast. Along with expanding its business, the company has sent managing partner and executive director Zdenek (Zack) Chromy to the United States in order to expand its production in the US markets.

R. JELINEK was established in 1894 and has been exporting to the US since 1934, the year prohibition ended. Of the forty different countries that R. JELINEK exports to, the United States is in the top five in terms of sales. Products of the company can be found in thirty states, mainly on the east coast. This new office is a part of a push to expand the company's market to include the west coast.

As a part of this expansion, R. JELINEK recently competed in the Los Angeles International Spirits Competition and won the silver medal for its Bohemia Honey Brandy and bronze medal for its Bohemia Plum Flavored Vodka.

Mr. Chromy is part of the R. JELINEK distillery since 1998 and since 2004 holds the post of Vice-Chairman.

If you would like more information about the company, please visit their website at <http://www.rjelinek.us/>

If you have any questions or would like to contact someone from the company, please contact

Zdenek (Zack) Chromy

Cell: (714) 331-9572

Email: chromy@rjelinek.cz



Zdenek Chromy (above) as a new representative for R. Jelinek Distillery in California.



Consul General with Mayor of Anchorage (in the middle)

Cont' from page 1

I also would like congratulate Lida Sandera, the president of the Czech nonprofit organization SVU – LA, on receiving the prestigious Gratias Agit Award from the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Lubomír Zaorálek in June in Prague.

I look forward to our fall cultural season. Extraordinary Czech violinist Jaroslav Svěcený will tour several West Coast cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, San Diego and Las Vegas. This year, the annual Mutual Inspiration festival is devoted to the Czech writer Karel Čapek. We will be honoring him and his works by several film screenings.

After years of efforts, the modern Czech paintings are presented in Los Angeles. A unique exhibit was launched under the title "CzechInLA" on September 19th in Santa Monica. The exhibit is organized by Aleš Knupp and his Alex Art Gallery in Prague in cooperation with Marissa Caichiolo from the Building Bridges Art Exchange. The Czech Consulate cohosted an opening reception.

Another exhibit opened at the Front Gallery of the Consulate. A fantastic Czech photographer Jana Ašenbrennerová, recipient of several awards at the World Press Photo exhibitions in recent years, presents her works focusing on Czech themes. The exhibit is on display till the end of October.

This is the last time you are reading these lines from me. After four years of wonderful time here in California, I will conclude my duties here by the end of October. I will be forever grateful for the privilege to serve here in California and to meet so many wonderful people. I hope we will remain friends even after I return back to my homeland. On this occasion I would like to thank Czech Honorary Consuls Marie Amicci and Wayne Jehlik for their tremendous work in supporting Czech affairs in their states. My family already departed for the Czech Republic, and it is also time for me to say good-bye. Before I leave, however, I hope to see you all at our cultural events. To get more information, please, visit our website and like our Facebook page.

Michal Sedláček, Consul General

First day of Classes at the Czech School of Seattle

On September 12, the school hosted a Kick-off and Toy Drive at Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island. Many parents and kids came out in support of the school, and to enjoy an afternoon play day, and loaded several bins with donated supplies. It also provided an excellent opportunity for the families to meet the committee members, discuss the school, learn more about the classes, and to get excited about the start of the school year.

Not that excitement about the Czech School of Seattle was in short supply. The school began classes on Saturday, September 19, with over 50 kids registered for classes! The strong enrollment meant the School started with four classes - Czech Playtime (Hrajeme si hezky česky), Czech Preschool (Česká školka), Czech for Little Foreigners (Český jazyk pro malé cizince), and Multi-grade Czech Language Class (Česká malotřídka) - two teachers, and numerous volunteers. Classes are going extremely well so far, and the Committee is already looking ahead to planning various events for the local community. Fall Quarter at the school runs September 19 – November 21, with classes being held on Saturdays at the Stroum Jewish Community Center on Mercer Island (3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island).

For registration information and contacts please visit: <http://www.czechschoolseattle.org/>

*Wayne Jehlik
Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Washington*



First day of Classes at the Czech School of Seattle



Consul General meets with several Mayors on the West Coast

In summer months, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, Michal Sedláček, held a series of meetings with high-ranking representatives on the West Coast. The most recent one was a discussion with the Mayor of Anaheim, Tom Tait, on July 28, 2015. It was a courtesy meeting focusing on business relations. Anaheim is known for Disneyland; however, the recent success of Anaheim Ducks and participation of two Czech players (Jiří Sekáč, Tomáš Fleischmann) in Stanley Cup run was also covered.

Consul General with Mayor of Anaheim

Early in July, Consul General Sedláček briefly visited the capital of Arizona - Phoenix, which has been the sister city of Prague since 1991. During his private discussion with the Mayor of Phoenix, Mr. Greg Stanton, he expressed his keen interest in continuing and enhancing the cooperation between the two sister cities, in the cultural, economic, and trade areas. Arizona is currently experiencing economic success, and several Czech businessmen have established their operations there. The Czech Republic appointed its Honorary Consul, Slobodan Popovic there in October 2014.

In mid-July, Consul General Sedláček traveled to Alaska. This was the first official visit by representatives of the Czech Republic to Anchorage since 2008, making it particularly appreciated by the hosts and the local community. The meeting with the Mayor of Anchorage, Mr. Ethan Berkowitz, focused on the possibilities for expanding a mutually beneficial relationship between Alaska and the Czech Republic. Also, thanks to the growing number of our fellow Czechs who chose to settle down in Alaska, there is an increasing awareness at the local level about the Czech Republic. Consul General's visit concluded with a meeting of our compatriots who were holding their annual gathering of the Czech Society Alaska, called "Picnic and Potluck". The event was attended by more than 100 guests.

NEWS from OREGON

Oregon summer of 2015 brought us a variety of cultural events. One of the favorite pastimes of our community is going to see a good movie, especially if the movie is featured at the park. In July, Portland enjoyed viewing Jan Sverak's adventures of "Kuky" in a fun atmosphere with food vendors, free popcorn, and music by Klezmocracy.

"The Lyrical Strings Duo", recently founded here in Oregon by a violinist Lucia Conrad, opened their string concert with Central Euro "pean and Eastern European classical music, and are presently recording their next CD called "On an Overgrown Path," inspired by the famous piano work of Leos Janacek. "The Lyrical String Duo" is all-classical guitar and violin music in the spirit of Dvorak, Janacek, and Martinu.

Fotoeffect Studio and Gallery treated our community to their annual Roof Top Art Show in August, featuring our local Czech artist, Vilem, and his masterpieces along with fine music and refreshments.

Dagmar Ruskova, a dance master and psychotherapy expert, made a presentation of "Happiness in Life-My Life's Quest" in the Brentwood Darling Community Center of Portland. Mrs. Ruskova leads studio "P-Greis" in the City of Plzen, specializing in art therapy, classic and statistic psychology, and dance seminars.

The Czech Society of Oregon celebrated summer with the annual picnic in the park. The picnic is a traditional gathering of our Czech community and one more way we keep in touch here in Oregon.

Less exciting news is, though important, that Colorado Honorary Consul office has moved. It is now now located in a new, modern professional office building across from the George Fox University, specifically **12520 SW 68th Ave., Suite B, Tigard, OR 97223**. **The phone number stays the same (503) 293 9545. Please call and make an appointment to make sure your visit can go as smoothly and efficiently as possible.**

Marie Amicci
Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Oregon



„The Lyrical Strings Duo” performance.



Honorary Consul Amicci (left) with attendees of the picnic of the Czech Society of Oregon

NEWS from WASHINGTON

Greetings from Seattle! A busy spring has transitioned into an equally busy (and exciting) fall, with continued nice weather making it all the more enjoyable. It has been an exciting few months since the last update, and I'm thrilled to share the latest news.

In July, Seattle was fortunate to host the fourth annual *Czech That Film* series. *Czech That Film* is always a popular event here in Seattle, and this year was no exception. The Seattle audience was treated to a special pre-festival reception and screening of *To See the Sea* with, and introduction by, director **Jiří Mádl**, with the film then followed by a Q&A session and after party. We were also fortunate to be able to include Andrea Sedláčková's *Václav Havel – A Life in Freedom* as part of the program. As always, *Czech That Film* would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles and SIFF.

In September, the Geddis Gallery in Seattle hosted the exhibition of "I'll Be Back," the artwork of **Marek Nenutil**, aka Openmindz360. Marek is visiting Seattle for a three-month stay. He has strong ties to the Czech world of street art and graffiti and has always been devoted to painting and various art techniques and forms of expressions. His work includes illustrated books, magazines, dozens of painted interiors and exteriors throughout the Czech Republic, shirt designs, and various other collaborative art projects.

Throughout the summer, the Czech School of Seattle committee also continued their enthusiastic, dedicated work towards beginning classes in September. On September 12, the school hosted a Kick-off and Toy Drive at Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island. Many parents and kids came out in support of the school, and to enjoy an afternoon play day, and loaded several bins with donated supplies.

With the Czech School open and running, attention is now turned towards **Czech National Day**, and a very special performance with **Jaroslav Svěcený & Václav Mácha on Wednesday, October 28 at the Frye Art Museum** - a spectacular and intimate backdrop for the Seattle premiere performance of this accomplished duo. Last year we were fortunate to be able to include Jaroslav Svěcený & Julie Svěcená on our calendar, and audience members from last year's performance are already greatly anticipating this amazing event. It promises to be a remarkable evening, and we are looking for a great turnout to welcome these amazing musicians to Seattle and celebrate Czech National Day.

We are, of course, working on additional activities and events, and I have no doubt that yet others will arise in the near future, and I look forward to reporting on those in the next newsletter. In the meantime, I again extend my deepest thanks to all that attended and supported our events, activities and programs this year, and I look forward to seeing everyone at an upcoming event.

Wayne Jehlik
Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Washington



*Opening
of Czech
School
Seattle*

Czech Startups Exhibiting at Tech Crunch Disrupt 2015

From September 21-23, the Tech Crunch Disrupt event took place in San Francisco. Several talented Czech startups introduced themselves to investors and entrepreneurs.

Each company has a unique idea they bring to the table. **SynergyKit** assists users in reducing the time and costs of developing cloud mobile, desktop, and web applications. **Corinth** develops immersive education apps and tools to allow teachers to bring 3-D experiences into the classroom. **Oscar Tech** has generated a remotely managed tablet app to provide easier communication between seniors and family. **Mailytics** analyzes your emails according to content in order to make delivery and evaluation faster. **PPC Bee** developed automation for pay per click (PPC) product campaigns so the user would earn bigger profits and get a higher return for PPC.

Similarly to last year's event, these young Czech companies marketed themselves during the popular three-day convention on innovation and modern technology. Their stay in San Francisco was organized and supported by the Czech government agency CzechInvest and by the Czech ICT Alliance. Companies were also supported by a personal attendance of representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Mr. Matejka from the CzechInvest Headquarters in Prague and Czech Consul General in Los Angeles, Mr. Michal Sedlacek.

In addition to the other companies, Czech startup **SRTV**, a one-stop mobile app development shop working with top-tier startups from Y-Combinator, participated in the first SEC2SV conference (Startups from Europe Come to Silicon Valley).

Four Czech startups presented themselves to angel investors and venture capitalists during the Demo Day in coordination with other Visegrad countries.

World Press Photo Winner Jana Ašenbrennerová Exhibits at the Czech Consulate's Front Gallery



Specializing in social documentary and praised by many experts and critics, a Czech photojournalist, Jana Ašenbrennerová, opened an exhibition of her work on **Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6 PM at the Front Gallery of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles (10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024).**

In 2003, after studying directing at the Film Academy of Miroslav Ondříček in Písek, she relocated to the United States to continue her education at San Francisco State University. In collaboration with nonprofit organizations, Jana documents humanitarian efforts in Africa and Asia, and most recently in Democratic Republic of Congo. She dedicates most of her time to her own independent projects and freelances for Reuters. She is an award winning photographer, winner of 2014 World Press Photo and a series of Czech Press Photos (2010, 2012, 2013).

Jana Ašenbrennerová attended the opening of the exhibition, which was followed by a screening of successful Czech comedy "*To See the Sea*" directed by popular Czech actor and first time director, Jiří Mádrl.

Jana Ašenbrennerová's exhibit will continue to be on display at the Czech Consulate Office in Los Angeles until the end of October. Please visit during the office's visiting hours Monday through Friday 9:30am-12:30pm.



In Memory of Arnošt Lustig

The Czech Consulate would like to cordially invite you to join us in commemorating Arnošt Lustig, a renowned Czech author and Holocaust survivor.

Mr. Lustig was born in 1926 in Prague and lived through many of tumultuous events in Europe, including World War II and the Prague Spring. Because of his political views after the 1968 Soviet Invasion, he was forced into political exile with his family. First to Israel, and then to the former Yugoslavia and finally they settled here in the United States. Besides writing his acclaimed novels such as *“Lovely Green Eyes”*, *“Collette”* and *“Unloved”*, Mr. Lustig also taught literature at American University in Washington DC.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Lustig was a Lifetime Achievement Award Laureate of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, recipient of the Franz Kafka prize, B’nai B’rith Award, and the American Jewish National Awards. He was regarded by the Literary Review of London as “the best living Czech author whose works call for the Nobel and all other literary prizes”.



Arnošt Lustig with his daughter Eva

To commemorate Arnošt Lustig’s many works, the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles will present a unique series of film and literary programs in November. The first event will be a screening of *“Diamonds of the Night”*, directed by Jan Němec. The movie tells a story of two young men escaping from a train to a concentration camp, and their journey through unknown terrain. After the film showing, there will be a short reading and discussion with Eva Lustigova, Arnošt Lustig’s daughter. The event will likely take place on **Monday, November 2nd at UCLA**, but the time and date is still subject to change.

The second program will be an opening for Sondra Hersh’s special collection *“Virtues”*, followed by a screening of Eva Lustigova’s documentary, *“Slza”*. This documentary premiered at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in 2012, and interviews her father, Arnošt Lustig, along with several other Czech figures. The exhibition and screening will be hosted, **November 3 at 6:30pm** at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles.

On November 5th, there will be a screening of *“Dita Saxova”*, a movie directed by Antonín Moskalyk and based on Arnošt Lustig’s novel. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the authors’ daughters, Eva Lustigova, and Pavlina Moskalykova. The evening hosted by WME in Beverly Hills includes small reception. Time is still to be determined.

The tribute to Arnošt Lustig in Los Angeles, will conclude with the highlight. The Museum of Tolerance will present *“Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova”*, as a part of their annual commemoration of the infamous Kristellnacht. The film based on one of the author’s finest novels is a psychological thriller about a group of wealthy Jews, waiting to be exchanged for important Nazi POW. The discussion will follow and will include a panel moderated by Liebe Geft, Director of the Museum of Tolerance, Eva Lustigova, daughter of the Arnošt Lustig, and Ivan Passer, Czech director and close friend of belated Arnošt Lustig. This event will take place on **November 9 at 6pm** and will be preceded by an opening of an exhibition memorializing Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass) of 1938.

October 2015	November 2015
<p>Entire month of October - Exhibition of Jana Ašenbrennerová</p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p>	<p>November 2, 2015 – Film screening <i>Diamonds of the Night</i> at UCLA</p> <p>More information will be provided on the website</p>
<p>October 28, 2015 at 19:00 – National Day Reception with the Concert of Jaroslav Svěcený and Václav Mácha at Frye Art Museum</p> <p>(704 Terry Ave, Seattle, WA 98104)</p> <p>Tickets at http://www.eventbrite.com/e/jaroslav-sveceny-and-vaclav-macha-concert-tickets-18858113124</p>	<p>November 3, 2015 at 6:30pm– exhibition of “Virtues” and screening of <i>Slza</i> at the Czech Consulate</p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p> <p>RSVP at rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com</p>
	<p>November 5, 2015 at 6pm– Film screening of <i>Dita Saxova</i> in Beverly Hills</p> <p>More information will be provided on website</p>
	<p>November 9, 2015 at 6pm– Film Screening of <i>Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova</i>, discussion panel at the Museum of Tolerance</p> <p>(9786 Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035)</p> <p>More information will be provided on website</p>

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