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## **This Year's Concertino Praga Dominated by Young Czech Performers**

**Performances by young Czech musicians definitely dominated the international competition Concertino Praga, traditionally organised by Czech Radio. The pianist Matyáš Novák and the violinist Larisa Palochová were voted the contest's overall winners. This year's edition was open to chamber ensembles in the duo, trio, quartet and quintet categories. The winner of the competition was selected last weekend by an expert jury.**

*"My congratulations go to all of the winners and participants. This year's edition of Concertino Praga was very balanced and the performances of our young musicians were astonishing. Czech Radio has been organising this international contest since 1966. In keeping with tradition, the event will be topped off by a gala concert in Prague's Rudolfinum on 19 June, where the laureates will show off their talents both to radio listeners and TV audiences,"* says Czech Radio's Director General, **Peter Duhan**.

This year's 49th edition of the International Radio Competition for Young Musicians Concertino Praga featured fifteen ensembles from the Czech Republic, Russia, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland and Spain. The Czech Republic was represented with seven recordings. The overall winners who are also the laureates of the Helena Karásková Prize – pianist Matyáš Novák and violinist Larisa Palochová – will have their profile CDs published by Czech Radio.

*"They made a very good impression thanks to their balanced, tempered, professionally prepared and strongly committed performance. Given their age, the duo is an exciting prospect indeed. I hope their collaboration lasts as long as possible,"* says the Chairman of the Jury, **Marian Lapšanský**.

This year, the EMCY award went to the cellist Vilém Vlček and the pianist Ondřej Zavadil. The first prize in the category of trios was awarded to Filip Zaykov (violin), Adam Reithof (clarinet) and Martin Chudada (piano). The competition's laureates will perform at the Laureate Concert in Prague's Rudolfinum on 19 June, which will be followed by a traditional concert tour of Southern Bohemia. In doing so, Concertino Praga fulfils its main goal – to promote classical music and to bring the best Czech and international performers from the upcoming generation of young talents to our audiences.

The international jury that evaluated the performances of the young participants were Marian Lapšanský (Slovakia), Leonid Gorokhov (Russia), Marek Zvolánek (Czech Republic), Žofie Vokálková (Czech Republic) and Shizuka Ishikawa (Japan). Evert Van Berkel from Swedish Radio and Michael Oehme from German MDR were nominated as independent jury members by the European Broadcasting Union. All recordings were evaluated anonymously. No participants registered for the competition categories of quartet and quintet.

For more information regarding the competition, including audio clips of the winners, go to [rozhlas.cz/concertino](http://rozhlas.cz/concertino).

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This year's concert performances will take place on the following dates:

**June 19, 2015 Prague – Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall**

22 June 2015 Český Krumlov

23 June 2015 Bechyně

24 June 2015 Třeboň

25 June 2015 České Budějovice

26 June 2015 Jindřichův Hradec