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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **WORLD CLASS GUITAR CONCERT IN ABUJA**

*The Czech guitar virtuoso Lubomír BRABEC captivated the audience as he performed a classical music concert in Transcorp Hilton on the occasion of the National Day of the Czech Republic.*

About 250 spectators came to see the performance of one of the top guitarists in the world, Mr. Lubomír BRABEC. An one hour long concert took place in Lagos Room of Transcorp Hilton hotel in Abuja on the evening of 30th October 2012. Two days before, the Czech Republic, a mid-size country in the Central Europe, celebrated the 94th anniversary since the Czechoslovakia gained independence from the former Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918.

In order to honour the excellent relations between the Czech Republic and Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Embassy of the Czech Republic is regularly bringing top Czech musicians to Abuja on the occasion of the Czech National Day. In 2011 and 2009 Embassy invited two groups of traditional Czech bagpipers. In 2010 a pianist Lukáš Vondráček, awarded in 2001 as the most exceptional young artist in Europe, came to play to Nigeria.

Mr. Lubomír Brabec was born in Plzeň, West Bohemia, and has devoted himself to music since an early age. His first instrument was the violin and at the age of thirteen he began to play the guitar. At fifteen he entered the Plzeň Conservatory and he completed his studies at the Prague Conservatory. An important milestone in his artistic beginnings was the success he achieved at the 1974 International Guitar Competition in Paris, where he was awarded the title of competition laureate. In 1980 he earned a scholarship from the British government and continued his studies at the London Royal Academy of Music.

He regularly performs on prestigious stages with the world's top soloists, chamber ensembles, and orchestras. Mr. Brabec is an active researcher who methodically searches archives for undiscovered pieces of music and thus he is reviving many compositions forgotten in archives for centuries. For Nigerian audience he prepared a selection of compositions from authors from the 16th to 20th century: John Dowland, Leopold Silvius Weiss, Fernando Sor, Joaquin Turina, Francisco Tárrega and Benvenuto Tezi.

Lubomír Brabec is also fond of challenging sports and travelling. „It is my first time in Sub-Saharan Africa, so I am quite curious to learn more about Nigeria“, he told after his arrival to Abuja. He performed in all six continents of the world. In 1997 he was the first musician in the world who performed a concert in Antarctica.

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Lubomír Brabec, call asap Ms. Eliška Kolářová at 07037571096 or e-mail [eliska\\_kolarova@mzv.cz](mailto:eliska_kolarova@mzv.cz). You may also visit the official webpage of Mr. Lubomír Brabec ([www.lubomirbrabec.cz](http://www.lubomirbrabec.cz)) or the webpage and Facebook page of the Embassy (see above).