

**Program:**

**Dagmar Pecková: mezzo - soprano**

**Annalien Ball: piano**

**Johannes Brahms – Zigeunerlieder/ Gypsy Melodies**

He, Zigeuner, greife in die Seiten ein! / Ho there, Gipsy!

Hochgethürmte Rimafluth / High and towering Rimastream…

Wisst ihr, wann mein Kindchen am / Know ye, when my lov´d one is…

Kommt dir manchmal in den Sinn / Art thou thinking often now…

**Karel Bendl – Cigánské melodie/ Gypsy Melodies**

Hej, při hudbě, zpěvu / Hey, in Music, Song

Zvuč, jen zvuč, cimbále / Ring Out, Just Ring Out, Cimbalom

Veselé a volné je to naše žití / Our Living Is Merry and Free!

**Antonín Dvořák – Cigánské melodie /Gypsy Songs**

Má píseň zas / My Song Rings Out with Love Again

A les je tichý kolem kol / The Woods Are Silent All Around

Když mě stará matka / Songs My Mother Taught Me

Struna naladěna /The String Is Tuned

Široké rukávy a široké gatě / Wide Sleeves

**George Bizet – Carmen**

Habanera

Sequidilla

***Introduction to the program***

*At the height of Romanticism composers began to look around for themes still uncommon in music. In the mid 19th century, compositions inspired by gypsy life are being created in different parts of Europe. Whether it´s then a total flop and now the world´s most sought - after opera - Bizet´s Carmen, the songwriting works of The German composer Johannes Brahms or his Czech contemporaries Antonín Dvořák and the lesser known Karel Bendl. Both of these Czech composers set to music the popular lyrics of the Czech poet Adolf Heyduk at the time. Dvorak's Gypsy melodies, however, were written on German translations which Heyduk himself translated for the Viennese tenor Gustav Walther. And the original, hence German edition of the publisher Simrock caused quite a bit of resentment in Bohemia so Heyduk and Dvorak had to correct it immediately and the publisher also published a version of the Czech-English version. And although Karl Bendl knew how to do better with the Gypsy musical theme, his songs did not become as world-famous as Dvorak's, and fell almost into oblivion.*

*Johannes Brahms' Opus 103 Acht Zigeunerlieder is very popular. The author originally wrote it for a small choir and later reworked it into a solo part. The lyrics were created by a rendition of Hungarian folk songs by the poet Hugo Conrad. They were sung to his children by a Hungarian nanny.*

*"I would like to think, as the main topic, of what Dvorak can think of in passing.» Johannes Brahms*

*Dvorak's invention was enviable indeed. And the German composer Johannes Brahms held her in high esteem. As the initial instigator of Dvorak's world fame, Brahms led the Czech author to publisher Simrcok, introducing him to many prominent Viennese musicians and critics. An admirable friendship developed between these giants of world music, lasting twenty years.*

*Antonin Dvorak's close friends included Czech choirmaster, organist, conductor and composer Karel Bendl. He served as a bandleader in Brussels, Amsterdam and briefly in Paris. His main job upon his return to Bohemia is to work with choirs. From the originally male choir Hlahol created a large mixed choir for the introduction of great romantic pieces. Along with Antonin Dvorak and Bedřich Smetana, he was one of the most popular authors at the end of the 19th century.*

*"Oh, the music! What beautiful art! But what a pathetic profession.» George Bizet*

*Underachievement haunted Bizet throughout his relatively short life. And yet his opera about the gypsy Carmen is the most popular opera work, which has seen the light of day and must not be missed on any opera stage.*

*All the works featured in tonight's concert have a common denominator - the joy of the freedom of a nation of wanderers, adventurers, sentimental dreamers and unbridled elements.*

*Or as the poet Adolf Heyduk puts it: „Ah! Might there be anyone greater in the world than a gypsy!“*