

Collegium Marianum presents

J. D. Zelenka **Sepolcro**

*Oratorios of the Passion destined for the Holy Week contemplation,
composed for the Jesuit College of Clementinum, Prague*



Immisit Dominus pestilentiam
The Lord sent a plague

Deus Dux fortissimae
God the most powerful
leader

Attendite et videte
Attend and behold



Programme:

Sepolcro

Jan Dismas Zelenka (1679 – 1745)

Immisit Dominus pestilentiam ZWV 58 (Klementinum 1709)

Deus Dux fortissimae ZWV 60 (Klementinum 1716)

Attendite et videte ZWV 59 (Klementinum 1712)



Cast:

Hana Blažíková and Barbora Sojková – soprano

David Erler and Daniela Tomašíková – alto

Tobias Hunger and Tomáš Lajtkep – tenor

Tomáš Král and Jaromír Nosek – bass

Collegium Marianum

Jana Semerádová – artistic direction, flauto traverso

Lenka Torgersen and Vojtěch Semerád – baroque violins

Veronika Jíchová – baroque viola

Hana Fleková – baroque violoncello

Ondřej Balcar – double bass

Sebastian Knebel – organ

Jan Krejča – theorbo

Igor Františák – chalumeau

Petra Ambrosi and Tereza Pavelková – baroque oboe



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Although **Jan Dismas Zelenka** (1679 – 1745) spent most of his productive life in Dresden, a large part of his oeuvre is connected with Prague. Let us mention for instance his melodrama *Sub olea pacis et palma virtutis*, which Zelenka himself premiered in Prague in 1723 on the occasion of the emperor Charles VI's coronation as Czech King. The performance took place at the Jesuit College of Clementinum, the most likely place of Zelenka's higher education. The aforementioned work is not the only one of Zelenka's works associated with this college. The three Zelenka's early works which are on the programme tonight, the sepulchra *Immisit Dominus pestilentiam*, *Deus Dux fortissimae* and *Attendite et videte*, were also dedicated to the Clementinum. The earliest of these, *Immisit Dominus pestilentiam* (The Lord sent a plague) comes from 1709, at which time Zelenka was working at the Prague residence of Count von Hartig, the highly ranked emperor's regent. *Deus Dux fortissimae* (God the most powerful leader) and *Attendite et videte* (Attend and behold), also commissioned by Count von Hartig, was composed several years later when Zelenka was already working at the Dresden court of king Augustus II, the Elector of Saxony. Sepulchra, formally short oratorios based on Biblical texts, were to be performed at Christ's tomb on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. They start with a recitative describing the struggle of human life, followed by a sequence of arias and choruses asking God to repel catastrophes, appealing for forgiveness and redemption. The final chorus of *Attendite et videte* ends with a typically baroque praise and glorification of God.



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“Collegium Marianum ensemble presented their programme with an enthusiastic drive and mature delivery. Already with the first piece, the orchestra made a great impression. A true dialogue developed between the ensemble and the soloists. The charming flute player, Jana Semerádová, literally brings back to life the forgotten music of the past centuries, with precision and great articulation in allegro movements, and tenderness and melancholy in slower parts. The enthusiasm of the public increased with every piece and in the end the musicians had to give two encores.”

Jean-Christophe Pucek (Le jardin baroque)

“The Prague Collegium Marianum ensemble represents something very characteristic for the music scene today: an open-minded group of mostly young people who have decided to pursue in music what they hold to be the most interesting (that is the historically informed interpretation of early music) and who demonstrate how such an intention can be transformed into action on the highest possible level...”

Michaela Freemanová (Hudební rozhledy)

“Collegium Marianum ensemble who have become renowned, especially in Prague, for their historically informed interpretation and inventive programming, have proved their reputation as a foremost baroque group. Their performance is endowed with great accuracy, fine tone and musicality, the same criteria being applied in the choice of vocal soloists, such as Hana Blažíková with her naturally sounding lyric soprano or Tomáš Král with flexible baritone. Their approach toward historically informed interpretation is informed by sensitivity and a sense of proportion, and such is the overall impression of their playing: the natural, unpretentious sound and pure delivery are both in service of the main goal of this ensemble – to create not just an indifferent, universal concert performance but to come up with a sensitive personal contribution.

Petr Veber (Harmonie magazine)



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Since it was founded in 1997, the Prague ensemble **Collegium Marianum** has focused on revitalising the music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. One of the few professional companies specialising in this field in the Czech Republic, it not only gives concerts of works in particular by composers who were born or active in central Europe, but also regularly performs unique musical drama and dance productions. The ensemble has collaborated with renowned European directors, choreographers, conductors and soloists such as: Andrew Parrott, Simon Standage, Chiara Banchini, Benjamin Lazar, Sergio Azzolini, Peter Kooij, Peter van Heyghen or Sigrid T’Hooft. Since 1999 the company has been under the artistic leadership of flautist Jana Semerádová, whose active research together with her study of baroque gesture, declamation and dance, has enabled her to gradually broaden the profile of the *Collegium Marianum* ensemble and present operas and intermezzos in the authentic surroundings of Czech baroque theatres. The *Collegium Marianum* ensemble has received critical acclaim both at home and abroad. It regularly performs at music festivals and on prestigious podia both in the Czech Republic and elsewhere in Europe, for example Tage Alter Musik Regensburg, Bachfest Leipzig, Mozartfest, Pražské jaro, Festival de Sablé, Concentus Moraviae, Bolzano Festival, Mitte Europa, Palau de Música Barcelona. The orchestra's recordings include two part anthology *Music of Baroque Prague I* (2003) and *Music of Baroque Prague II* (2005) and three recordings by Supraphon entitled “Music From Eighteenth-Century Prague” - Concertos & arias by J. J. I. Brentner, „*Rorate coeli* / Music for Advent and Christmas in Baroque Prague“ and „F. Jiránek – Concertos and sinfonias“. In January 2010 Collegium Marianum was awarded by the Czech Music Council, the Czech section of the International Music Council by UNESCO, for the credits of quality and for the general propagation of Czech music.



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