



# CZECH-NEBRASKA

1133 Oldfather, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, 68588-0315

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[www.unl.edu/komenskyclub](http://www.unl.edu/komenskyclub)

September/září 2004

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*We are all citizens of one world. To dislike a man because he was born in another country, because he speaks a different language, or because he takes a different view on this or that, is a great folly. Let us have but one end in view, the welfare of humanity. Komenský - Comenius*

## KOMENSKY CLUB JOINS THE WORLD IN CELEBRATION OF ANTONIN DVOŘÁK'S MUSIC (100 years since his death) (born Nelahozeves, 8 September 1841; died Prague, 1 May 1904).

A capable viola player, Dvorak was first noticed when he joined the band that became the nucleus of the new Provisional Theatre orchestra, conducted from 1866 by another famous Czech composer, [Smetana](#). He won the Austrian State Stipendium three times (1874, 1876-7), gaining the attention of [Brahms](#), who secured the publisher Simrock for some of his works in 1878. Foreign performances multiplied, notably of the Slavonic Dances, the Sixth Symphony and the *Stabat mater*, and with them further commissions. Particularly well received in England, Dvorak wrote *The Spectre's Bride* (1884) and the *Requiem Mass* (1890) for Birmingham, the Seventh Symphony for the Philharmonic Society (1885) and *St. Ludmilla* for Leeds (1886). He received an honorary doctorate from Cambridge. He visited Russia in 1890, continued to launch new works in Prague and London and began teaching at the Prague Conservatory in 1891 (where Joseph Suk was among his most gifted pupils). Before leaving for the USA he toured Bohemia playing the new *Dumky* Trio. As director of the National Conservatory in New York (1892-95) he taught composition, meanwhile producing the well known Ninth Symphony ('From the New World'), the String Quartet in F, the String Quintet in E-flat and the Cello Concerto. Financial strain and family ties took him back to Prague, where he began to write symphonic poems and finally had his efforts at dramatic music rewarded with the success of the fairytale opera *Rusalka* (1901).

In matters of style Dvorak was neither conservative nor radical. His works display the influences of folk music, mainly Czech

(*furiant* and *dumky* dance traits, polka rhythms, immediate repetition of an initial bar) but also ones that might equally be seen as American (pentatonic themes, flattened 7ths); Classical composers whom he admired, including [Mozart](#), [Haydn](#), [Beethoven](#)

### Schedule for 2004

- Sept. 23 Lecture:** Michael Klimesh: **The Spillville of Antonín Dvořák Sojourn; An Inspiration for the American Quartet;** Nebraska Student Union, 14<sup>th</sup> & R Streets, 7 pm
- Sept. 30 Lecture Cancelled**
- Oct. 11 Dr. Povolny: Edvard Beneš: Democracy Today and Tomorrow- After 65 years.** Nebraska Student Union, 14th & R Streets, 3:30 pm
- Oct. 26 Lecture:** John Švagera: **Antonín Dvořák and his significance for world music** Nebraska Student Union, 14<sup>th</sup> & R Streets, 7 pm

### Czech Festivals in Nebraska

#### **September 26 – Prague**

Czech Heritage Day 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pork roast, Duck Dinners, Entertainment, Dance

#### **September 26 – Lodgepole**

Panhandle Czech Heritage Day

Lodgepole – Legion Hall Noon- 5 p.m.

#### **for more information contact**

**402 435 6914 or 308 384 7355** [www.nebraskaczechs.org](http://www.nebraskaczechs.org)

### Czechs clubs and organizations in the US

#### **Kansas St. Wenceslas Dinner – September 25**

Hosted by the Czech and Slovak Club of Kansas City. For information call Jirina Lavine 816 753 2540 or write [JirinaL@yahoo.com](mailto:JirinaL@yahoo.com)

#### **Iowa Cedar Rapids Concert – Oct 2-3**

A grand night of music presents Red Cedar Chamber and the Quartetto Telemann. Hear the first part of a two-part concert on Saturday night at NCSML's Grand Hall, 8:00 p.m. Reception to follow. The second part will be presented on Sunday, 7:00 p.m. at Grand Hall. Tickets are \$12.00 for each show.

#### **Czech Garnets Exhibit – Nov 13 - Mar 6**

Collection from NCSML and the National Museum in Prague. See the exhibit at NCSML.

#### **Kansas KANSAS CITY St. Mikuláš Celebration – December 4**

Hosted by our Czech and Slovak Club. Come and teach your children about the Czech and Slovak traditions and heritage. [JirinaL@yahoo.com](mailto:JirinaL@yahoo.com)

and [Schubert](#); [Wagner](#), whose harmony and use of leitmotifs attracted him; and his close friend [Brahms](#) (notably his piano writing and mastery of symphonic form). Despite his fascination with opera, he lacked a natural instinct for drama; for all their admirable wit and

lyricism. His last five stage works rank lower than his finest instrumental music. Here his predilection for classical procedures reached its highest level of achievement, notably in the epic Seventh Symphony, the most closely argued of his orchestral works, and the Cello Concerto, the crowning item in that instrument's repertory, with its characteristic richness and eloquence, as well as in the popular and appealing Ninth Symphony and the colorful Slavonic Dances and Slavonic Rhapsodies. Among his chamber works, landmarks are the String Sextet in A op.48, a work in his national style which attracted particular attention abroad; the f minor Piano Trio op.65, one of the climaxes of the more serious, classically 'Brahmsian' side of his output - unlike the e minor op.90, a highly original series of *dumka* movements alternately brooding and spirited; the exuberant op.81 Piano Quintet; and several of the string quartets, notably the popular 'American' op.96, with its pentatonic leanings, and the two late works, the deeply felt op.106 in G and the warm and satisfying op.105 in A-flat. This fall, the Komensky club will celebrate this great composer through a series of lectures, films, and concerts.

## Lectures in the Fall

### The Spillville of Antonín Dvořák's Sojourn and Inspirations for the American by Professor Michael Klimesh

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) Nebraska Chapter, in conjunction with the UNL Komensky Club, is pleased to invite you to the following special lecture as we continue to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the UNL Czech Komensky Club.

Spillville, Iowa, is the most important Czech village in America for many reasons. This presentation will help you understand why this is so. After introducing a checklist of the priceless treasures of Spillville, the presentation focuses on a visual tour of The Spillville of 1893 that Antonín Dvořák, The Great Czech Composer, experienced.

Your historical Spillville Experience will start with the early days, before the Europeans came.

How did this place come to be?

How did it become predominantly Czech? How is it "...They Came To This Place...?"

How is it that the first major European composer to live in, or even visit, America before the 20th Century recharged in this small town in northeast Iowa in 1893?

How and why was he so inspired here that he wrote two major compositions in record time?

How is it, in his own words,...? "...months spent in Spillville will remain happy memories for the rest of our lives."

"...I would never have written these works "just so" if I had not seen America."

"It was a lovely place,...and all the time I was there I fancied myself in Bohemia."

You will see what he saw - the place, the people, homes, business, churches, schools, and more. Your tour will be visually very rich, using mostly old and original photographs in a PowerPoint presentation, accompanied by author commentary.

For more information, read *THEY CAME TO THIS PLACE – A history of Spillville, Iowa and its Czech Settlers*.

By Cyril M. Klimesh METHODIUS PRESS, 1983, Revised and Reprinted 1992

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The presenter, Professor Michael F. Klimesh was born and raised in Spillville, Iowa. He has lived and taught on four continents. After years away from Spillville he returned and has made his home there since 1989. He has been active in numerous community organizations. He was president of the 1993 "Remembering Dvořák" Celebration and the 1994 "Bily Clocks" Celebration. He is an independent historical researcher focusing on the Spillville area, and related Czech and Dvorak issues.

This lecture is being funded by a grant received by the SVU Nebraska Chapter from the Czech Foreign Ministry to enhance and enrich the Czech programs offered in our community. We look forward to seeing you at the lecture, University of Nebraska Student Union, Lincoln, Nebraska 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 23, 2004

### Edvard Beneš: Democracy Today and Tomorrow- After 65 years. By Professor Mojmir Povolný

Sixty-five years ago, in the winter of 1939, President Dr. Edvard Beneš delivered at the University of Chicago a series of lectures which were later in the same year published by The Macmillan Company of New York under the title "Democracy Today and Tomorrow." My purpose in this lecture is twofold. First, I shall analyze Beneš's argument in favor of democracy as opposed to his critique of the authoritarian ideologies and regimes of the day – fascism, national socialism, and communism. And secondly, I shall compare and confront his approach and argument with three recent studies of the principal themes of Beneš's lectures from the perspective of sixty-five years after their presentation: Robert A. Dahl, *Democracy* (New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 1998); Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom* (New York London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2003); and John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, London: Harvard University Press, 1999).

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Dr. Mojmir Povolný is Professor of Government and Henry M. Wriston Professor in Social Science, Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin. Among his many accolades a few that stand out are: he was Executive Secretary of the Economic Council of the Czechoslovak National Socialist Party, Associate Professor of Government, Lawrence University, Dean and Vice Chancellor of the Faculty, Lawrence University, Member of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia.

Professor Povolný is author of nearly 30 publications and numerous translations. He has been involved in the movement of intellectual groups that opposed the Soviet hegemonisation in Eastern Europe.

## New officers of the Czech Komenský Club

### C.J. Švagera, President

I am a senior at UNL, majoring in Music History. Besides doing research in the Music field I also enjoy playing trombone in various UNL music ensembles. I am very proud of my Czech heritage, and one day I hope to visit family in the Czech Republic.

[csvagera@hotmail.com](mailto:csvagera@hotmail.com)

### Hannah Anderson, Vice President

Hannah is a sophomore at UNL majoring in horticulture and is also very active in the Czech Language program, participating in Czech classes and serving as a Komensky club officer.

[MaxxI\\_5@excite.com](mailto:MaxxI_5@excite.com)

### Erin McEvoy, Secretary

Hi! I'm from Waterloo, NE. I'm in my senior year at UNL, and am working on degrees in Veterinary Science and French, and hoping to get a minor in Czech as well. My interests include watching ice hockey (Martin Skoula and Milan Hejduk are Czechs among my favorite players), reading, and going to movies.

[luckymac44@hotmail.com](mailto:luckymac44@hotmail.com)

### Brian Kell, Treasurer

I am the treasurer for the Czech Komenský Club this year. I am a junior from Aurora, Nebraska, and am majoring in computer engineering. I am taking Czech 201 and 202 this year, and hope to have a great year with Komenský Club

[bkell@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:bkell@unlnotes.unl.edu)

## Book: Achievements of Slovak Women

*Three Slovak Women* is a nonfiction account of three generations of Slovak women in the steel town of Duquesne, Pennsylvania, and the love and sense of family binding them together.

Lisa Alzo grew up in Duquesne, Pennsylvania, and currently resides in Ithaca, New York, with her husband Michael. She has been working on her genealogy for over 12 years and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Nonfiction Writing from the University of Pittsburgh in 1997. In addition, she spent six years researching her family's history for *Three Slovak Women*. Lisa is the recipient of the 2002 Mary Zirin Prize awarded by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies to recognize the achievements of independent scholars.

The book can be purchased directly through the internet site [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for the price of 16.95.

## Meet the New Robitschek Scholars

Paul Robitschek established this scholarship for Czech and Slovak students as an expression of his gratitude to the country of his birth. By bringing the students to the US he wanted to share the intellectual achievements of his adopted country, the USA. He chose Nebraska for its Czech ethnic presence. The Robitschek students are asked to take part in ethnic activities, and they are eager to meet with Nebraska Czechs.

All of the Robitschek scholars were chosen through a rigorous selection process.

THEY WOULD LIKE TO MEET MEMBERS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. DO YOU NEED A PROGRAM? INVITE THEM!

### Magda Sládková

Dobrý den! I am from Prague where I study English and American Studies at Charles University. I love traveling and hiking, cooking (and eating:oh), books, movies, music, and one of my biggest hobbies is Irish dancing. Here in Lincoln I help with teaching Czech at UNL and I like it very much!

Zdravím, Magda

### Ondřej Jurík-

I came here from Charles University in Prague, but I am originally from the North Bohemian town of Jablonec. I worked for various media outlets in the Czech Republic and here in Nebraska I am taking practical broadcasting classes.

### Eva Kubešová-

AHOJ! My name is Eva Kubešová and I come from south Bohemia. I major in political science and I love music and play the viola and the violin, at home, in the Czech Republic, I am a member of the Symphonic Orchestra of Jindřichov Hradec. I'm also interested in sports (swimming, volleyball), and I like to go to movies and study foreign languages (English, German, Spanish).

## Czech language Corner

When you study a foreign language, often you do not learn how to express emotions using interjection, although they are an important part of the language. Here is a sample I gathered for the readers of *Náš Svět*.

Oh!- *Ó! Oh! No ne!*

Oh bother!- *K sakru!*

Oh dear!- *No nazdar!*

Be careful! *Pozor!*

Excellent! *To je krása!*

Oh boy!- *Ach jo!*

It is so! *Je to tak!*

My, how you have grown!- *No ne, tys ale vyrostl(a)!*

How very annoying!- *To je ale mrzuté!*

My word!- *Páni! Pánové!*

Get with it!- *Probu• se! (verbatim WakeUp!)*

That is typical of him(her)!- *To je celý on(a)!*

You don't say!- *Vážn•? Fakt? To není možné.*

Suprise!- *P•ekvapení!*

That is to say...- *Totíž...*

I see!- *Podívejme se!*

How time flies!- *Jak ten •as letí!*

### **CZECH LANGUAGE CLASSES NEED YOUR HELP!**

The Czech Language program was started in 1907, and has a great history. Many famous people started their creative and political lives in this program. For example, Senator Roman Hruška, Rudy Vrtiška, Olga Štastný, and many others. This year, once again students are enrolled in the Czech Language Program.

Please, support this one -hundred -year-old program, its existence depends on it. The support can have two forms. First of all, inform your children and your grandchildren about its availability, so that they could enroll in Czech. You also can send a tax-deductible donation. And most of all, come to the Komenský club program. We are the only organization that keeps Nebraska Czech culture alive at the university.

**Contributions in care of the UNL Foundation can be sent to the Czech Instruction Fund #4931, UNL Foundation 1111 BLDG, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln NE 68588**

### **Komenský Club at UNL**

The principal function of the Komenský Club is to sponsor events that focus on culture and history and bring together people of diverse backgrounds who want to share Czech heritage. Readers of *Náš Sv•t* are encouraged to attend club events and participate in other activities listed in the newsletter in order to enhance awareness of the Czech culture in Nebraska communities. There is a low annual membership fee of \$3.00 for students and \$8.00 for non-students. The membership fee helps finance the films, newsletters and other special activities. Checks should be made out to the Komensky Club and mailed to: Mila Saskova-Pierce, UNL, 1133 Oldfather Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0315. Membership is open to everyone!

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