

Guitar Concert of Fulfilled Dreams

Štěpán RAK

16 June 2016, 18.00-19.30

Tempeliaukio Church, Lutherinkatu 3, Helsinki

Programme:

1. **Parthia di Bohemia**, Ivan Jelínek, Czech baroque composer
2. **Andante cantabile**, Václav Tomáš Matějka, Czech classical composer/guitarist, friend of L. V. Beethoven
3. **Vivat Carolus Quartus**, Štěpán Rak; Tribute to 700th anniversary of the birth of the King of Bohemia and Roman Emperor Charles IV
4. **Song for David** (King, Old Testament), Štěpán Rak
5. **Tribute to Countries of Visegrad Group** (Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Czech Republic)
6. **Tribute to Kalevala**, Štěpán Rak; dedicated to Finnish friends

Štěpán RAK

Czech composer and guitarist



Štěpán Rak (born in 1945), the first appointed university professor of the guitar studies in the Czech Republic, studied initially graphic art and painting at the Fine Arts School in Prague. At the age of eighteen he started playing the guitar and the double-bass in various jazz and Rock'n'Roll bands. Then he studied guitar and composition at the Prague Conservatory, where the astonishing career of this outstanding composer and performer began. After he graduated he moved to Finland (Jyväskylä) where he worked, taught and lived for five years. His reputation as a brilliant guitarist and an innovative composer spread worldwide. His relationship to Finland is expressed in his composition "Tribute to Kalevala".

Štěpán Rak is an excellent performer and a unique composer ranking to the elite of the classical guitar. He is well known for the technical innovations that he uses in his compositions. His five-finger guitar technique captivates audiences throughout the world. He has performed and given master-classes in more than seventy countries. He composed countless pieces for different instruments and ensembles including a symphony orchestra but the majority of his work is dedicated to the solo guitar.