



The **Orchestra of Charles University in Prague** warmly welcomes new members. Rehearsals for the first half of the new semester are to be held in Central Prague on **Wednesdays**, at the ground floor of the Hlavkova Hall of Residence („Hlavkova Kolej“ in Czech) on Jenštejnská 1, in Prague 2. This Hall is a short walk from the tram stop Jiráskovo náměstí; turn left and proceed upwards (leaving the river behind you) at the corner with the famous „dancing house“, turning right at the second turning, and then immediately left. (From time to time some sectionals may at the first-floor vestibule to the Nová Aula of the Nová Budova of the University of Economics, Winston Churchill Square, the nearest tram stop being Husinecká). Rehearsals are held **7.45-10.00 p.m.** In addition, one or two **weekend workshops** are held each semester, to allow more intensive or sectional rehearsing. This semester, these are to take place all day during the weekends of 31 October and 1 November, and of 14 and 15 October. **Attendance at these is essential.**

The first rehearsal of the new semester for new members will take place on Wednesday, 7 October, and new members should please attend **no later** than on this date (old members will already have commenced rehearsing from the end of September). **Potential new members are asked kindly to email info@sboraorchestruk.cz beforehand**, so that information may be exchanged, scans of the music sent out via email, and so on, well in advance.

The Orchestra predominantly welcomes **new string players in all departments**, and string players are assessed over a period of several weeks by desk partners and section principals. (There are no formal auditions for string players.) It is almost always possible to confirm their membership, provided that you do not miss rehearsals. The need for **viola players** is especially acute this year, but we are glad to swell our ranks in all string departments. In the case of **wind and brass**, the Orchestra is largely complete, and decisions for additions are made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the current needs of the Orchestra. For instance, at present we are unfortunately not in a position to accommodate more flutes, but need a piccolo player with his or her own instrument, a bassoon, and one or two other particular instruments. Admission to any vacancies in the wind section is by competitive audition, and these are organised on an occasional basis, as the need arises. Since by their very nature wind parts are solo contributions, a high standard is sought. Once again, it is particularly important to email us at once, with information about your orchestral experience, and we shall respond.

The Orchestra will be performing **Suk's** stunningly beautiful work, *Pohádka*, as well as **Martinů's** *Lidice* this semester. The semester traditionally ends with performances of the Jan Jakub **Ryba** Bohemian Christmas Mass, *Ej mistre*. Engagements this semester include performing in Central Prague at the invitation of the prestigious Hlávka Foundation and at a number of very beautiful churches in central Prague, including at least two concerts for charity. Next semester we have also been asked to perform in Prague Castle, where we are to play part of the cycle *Má vlast* by **Smetana**, as well as excerpts from **Dvořák's** oratorio, *Svatá Ludmila*, amongst other pieces. A joint concert with the Exeter University Chamber Orchestra from the UK is also planned.

The Orchestra has been delighted to count in its ranks a substantial number of visiting students from Europe and the United States in recent semesters, who have made a vital contribution to the quality of the Orchestra, as well as to its busy social life and friendly atmosphere. Rehearsals are held in English as well as Czech, so **there is no need to worry if you are not a Czech speaker**. Regular post-rehearsal **pub visits** on Wednesday evenings are also highly multi-lingual events!

We greatly look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to our ranks very soon!

Please feel free also to refer to the web pages of the Orchestra, where updates are placed from time to time:
www.sboraorchestruk.cz