

CZECH the News

Newsletter of the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Vol. 3, Fall 2006



Photo courtesy of Czechomor

Czechomor and guest soloist Lenka Dusilova will be on tour in the U.S. this fall. For more details, go to page 7.

Czech Government Formed

Miroslav Topolánek, a Civic Democrats (ODS) party leader, is the new Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. In early September, President Václav Klaus appointed Prime Minister Topolánek's 15-member government of 9 ODS and 6 unaffiliated ministers. The minority cabinet has until early October to receive a vote of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies. Aleksandr Vondra, former Czech Ambassador to the United States, was named the new Minister of Foreign Affairs. Minister Vondra and Prime Minister Topolánek have confirmed that the Czech

government's foreign policy priorities remain the same with a focus on the 2009 Czech presidency of the European Union, good relations with neighbors, strong transatlantic ties, and support for human rights around the world. Speaking at a Prague meeting with Czech ambassadors, Mr. Topolánek emphasized that Czech diplomacy will maintain its continuity and trustworthiness, and called for using economic diplomacy as "the basic tool of Czech foreign policy" by increasing international promotion and marketing of Czech exports, investment, and tourism. 

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New U.S. Ambassador to Prague

The U.S. Senate unanimously approved Richard W. Graber as the next U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. He replaces outgoing Ambassador William Cabaniss who began his ambassadorship in early 2004 and is expected to leave Prague on September 23, 2006.

Mr. Graber, a 49-year-old attorney, studied law at Boston University and has worked in election reform. He currently serves as Director, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Milwaukee-based law firm Reinhart, Boerner, Van Deuren. Mr. Graber is also the Chairman of the Wisconsin Republican Party

and in 2004 was spokesman for President George Bush's election campaign.

Graber has expressed mixed feelings about leaving U.S. politics during a crucial election season but is honored to represent the United States overseas, especially in the Czech Republic which he describes as "a wonderful story of moving from communism to democracy...with a thriving economy and a vibrant democracy."


Mr. Graber will be joined in Prague by his wife, Alex, and their younger son, Eric, 15. An older son, Scott, 19, begins his studies at the University of North Carolina this fall. 



Photo courtesy of Richard W. Graber


U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic
Richard W. Graber

Czech Missile Defense Site Discussed in Washington

A team from the U.S. Missile Defense Agency and a Czech delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense met in Washington, DC, on August 16 and 17, 2006. The two countries held expert consultations on the potential for a Czech missile defense site. The Czech Republic is one of three candidates being considered by the

U.S. Government to host a missile defense site in Europe along with Poland and Hungary.

The Czech expert delegation, led by Tomas Pojar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, discussed technical issues of missile defense with the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency. According to Richard Lehner, spokesman for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency,

the site will protect the territory of the host country, European allies, and the United States. In addition to its strategic importance, the building of such a site in the Czech Republic would bring economic benefits. "If the missile defense site is built on Czech territory, Czech companies will participate in contracts valued at several billion crowns," said Pojar. 

Message from the Ambassador



Photo courtesy of Tomas Scallacek

Dear Friends,

Welcome back from summer vacation. I hope it was a restful time. For Czech politicians the summer months were anything but quiet as they worked to build new coalitions after our June parliamentary elections. Guided by constitutional mechanisms, the democratic process worked and President

Vaclav Klaus appointed Prime Minister Miroslav Topolánek and his new government in early September. As anticipated, Czech foreign policy priorities remain the same, among them maintaining strong bilateral relations with the United States, spreading democracy, and supporting human rights.

Here in the United States, members of Congress also were busy with activity around the Czech Republic and other new EU member countries gaining entry into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Two separate pieces of U.S. legislation were proposed this spring and summer that could potentially open the door to Czech participation. (Please read the details of these VWP developments in the article below.) While these proposals are no guarantee that our citizens soon will enjoy travel to the United States without a visa, they are a tangible indication that more and more U.S. legislators are informed about the VWP issue and its damaging psychological effects on our otherwise strong U.S.-Czech relations. I am particularly grateful to the American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR) for their support in the VWP issue, and to all of you who have contacted AFoCR, your senators, and your representatives, to help remove the visa waiver issue from our bilateral agenda.

With summer waning and schools and governments back in session, we have numerous fall events planned at the Czech Embassy. One highlight includes the Czech band Czechomor playing on the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center with an encore performance at the Embassy. A complete list of these events appears on pages 6–7 of this newsletter. From concerts to film screenings, art exhibitions to lectures, there is something for everyone and ample opportunity for Czechs and Americans to mingle and celebrate our close Czech-U.S. friendship. I invite you to come enjoy the Embassy and its offerings.

Warm regards,

Petr Kolar



Fulbright Commission Exhibition

The Fulbright Program, which sends Americans to teach and study in other countries and similarly brings international educators to the United States, helps foster productive dialogue between people of different cultures. Positively changing perceptions that nations have of others is only one of the benefits of the Fulbright Program, and Fulbrighters serve as ambassadors who contribute to public diplomacy on a very human level. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, summarizing the value of exchange programs such as Fulbright, described them as



contributors to “transformational diplomacy.” Fulbrighters themselves are transformed by their exchanges and the impulse to creatively express that transformation is inevitable. On September 26, 2006, at 7 pm, the Embassy of the Czech Republic will open the exhibition “Horizons,” a showcase of the unique art of Czech and American Fulbright scholars that grew out of their experiences living and working in both countries. The works reflect how international exchange altered the Fulbrighters’ perceptions of the world and introduced them to new “Horizons.”

AirVenture 2006

Ambassador Petr Kolar and Economic Officer Martin Dvorak traveled to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in July to attend AirVenture, the largest international celebration of airplane technology. This week-long exhibition featured light and sport aircraft from around the world.

The Czech Republic was represented by 13 Czech-sponsored companies showcasing their latest products and ingenuity, with light-sport aircraft (LSA) dominating the tradeshow. Historically, the first LSA model certified in the United States was Czech-made.

Every month, an estimated 30 planes are imported into the United States with 12 to 13 of those coming from the Czech



Photo courtesy of Martin Dvorak

Ambassador Kolar (r) at AirVenture

Republic. Ambassador Kolar was impressed by the aeronautic engineering he witnessed in Wisconsin, calling it a “precise and sophisticated field of human activity.” He also appreciated the success that Czech LSA companies are experiencing in the U.S. market, and the high recognition that Czech aviation products received at AirVenture.

Visa Waiver Program Update

The Czech Republic, along with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic—all members of NATO and the European Union (EU)—are working to gain entry into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The Visa Waiver Program allows citizens of U.S. allies to visit the United States without a tourist visa for up to 90 days. Since the fall of communism in the late 1980s, none of these countries has imposed a tourist visa requirement on U.S. citizens, while their citizens traveling to the United States are subjected to an expensive and arduous visa

application and screening process. The U.S. Government is under intense national and international pressure to admit these European allies to the Visa Waiver Program, a change that would necessitate congressional legislation. Following are the latest developments in the VWP effort.

On May 17, 2006, U.S. Senators Santorum (R-PA), Mikulski (D-MD), and Frist (R-TN) proposed Amendment SA 4000 to the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 that would allow additional countries to participate in the VWP if they are providing material support to the United States or the

multilateral forces in Afghanistan or Iraq. Although all seven of these countries are participating in both operations, as written, this amendment applies to only one EU country not already in the VWP—Poland. The amendment’s minimum quotas of material support are discriminatory to all other EU countries also involved in Afghanistan and Iraq. Moreover, the amendment is attached to the contentious Immigration Reform Act and is not expected to pass.

On June 29, 2006, State Representatives English (R-PA), McCotter (R-MI), Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Bordallo (D-GU), Wexler (D-FL), and Davis (R-VA)

proposed bill H.R. 5730 to designate six NATO and EU member states as participants in the Visa Waiver Program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This is a stand-alone bill and not dependent on any other legislation. However, it inadvertently left out Slovakia, and still must be approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee before going to a vote.

Although neither of these legislative proposals guarantees admittance of any country into the VWP, both are indications that U.S. legislators are more informed about the issue and are taking the necessary steps to address it.

Fulbright Marks 15 Years in the Czech Republic

Since its 1991 inception in the Czech Republic, the Fulbright Program has sent more than 450 Czechs to the United States and has brought almost 400 Americans to the Czech Republic. The Board of the Fulbright Commission reviews its agenda each year. Fields of study that were subjected to heavy political intervention behind the Iron Curtain remain priorities for today's cultural and academic exchange. In the 15 years that Fulbright has operated in the Czech Republic, the country has shown measurable progress in the internationalization of its educational system, changes in secondary and high school curricula, and the emergence of progressive teaching methods.

The Fulbright Commission is focused on enhancing the responsiveness and efficiency of the Czech educational system and Fulbright alumni make significant contributions to this goal. Progress is accelerating—teachers and administrators were recently challenged by the Ministry of Education to formulate curricula that focus on class participation;



U.S. Ambassador William Cabaniss meets with Czech Fulbright Alumni at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Prague

Photo courtesy of Hana Ripkova

the percentage of international students in Czech classrooms grows; and more international dialogue occurs among educators than ever before.

The Czech Fulbright Commission contributes to this transformation through a variety of programs. It offers scholarships for graduate studies, research and lecturing, and high school teacher exchange programs, and has added


new programs targeted at previously unreached educational sectors such as the Fulbright High School Administrator Exchange. Fulbright's programs allow Czech policy makers to draw from the experience of Czech Fulbright alumni and their American counterparts via lectures, seminars, and round-table discussions.

Hana Ripkova, Executive Director of Fulbright in the Czech

Republic believes that Fulbright scholarship embodies the true meaning of exchange,

"American Fulbright grantees do not go to the Czech Republic to serve as role models for their Czech colleagues. Instead, the different approaches to education of Czechs and Americans offer the other a basis for renewed critique in their own methods of research, teaching, or studying."


Anthony Caine, Chair of the Fulbright Board adds, "The impact of the Fulbright exchange is significant—the qualifications of Czech Fulbright grantees multiply after their Fulbright experience, and the academic focus of the programs also changes—as do the grantees—with positive impact on both sides."

For more information on Fulbright in the Czech Republic, go to: <http://fulbright.cz/english.shtml> 

Albright Receives 2006 Gratias Agit Award

On July 10, 2006, Ambassador Petr Kolar personally presented the 2006 Gratias Agit Award to former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. In May, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Cyril Svoboda accepted the award on behalf of Mrs. Albright who could not attend the award ceremony in Prague.

Annually since 1997, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs has bestowed the Gratias Agit Award on prominent and distinguished persons and organizations that significantly contribute to promoting the good name of the Czech Republic abroad. Mrs. Albright's contributions are considerable. She earned the 2006 Gratias Agit Award for supporting

democratization of then-Czechoslovakia and accession of the Czech Republic into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), for her many years of active work in building and strengthening good relations between the Czech Republic and the United States, and for her generous humanitarian aid to the people of the Czech Republic affected by the floods. 



Ambassador Kolar congratulates Madeleine Albright on receiving the award.

Photo courtesy of Tomas Sedlacek

Czech Government Helps Belarusian Students


In April 2006, the Czech government announced a request for proposals (RFP) for projects that support development of a civic society in Belarus and opposition to the regime of Alexander Lukashenko. The RFP was a followup on the Czech government's commitment to offer relief programs to Belarusian citizens oppressed by the new regime, especially those who protested against nondemocratic aspects of Lukashenko's government during the presidential

campaign and demonstrations after the March 2006 elections.

The focus of this RFP is to offer stipends, internships, short-term study, and other types of educational programs to Belarusian college students and young people whose higher education opportunities in Belarus were suspended due to their participation in anti-Lukashenko demonstrations.

The proposal deadline was May 26 followed by a meeting of the Selection Committee on

June 19. The Committee divided the projects into two groups. The first group is comprised of organizations that propose creating their own contacts with Belarusian students. The second group includes organizations that expect to work under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Belarus. To date, 21 projects have been presented and successfully vetted. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has yet to announce the type of grants each successful

applicant will receive. Projects not chosen have no chance of appeal. Mr. Pavel Mazheiko, spokesman of the recently arrested Belarus opposition leader, Alexander Milinkevic, commented on the Czech educational efforts saying, "Students who have a chance to study in Europe, get European education, and absorb European habits, these students are essentially important for the new Belarus because after they come back, we will need them." 



News Briefs

Skoda Auto Has Produced Its 100,000th Superb, the Car Manufacturer's Top Luxury Model

Based on the Volkswagen Passat, the Superb is a large family sedan designed to match the high quality standards of the Volkswagen group, but at an affordable price. The Elegance model, which includes satellite navigation and leather upholstery, starts at US \$27,000. "The fact that the Superb model successfully established itself despite competition from luxury brands confirms our opinion that Skoda's return to the higher class was logical and correct," said Skoda Auto Board of Directors member Horst Muhl.

Czech Beer Production Up

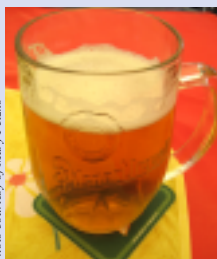


Photo courtesy of Mary Fetecko

Czech breweries raised beer output by 5 percent in the first 7 months of 2006 compared with the same time last year. In the first half of 2006 beer output grew by 4.4 percent, followed by a 9 percent spike in output in July. Jan Vesely, director of the Czech Beer and Malt Association, attributed the growth in July consumption to the unusually hot weather and to increased exports. Czech beer exports rose by 17 percent to 1.7 million hectoliters in the first 6 months of 2006 over last year, while domestic sales increased by 2 percent to 7.85 million hectoliters. Vesely predicted a slow down in beer sales as the cooler weather arrives.

DCM Attends Czech Festival in Nebraska

Representing the Czech Republic, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Jaroslav Kurfurst attended the annual Czech Festival in Wilber, Nebraska, on August 5 and 6, 2006.

Mr. Kurfurst greeted festival-goers and participated in the activities before serving as a judge for the Miss Czech-Slovak USA Queen Pageant, the closing event of 3 days of Czech music, food, dancing, and cultural demonstrations.

Every year the festival attracts from 40,000 to 60,000 Czech Americans and their supporters to Wilber, a town of 1,700 in southeastern Nebraska. The first Czech settlers came to Wilber in 1865. By 1900, 90 percent of its inhabitants were of Czech descent. Wilber was declared "Czech

Capital of Nebraska" by the Governor in 1963, and upgraded to "Czech Capital of the United States" in a proclamation signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1987.

The annual festival, begun in 1962 as a local celebration of Czech heritage, has grown into a national event attracting thousands from across the United States. Mr. Kurfurst was struck by the number of attendees at the Czech Festival and their ethnic pride.

"The festival organizers really should be thanked not only for supporting and perpetuating Czech heritage but for creating new traditions in the U.S. Czech community," he said.



Jaroslav Kurfurst with pageant winner Sarah Middlebrook

Photo courtesy of Sarah Middlebrook

In addition to the Czech Festival, Wilber is home to a Czech museum, a Czech bakery, a Czech craft shop, and numerous other Czech businesses.

For more information on Czechs in Nebraska and the annual Czech Festival, visit: www.ci.wilber.ne.us/

SVU Conference Held in Ceske Budejovice

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Letters, known by its Czech acronym, SVU, held the 23rd SVU World Congress at the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice June 25–July 2, 2006. The conference was attended by nearly 500 participants—300 from the United States. President Vaclav Klaus opened the event speaking on the importance of the SVU Congress and the role SVU has played on behalf of the Czech Republic. A panel of Ambassadors from the Czech and Slovak Republics, the United States, and Canada discussed "Diplomatic Relations between North America and the Czech and Slovak Republics," in a plenary session chaired by SVU President Miloslav Rechcigl. Czech Ambassador to the United States Petr Kolar spoke on Czech-U.S. relations from a Czech perspective.

Attendees selected from as many as 12 concurrent academic sessions covering a wide range of topics from history, literature, philosophy, and the arts, to law, economics, the media, and the environment. This year's Congress emphasized medicine and the natural sciences, with international scientists presenting panels on mental and public health, neuroscience, biological and physical science, and engineering. Congress symposia highlighted



President Vaclav Klaus and First Lady Livia Klaus at the Congress

Photo courtesy of Mila Rechcigl

university leadership and academic partnership between Czech, Slovak, and U.S. universities. Members of the Czech and Slovak diplomatic corps talked about their experiences representing their countries abroad, while leading archivists discussed Czech archives and resources relating to the history of Czechs abroad.

In addition to papers, panels, and symposia, the Congress presented several awards recognizing those who have served SVU,

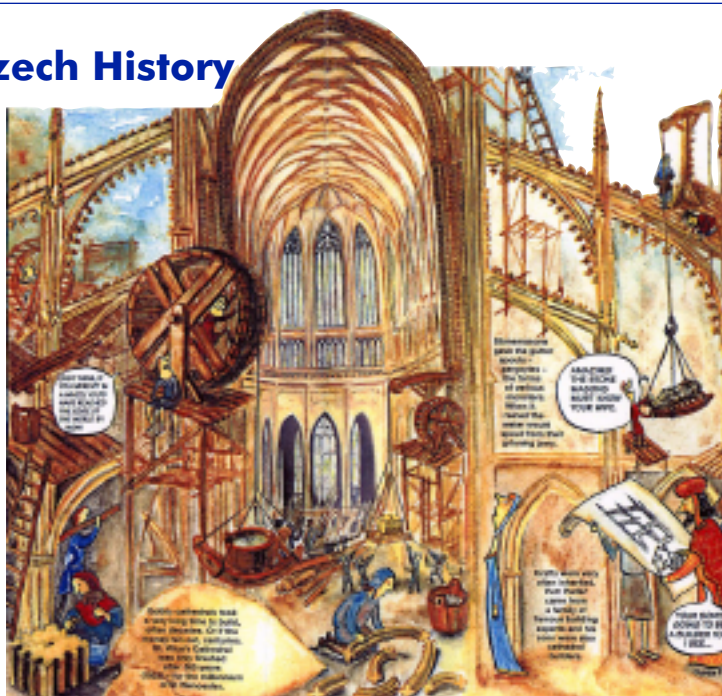
published books through SVU, or achieved distinction in their respective fields. The Congress concluded with the presentation of the Andrew Elias Humanitarian and Tolerance Award to noted Czech journalist Petra Prochazkova for her humanitarian work and for calling attention to violations of human rights. Ms. Prochazkova accepted the award with a talk on "Illusion in the West about the Impact of Humanitarian Aid" based on her personal experiences.

A Walk Through Czech History

The Czech lands have long served as a crossroads where European travelers have met and gathered, and the tapestry of Czech history is interwoven with the influences of all who have passed through, weaving a long and lively story. For American audiences both young and old, and for anyone who didn't pay attention in school, Czech artist and writer Lucie Seifertova has brought Czech history to two-dimensional life in English with her colorfully rendered award-winning pop-up book *The History of the Brave Czech Nation*, subtitled "and a few insignificant world events." Nothing about this book is insignificant. It is a best-seller in the Czech Republic, and has won that nation's highest awards for best children's book, best educational book, and best illustrated book.

It begins with Seifertova's prehistorical chapter "The Mammoth Hunters" starting 35,000 years ago and continues through to modern democratic Czech society, with all the triumphs and tragedies in between illustrated in eye-catching detail. The book's humorous and tongue-in-cheek illustrations please viewers of all ages, and, much like American animated films from recent years, it contains elements that children love but that only adults really "get." Not only do the pages pop up, the book is actually one continuous scene that unfolds like an accordion to 18 feet in length.

The History of the Brave Czech Nation has been adapted into a life-sized exhibition of the same name that was first displayed at the National Museum in Prague in 2005. Walking through the 6-foot-high panels that stretch for 210 feet evokes a feeling of walking through history. On October 26, 2006, at 5:30 pm, U.S. audiences will have the opportunity to stroll through Czech history as the exhibition makes its American debut at the Czech National Hall on East 73rd Street in New York. The book's creator, Lucie Seifertova, will be in attendance to introduce and discuss the exhibition. Still under reconstruction and scheduled to open its inaugural season in 2007, the Czech National Hall will host the exhibit for one evening only. After its New York debut, the exhibition will travel throughout the United States over a 2-year



A page from *The History of the Brave Czech Nation* pop-up book

Illustration courtesy of Lucie Seifertova

period with planned stops in numerous U.S. cities.

In addition to *The History of the Brave Czech Nation*, which is currently being developed into an animated film, Seifertova also has produced pop-up books on Prague, Prague Castle, Czech castles and

chateaus, as well as on the legend of the Golem.

For more information on Ms. Seifertova and her work, please visit www.seifertova.cz.



News Briefs

New Captain Selected for the Czech Soccer National Team

Czech soccer's national team has a new captain, Tomas Rosicky, a midfielder who plays for the English club Arsenal London. A council comprised of the seven most experienced Czech national team players, head coach Karel Bruckner, and other team members elected Rosicky because of his skills as a player and his natural disposition for leadership. The new captain is leading the Czech team in the qualifiers for the European Championship in 2008, which began positively for the Czechs on September 2, 2006, with a 2-1 victory over Wales, followed by a 3-0 shutout over Slovakia on September 6, 2006.

New Staff



Photo courtesy of Vilma Anzivova

JoAnn Cooper is the new Senior Public Relations Officer, bringing over 20 years of communications experience to the Czech Embassy. Recently, Ms. Cooper served as director of the linguistic communications firm, Lingua Bohemia, dedicated to improving the way the world communicates. Splitting her time between Prague and Washington, Ms. Cooper has worked with numerous international clients in the governmental and private sectors. An award-winning documentary filmmaker, she also has taught at the film schools of Charles University in Prague and American University in Washington, DC. Ms. Cooper holds a Masters in Communications from American University.



Photo courtesy of JoAnn Cooper

Andrea S. Pohl has joined the Embassy's Public Relations Department as a Public Relations and Communications Officer. She was born in Prague and immigrated to the United States during Czechoslovakia's communist era. Ms. Pohl graduated from Emory University College and Tulane University Law School. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and has practiced law in both the Czech Republic and the United States. She speaks Czech, English, and German.



Photo courtesy of JoAnn Cooper

Zuzana Tornikidis is the new Political Secretary at the Embassy of the Czech Republic. Recently, she served as Secretary to the Deputy Minister for Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from ESMA Barcelona (Spain) and a Masters in Communication and Public Relations from HES Amsterdam (The Netherlands). Mrs. Tornikidis is currently finishing a Masters degree in Finance at the University of Economics in Prague.



Upcoming Embassy Events

www.mzv.cz/washington
Questions: (202) 274-9105

Sept. 20, 7 pm

Film Screening: *Skritek*
Directed by: Tomas Vorel
Admission: Free

A family of villagers heads for the city, where a playful sprite with a vicious sense of humor makes their lives even more unpredictable.

Sept. 26, 7 pm

Fulbright Commission Art Exhibition: *Horizons*
Admission: Free

In celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Fulbright Commission in the Czech Republic, the Embassy presents a unique exhibition of artwork by Czech and Americans participating in the Fulbright Program.

Sept. 28, 6 pm

Concert: Czechomor and Lenka Dusilova at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage
Admission: Free

Czechomor brings traditional Czech and Moravian music to a wider audience through their innovative arrangements using electric instruments that add a new dimension to their songs.

Sept. 29, 7:30 pm

Meet the Band: Czechomor and Lenka Dusilova
Admission: \$20 online, or \$25 at the door
For tickets, go to:
www.czechomorstour.com

In a very special evening at the Czech Embassy, meet the members of Czechomor and guest soloist Lenka Dusilova as they jam to popular songs from their *What Happened Next Tour*.

Oct. 4, 7 pm

Film Screening:
Bitter Coffee (Silny kafe)
Directed by Bjorkur Gunnars
Admission: Free

Lifelong chums, Renata and Maya, reunite on a Prague street and decide to revisit their childhood village.

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Teatr Novogo Fronta to Make American Debut

Czech-Russian theater group Teatr Novogo Fronta will make their Washington debut on October 14, 2006, at 8 pm, performing the show *Dybbuk* at the newly finished Atlas Performing Arts Center on H Street in Washington, DC. The group also will lead a 4-day acting workshop for the local community.

Ales Janak and Irina Andreeva cofounded Teatr Novogo Fronta (TNF) in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1993, but soon relocated the physical theater company to Prague, Czech Republic. Their early work resulted from studying the relationship between the actor's body—the only material being used by the actor—and the performance space.

Teatr Novogo Fronta constructs its performances from images on the frontier between mysticism and abstraction, circus art, and modern dance. With the focus on action rather than words, audience members do not have to speak Czech to understand the performance. TNF is purely physical theater. The group's creativity and stage presentation range in scale and variety from having performed in street festivals, improvised sets and clubs, and in directed plays on classical theater stages across



Photo courtesy of Teatr Novogo Fronta

Europe.


Andreeva presents a solo performance of *Dybbuk*, a show she developed from a Yiddish legend about a *dybbuk*, a disembodied spirit, possessing a living body that belongs to another soul. The word "*dybbuk*" derives from Hebrew meaning "attachment." The *dybbuk* cleaves to a living body, inhabits it, and must be exorcised by a religious rite. In the performance, viewers follow the spirit of a dead person who, for a limited period, occupies a living woman's body, creating a new personality for itself. Andreeva considers one of the most essential elements in her script the idea that *Dybbuk* portrays a disquieted mind that turns things upside down. "It's a foreboding, the reverse side of everything, which doesn't let us sleep or live quietly," she said, adding that the piece does not follow a neat narrative line. "It's a flow of associations, much

more personal."

Theater critics compare TNF's movement to Butoh, a dance form originating in Japan that involves a range of techniques and movements. TNF is cutting-edge physical theater, drawing something new from each show it performs. "Each time I play a solo, I know the chance to perform in that moment won't be

repeated. It's so intense, and gives me a chance to feel the essence of life more deeply," said Andreeva about her *Dybbuk* performance.

Andreeva and Janak also will present a 4-day workshop in English with a two-man technical team from Teatr Novogo Fronta at the Atlas Performing Arts Center on October 16-19 from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. The workshop, divided into three parts and lasting 4 hours per day, guides actors to perform physical and mind exercises in order to delve deeper into understanding the strategy of movement in an actor's training. Participants also experiment with their space and themes that arise from the actor's narration. The performance runs 60 minutes and costs \$25.

For more information about purchasing tickets or participating in the workshop, please call: (202) 274-9105. 

Happy Birthday, Mozart!

At the age of 5, he wrote his first two musical compositions. By 35, he had written over 600. His recordings have sold more than any other musician in the world. Born on January 27, 1756, and christened Joannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theopheilus Mozart, he is known to the world simply as Mozart. His name "Theopheilus" translates as the "beloved of God" or in Latin "Amadeus." He was and continues to be an inspiration, a gifted genius, and 2006 marks the 250th anniversary of his birth.

Although born in Salzburg, Austria, Mozart held a special place in his heart for Prague. He said "Meine Prager verstehen mich" translating as "My Praguers understand me." During his first visit to Prague, he conducted his

opera, *Le Nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*). Subsequently, he received several commissions in Prague and premiered the opera *Don Giovanni* there on October 29, 1787, at the Estates Theater (Stavovske Divadlo), writing the overture only the night before the performance. He later wrote *La Clemenza di Tito* to celebrate Leopold II's

1790 coronation, and attended its Prague premiere in 1791. When he died in Vienna on December 5, 1791, members of the Prague theater orchestra organized a memorial ceremony at the Church of St. Nicholas. While Mozart was




The Estates Theater in Prague is where Mozart premiered *Don Giovanni*

buried with little ceremony in a communal Vienna grave, 4,000 people turned out to honor and remember him in Prague.

In celebration and memory of Mozart, the Embassy will hold a free public screening of Academy Award winning Director Milos Forman's *Amadeus* on November 8, 2006. The next day, Dagmar White will present

a lecture and concert series with local artists on *Mozart and Prague* featuring excerpts from *Don Giovanni* and *La Clemenza di Tito*.

For more information, please call: (202) 274-9105. 

Czechomor Heads for U.S. Tour

The dynamic Czech band Czechomor will bring their What Happened Next Tour to Washington, DC, in September with a show at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on September 28, 2006, at 6 pm followed by a Meet the Band concert and reception at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on September 29, at 7:30 pm.

Deeply rooted in Moravian village music, Czechomor's repertoire reflects the passion and anguish of a region molded by centuries of Ottoman raids, Napoleonic battles, and folk ballads. The band's music focuses on forgotten Czech and Moravian traditional songs that have evolved from the oral tradition of the lower illiterate classes of the 18th and 19th century, peasants working for the aristocracy, and traders carrying merchandise from place to place where songs and stories were sung and told in trade markets. Czechomor's innovation and historical curiosity have renewed these musical traditions with old songs serving as the foundation while the band adds a new twist that captures the spirit of the pieces and translates them into their modern form.

Czechomor's music echoes the Celtic roots of Bohemian and Moravian culture. Its unique mélange of traditional folk mixed with Celtic rhythms, Ottoman dissonance, Gypsy czardas, and Napoleonic mustering dances have won over audiences of young and old alike. The group's innovative usage of traditional music can be heard on the album *Promeny*, recorded in 2001 with the Collegium of Czech Philharmon-



Czechomor from left to right: Roman Lomtadze, Michal Pavlik, Karel Holas, Radek Poboril, and Frantisek Cerny

ics conducted by Jaz Coleman. In response to Czechomor's transformation of the music, Coleman said, "In their music I find beauty and gentle humor, the essence of local culture, the silhouettes of the Czech countryside, and the nature of its people." In 2001, Czechomor received both Band and Album of the Year awards from the Czech Academy.

Their most recent album, *What Happened Next* (Co sa stalo nove), continues to find meaning in traditional melodies, enlivening them with a unique take on centuries-old tunes. "This album keeps drawing themes and songs from old traditional songbooks, but introduces the Czech-Moravian roots of Czechomor to a broader European context and discovers a connection between the fragile world of our traditional songs and the musical dictionary of kindred cultures," said music critic Jan Krumphanzl.

Czechomor has evolved over time from its predecessor, the Czech-Moravian Independent Music Society, established in the spring of 1988, and hails from Svitavy, a small town on the

border of Bohemia and Moravia. One of its founding members, Franta Brenek, died after a long-term fight with cancer in 1996. The group considered breaking up, but it persevered and is now one of the most successful bands in the Czech Republic going platinum in 2005. Czechomor has sold over 200,000 albums and is reputed to be former President Vaclav Havel's favorite group.

Czech vocalist and Angel Award winner Lenka Dusilova will appear with Czechomor. Dusilova began pursuing a musical career at age 10 when she moved to Prague to sing in the legendary Bambini di Praga children's choir. As a teenager, she moved on to hard rock with bands such as Slunicko, and during the early to mid-1990s, sang on two records of the Czech band Lucie.

To purchase tickets for Czechomor's performance at the Embassy of the Czech Republic, please visit:
www.czechomorustour.com.
For additional information, please call: (202) 274-9105. 🇵🇷

Rising Czech Artist Awakens Dreams Through Art

Mila Judge-Furstova is one of Prague's fastest rising artists. In the last few years she has won Print of the Year in the Czech Republic, and presented art to the Queen of the United Kingdom and former Czech President Vaclav Havel.

She works in the mediums of etching and silkscreen on glass, often incorporating paper sculpture and more rarely drawing. Her work is popular for its deep interest inspired by dreams or fables and surrealism in her etchings and the fragility, movement, and originality of her

silkscreens on glass. Her work attracts a variety of viewers. She presents images as diverse as the Tower of Babel, a computer screen, a Roman coliseum, a crab claw, and a Guardian Angel; all in the same picture. Observers have the task of determining what this means to them. Each person viewing her art draws different meanings that leads to stimulating conversation and self realization with others viewing her work.

Ms. Judge-Furstova will present her latest works at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on October 17, at 7 pm. These include



Artist Mila Judge-Furstova meets Queen Elizabeth.

her most monumental silkscreens to date and large scale etchings. "I am opening a gate for the viewer to enter the worlds which I create in my mind, while encouraging projection of one's own interpretations and dreams onto the ambiguous images that I invent," she says. 🇵🇷

Upcoming Embassy Events

(continued from p. 6)

Oct. 14, 8 pm

Theater: Teatr Novogo Fronta at the Atlas Performing Arts Center

For tickets:

www.atlasarts.org or call (202) 399-7993

For workshop information, go to: www.capfringe.org

Dybbuk, freely drawn from Yiddish legend, is a powerful crescendo of visual incantations that evoke the life of a disquieted mind.

Oct. 17, 7 pm

Art Exhibition: Mila Judge-Furstova
Admission: Free

Artist Mila-Furstova's work is executed largely through etching. The ideas embrace and mirror everyday experience entwined with myths, tales, and dreams.

Oct. 19, 7:30 pm

Classical Concert: Washington Musica Viva
Admission: \$20

Washington Musica Viva presents a Czech Music Series of selections by Bohuslav Martinu, Vaclav Nelhybel, and Jaroslav Jezek. The program includes some of Jezek's famous "V+W" cabaret songs.

Nov. 1, 7 pm

Film Screening: *Amadeus*
Directed by: Milos Forman
Admission: Free

Composer rival Antonio Salieri secretly loathes Mozart's crude and bratty personality, but is astounded by the beauty of his music. Envy consumes him, and he remains insecure in the face of a genius—Mozart.

Nov. 9, 7:30 pm

Classical Concert and Lecture: Mozart and Prague
Admission: \$18

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birthday Dagmar White presents a lecture and concert featuring excerpts from *Don Giovanni* and *La Clemenza di Tito*.

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You also may contact:

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(202) 274-9107
or e-mail:

ctn_washington@mzv.cz.

Please write "Czech the News" in the subject line of the e-mail.


Please Respond!

Catch Me If You Can



Photo courtesy of JoAnn Cooper

In addition to the new staff that joined the Embassy this spring, the Embassy family added to its ranks a new fawn born to a doe that makes her home on Embassy grounds. Located on 7 acres of semi-wooded land that abuts the forests of Washington's Rock

Creek Park, the Embassy's wooded hills and lush vegetation serve as an idyllic and safe refuge for wildlife. The fawn, once a wobbly-kneed infant, has grown into a frisky and agile young deer that rarely stays in one place for too long. 

Please Help Us!

The Embassy of the Czech Republic is seeking to document and archive historical U.S. papers from the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918. If you know of letters, photographs, diaries, or other printed memorabilia from the era leading up to the establishment of Czechoslovakia, including documents produced during the Wilson presidency, World War I, the writing and signing of the Czechoslovak constitution, and earlier, please contact:

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