

PECH cello quartet



The cello quartet, led by Jan Pech, has been active on the Czech music scene since 2006. Their music has accompanied a wide range of social events and they have performed multiple evening-long programs. The unusual arrangement of four cellos showcases the individuality of both the players as well as their instruments while maintaining the purity of the cello sound, a sound, that, from the family of string instruments, is most similar to the human voice not only in range, but also in timbre. Members of the quartet are distinguished personalities of the Czech cello school.

JÍŘÍ HOŠEK was born in Prague into an artistic family, Doc. Hošek is known primarily as a cello virtuoso. After finishing his studies both at the Prague Conservatory and in the studio of Professor Miloš Sádlo at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (AMU), he continued at the Paris Conservatory. He is laureate of many famous international competitions including the Prague Spring Competition. Aside from his concert activities he also serves as a professor at AMU. As a pianist and band-master of Country Band Newyjou, he has been among the elite of Czech country music for more than thirty years. He is personification of a musician who does not differentiate between classical and popular music. He perceives the art of music as a graceful guide through life and he is able to masterfully orient himself in any genre.

BLEDAR ZAJMI was born in Tirana, Albania. After graduating from the studio of Xhovalin Lazri at the music lyceum in Tirana, he competed for and won a scholarship to AMU, where he studied from 1992-1997 in the studio of Rudolf Lojda. He has performed in a series of solo concerts in Japan, Italy, Germany, and the Czech republic, where he has received high acclaim from the artistic press. He has won awards in international competitions such as Finale Figure (1999) and San Bartolomeo al Mare (2004), including the Special Jury Prize for Best Interpretation of the Contest Piece. He has continued performing concerts in many countries in Europe as well as in Japan, China, and Brazil. Since the year 2000 he has been the principal cellist at the National Theatre in Prague. He plays the Clarus cello made in 1996 by the Czech luthier Jan Slípka.

LUKÁŠ POLÁK studied at the Brno Conservatory under Professor Miroslav Zicha. It was there that he also acquired the fundamentals of conducting, which subsequently led him to found the vocal-instrumental ensemble Musica da Camera Brno. In 2003 he graduated after the completion of his studies with Professor Daniel Veis at AMU. He won first prize as a soloist at the Teplice Competition, the Leoš Janáček Competition in Brno, and the Bohuslav Martinů Competition in Prague. He has taken part in master classes led by renowned musical figures including František Smetana, Daniil Shafran, and Jiří Barta. He has performed as a soloist with Talich Chamber Orchestra, the Brno Chamber Soloists, the Moravian Chamber Orchestra, and the Academy Chamber Soloist Orchestra. He is a member of the Škampa Quartet.

JAN PECH - leader of the quartet; is a graduate of the Prague Conservatory, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at Charles University-Department of Mathematical and Computational Modelling, and AMU from the studios of Doc. Rudolf Lojda, Professor Daniel Veis, and Doc. Jiří Hošek. He currently works for the Institute of Thermomechanics at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. As a cellist he has performed many featured recitals and has cooperated with many orchestras, including the Berg Orchestra, the Pavel Haas Orchestra, the Philharmonia of the Nations, the National Taiwan University Symphony Orchestra Taipei, the Prague Youth Philharmonic, and the Talich Chamber Orchestra. As a soloist he has performed concertos by Camille Saint-Saëns, Joseph Haydn, and Antonín Dvořák. He has participated in master classes in Semmering, Austria and also successfully competed in the 2012 Prague Spring Competition.