

# the Bohemian state of mind



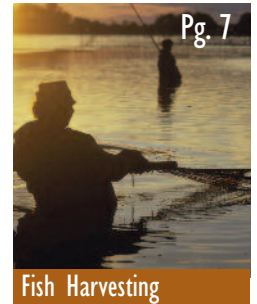
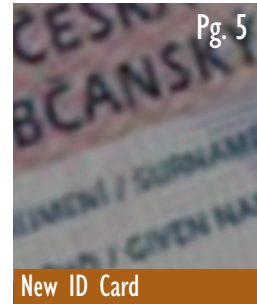
CONSULATE GENERAL  
of the Czech Republic

monthly newsletter for Bohemians by birth and bohemians at heart



November 2011

- Remembering Jiri Traxler
- Oral History
- Dear Bohemians
- Travel Tips



## Events Calendar

### Czech Events

Nov 5 @ 6 pm

**Ivan Zenaty - Violin & Stan Bogunia - Piano**

St. Wenceslaus Church

[www.nocturnesinthecity.com](http://www.nocturnesinthecity.com)

Nov 8 @ 7 pm

**Commemorating those who never saw another butterfly**

Alumni Hall, 121 Joseph St.

Info: 416-926-1300 x 3200

Nov 12 @ 8 pm

**J. Grosman & Music on the Corner**

**Concert dedicated to Jiri Traxler**

Prague Restaurant

Info & reserve: 416-289-0283

Nov 13 @ 11:30 am

**Christmas Market**

St. Wenceslaus Church

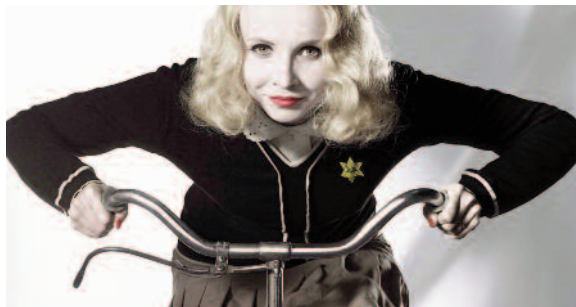
Info: 416-663-2382

## Event Highlight

– EhU! European Union Film Festival

At the end of each November, Toronto hosts a film festival – *EhU! European Union Film Festival*, which shows the best of Europe's cinematography.

Organized by the Consular posts of European Union countries in Toronto, this non-profit festival attracts



story is set in Prague in the year 1938. Emil, a radio reporter, is married to the beautiful

thousands of eager movie-goers every year.

The Czech Consulate is thrilled to announce that this year the Czech Republic will be represented by the film *Protector* directed by Marek Najbrt. The

*continued on pg. 3*

## AMoYA

– Museum of Young Art New to Prague

In an unbelievably short amount of time – four weeks to be precise – a unique project called Artbanka Museum of Young Art (AMoYA) was created. It broadens new horizons of the contemporary Czech art scene

in an international context. The main goal of the project is to present young artists to the public and support their creative work, as well as to highlight the talent of the most significant artists of the Czech art scene since 1968.

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phone: 416-972-1476, fax: 416-972-6991, e-mail: [toronto@embassy.mzv.cz](mailto:toronto@embassy.mzv.cz), web: [www.mzv.cz/toronto](http://www.mzv.cz/toronto)

## Events Calendar cont'd

### Nov 17 – Nov 30 European Union Film Festival

Royal Cinema  
[www.eutorontofilmfest.ca](http://www.eutorontofilmfest.ca)

### Nov 18 @ 8:30 pm The Protector

Royal Cinema  
608 College Street  
[www.eutorontofilmfest.ca](http://www.eutorontofilmfest.ca)

### Nov 20 @ 5 pm Oral History

Nocturnes in the City Special  
Prague Restaurant  
[www.nocturnesinthecity.com](http://www.nocturnesinthecity.com)

### Nov 26 @ 7 pm St. Nicholas Ball

St. Wenceslaus Church  
Info: 416-663-2382

### Nov 27 @ 5 pm Jan Novotny – piano

St. Wenceslaus Church  
[www.nocturnesinthecity.com](http://www.nocturnesinthecity.com)



## Dear Bohemians

– by Consul General

Every year in the fall, the Czech Republic celebrates three major national holidays. At the end of September we celebrate the *Day of Czech Statehood* (935), at the end of October we remember the *Independent State Day* (1918), and on November 17th we commemorate the *Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day* (1989).

Sadly, these three holidays are in one way or another marked with aggression that either preceded or accompanied them. In the year 935, the patron of Bohemia, Prince Wenceslaus, was murdered. In 1918, following World War I, the Independent state of Czechs and Slovaks was declared, and on November 17th, 1989, the communist police suppressed a peaceful anti-government demonstration organized by high school and university students on Prague's Narodni Street. Through this brutal attack against the students, which was preceded by repression and violence against peaceful civil demonstrations throughout the year, the communist regime discredited itself. It raised the nation to its feet and to action that led thousands of citizens to streets and town squares to rally against the red despotism, which managed to seize power in February of 1948. This regime had subverted the democratic system, destroyed western ideals of freedom and civil rights, seized citizens' possessions, and spoiled the national economy.

During this time of civic resentment and call for change, students, workers and middle management established a new movement – the Civic Forum – in schools and factories, and they assumed control of these institutions. In cities all over the country this movement united the nation to work together as one to reach two main objectives – freedom and democracy.

This fight for democracy – the so-called *Velvet Revolution* – successfully ended in June 1990 with democratic elections.

We, the Czechs, after disastrous experiences with both Nazism and Communism, know that democracy is better!

Yours,  
Vladimír Ruml



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## Events Calendar cont'd

### Slovak Events

**Nov 5 @ 6 pm**  
**Recognition 2011 -**  
**the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Slovak-Canadian**  
**Graduates Ball**

Hall of Cyril and  
Methodius Church  
Info: 905-857-2565

**Nov 13 @ 3 pm**  
**Kanadsky Slavik**

1 Colonel Samuel Smith  
Park Drive  
www.kanadskyslavik.com

**Nov 24 – Nov 26**  
**Czech & Slovak**  
**International Music**  
**Competition**

Montreal  
www.uwgb.edu/international/  
music/about.html

**Nov 26**  
**Eugen Suchon**  
**Exhibition**

Montreal  
www.suchon.info

## Jaroslav Vrabec

### – Master Craftsman

Canadian metal artist, Jaroslav Vrabec has created a breathtaking piece of public art for the City of London, Ontario, Canada.

It has been a lifelong dream of his to create this sculpture – an unusual memorial piece to honour all veterans who have fought for liberty.

This 36-foot-high stainless steel sculpture features 3 Spitfires commemorating Charlie Fox, a World War II Canadian hero who flew with the Allied forces.

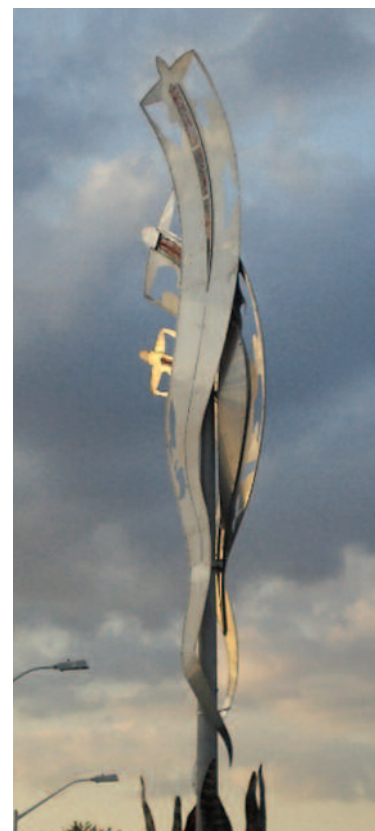
Jaroslav, educated and trained in Prague, is a Renaissance man. Part teacher, inventor, technician and all artist, he creates unique and unusual objects using materials ranging from gates, balconies, and furniture to fine silver and gold with his broad scope of talents.

He has great enthusiasm for the aesthetics of industrial components. Intrigued by materials and processes, he discovered and responded to

the flexibility and rich sensory variety that metal can produce. He takes particular joy in sharing his sense of aesthetics with others. Part of his fulfillment as an artist comes from having a personal relationship with his clients and creating custom pieces for them.

This Master Craftsman has shown his work in galleries in Prague, Vienna, Berlin and London, Ontario.

[www.custommetalartwork.com](http://www.custommetalartwork.com)



## Event Highlight *(continued from pg. 1)*

Hana, an actress whose new film has catapulted her into fame. As the Nazis come to power, however, Hana's Jewish heritage precipitates her fall from stardom to the bottom of the social ladder. In order to protect her, Emil compromises himself, collaborating with the new Nazi-controlled state radio station. As Emil starts enjoying the attention and respect that had previously evaded him, his fidelity and loyalty towards his wife begin to falter. The assassination of the Third Reich Deputy Protector and a chance encounter on a bicycle

bring their lingering marriage to a crisis, possibly sealing Hana's fate.

*Protector* was the Czech Republic's Official Entry for Best Foreign Language Film to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Academy Awards®. You may see it on November 18th, 2011 at **8:30 pm at Royal Cinema, 608 College Street, Toronto**. All festival screenings are free of charge. Be sure to arrive early, as seating is available on "first come, first served" basis. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Tribute to Jiri Traxler

– Music and Film to Honour “The Last Mohican”


**Saturday, November 12, Prague Restaurant at 8 pm - an evening to honour the life of composer, writer and extraordinary human being - JIRI (George) TRAXLER**

George Grosman and his band, *Music on the Corner*, present a program of music by the recently deceased Czech composer Jiri Traxler, as well as a few tunes by other Czech swing era composers. Traxler, a giant who stood at the cradle of Czech swing along with Jaroslav Jezek, R.A. Dvorsky and Kamil Behounek, passed away a few months ago at the age of 99. The best way to celebrate his long and fruitful life is to keep presenting his compositions to today's audiences.

Aside from *Music on the Corner* (George Grosman: guitar, vocal; Joe Musil: piano, vocal; Lenka Novakova: vocal; Marie Frankova: vocal with a special guest Brandon Walker, soprano and tenor saxophone), there will also be a screening of the documentary *The Last of the Mohicans*, which is about Traxler's life and work.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Because we expect attendance to be very high, we recommend reserving your tickets as soon as possible by calling 416-289-0283.



Consulate General of the Czech Republic  
& George Grosman and Music on the  
Corner

cordially invites you to



**Remembering  
Jiri Traxler**

**Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 8:00 pm**

at **Prague Restaurant, Masaryktown**  
450 Scarborough Golf Club Rd., Scarborough, ON

~ ~  
Screening of “The Last of Mohicans” a documentary about J. Traxler by  
another great musician Ondrej Havelka  
~ ~

Beautiful swing melodies by J. Traxler performed by George Grosman  
and Music on the Corner  
~ ~

Reservations 416-289-0283

## AMoYA (continued from pg. 1)

The museum should become a meeting place for people with an artistic spirit, where contemporary art and non-traditional concepts blend.

The museum was opened on Karlova Street, only a few steps from the Charles Bridge. Covering an area of 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Czech and foreign visitors can

admire the best of contemporary young people's art. The museum is situated in the baroque Collorodo-Mansfeld Palace. Combining the spirit of the old architecture and modern contemporary exhibitions, the museum promises its visitors an extraordinary experience.

<http://www.czech.cz/en/105344-amoya---museum-of-young-art-newly-in-prague>

## Consular Window

– New Type of Identity Card (obcansky prukaz) with a Chip



Photo: Czech Television

January 1, 2012, information about cardholders' children will be removed and information about marital status will become optional. The cardholders' place of residence will be eliminated as of January 1, 2017. Finally, the birth identification number (rodne cislo) will no longer be published effective January 2020.

As of January 1, 2012, a new type of Identity Card will be issued in the Czech Republic. New ID cards will be smaller (about credit card size) and will feature a 2-D identification chip. as well as an additional chip that will be optional. Certain information currently included on the ID cards will be eliminated in the next few years.

During the initial phase, information included on the new ID card will remain the same, but the new 2D identification chip will be introduced. Card holders will have the option to apply for the additional chip, which will cost 500 CZK. This chip will be able to carry the cardholder's electronic signature. However, some IT experts warn that combining a signature with personal data on the chip may render it vulnerable to personal data theft. They recommend storing personal information separately from the electronic signature.

Another future trend in ID cards is including less personal information. As of

Sunday  
20. November  
at 5 pm

**Nocturnes  
in the City**

**Restaurace Praha**  
450 Scarborough Golf Club Rd.  
Toronto.

SPECIAL PROGRAM WITH INTERESTING GUEST

## Oral history

Recording Voices & Documenting Memories of Czech & Slovak Americans began in 2009 to capture and preserve the stories of Czechs and Slovaks who left their homeland and settled in North America. The interviews and documents are being archived at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

*Rosie Johnston* has been coordinating the NCSML's oral history project since it began in late 2009.

Supported by: Consulate General Czech Republic in Toronto  
Honorary consulate Slovak Republic in Toronto

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Photo: Dagmar Benedik

Info a rezervace: 289 234 0264

## Czech Republic Travel Tips for November 2011

### TRANSMISSION 2011 19/11/2011

All fans of electronic music will be delighted by this spectacular show, which has a tradition stretching back five years. This time, *Transmission* will, once again, provide a new theme created by DJs who, without a doubt, rank in the TOP 10. Above & Beyond, Ferry Corsten, Markus Schulz and Gareth Emery have already been confirmed for the event.

[www.transmission.cz](http://www.transmission.cz)



### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS IN CESKY KRUMLOV 27/11/2011 - 07/01/2012

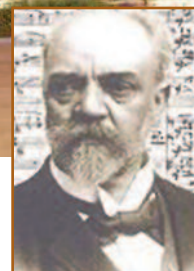
There will be Christmas markets and a special cultural programme in Cesky Krumlov. The programme includes concerts, traditional gingerbread decorating, Christmas decoration making, and many more interesting events. You can experience all of this during Advent in Cesky Krumlov. Let yourself be carried away by the romantic atmosphere of this snowy historic town.

[www.ckrumlov.cz](http://www.ckrumlov.cz)

### ANTONIN DVORAK – THE UNIQUE EXHIBITION PRESENT - 29/02/2012

On the occasion of the 170th anniversary of Antonin Dvorak's birth, the National Museum has opened a unique exhibition – the largest collection in the world dedicated to this unique composer.

[www.nm.cz](http://www.nm.cz)



# the Bohemian

## Bohemian Journey

– Harvesting the Fishponds in Southern Bohemia

One of Southern Bohemia's biggest traditional events of the year – harvesting of the fishponds in the Trebon Region – is in a full swing. Don't miss out on its unique atmosphere!

### WHAT AWAITS YOU

Harvesting of the fishponds takes place continuously throughout October and November. You will see traditional fish farming crafts in practice first hand. An excursion with a local guide can also be arranged, and for those who are interested, a ceremony to “knight” you as a fisherman is available. After undergoing the ceremony, every newly “knighted” fisherman receives a so-called certificate of “knighthood” and one carp to go with it. You certainly don't need to bring any snacks – fish and other delicacies are available, as is wine, beer or “burcak” (young wine).

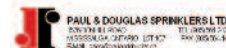
### A BIT OF HISTORY

The heritage of fishpond management in Trebon is an example of works that added value to the originally inhospitable and uninhabitable countryside. The buildings were inspired by the establishment of fishponds in Medieval France. The French cladding of the dams with stone was replaced in Bohemia with fascine and log structures made from local materials. The benefit of this practise is exceptional – an artificial system of large reservoirs for fish farming, supplemented with a bypass channel. This is the only preserved work of its kind in Europe. This entire system of fishponds has been nominated for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



<http://www.trebonsko.cz/> <http://www.czechtourism.com/News/Vylovy-rybniku-na-Trebonsku.aspx>

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