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Transformation of Opera Productions through COVID-19 in the Czech Republic

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Czech Republic



Culture in Czech Republic during COVID-19

- all types of events forbidden (1st wave)
- culture establishments forced to close (2nd wave)
- seasons 2019/20 and 2020/21
- adapting to online environment
- multiple approaches
- 3 biggest theatre scenes



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National Theatre Prague

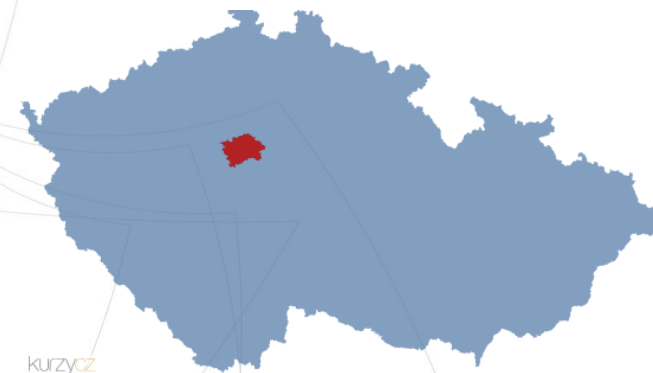
most notable, the biggest

January 5th, 2020 – opening of
newly renovated opera dome

Národní  divadlo

- 2 opera sets
- social media posts from performers
- 3 COVID-19 opera premieres
- online concerts
- Christmas-time online project
- the least engaged during COVID-19
- lagged behind in online broadcasts

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State Opera
1st theatre set



National Theatre Prague
1st theatre set



The Estates Theatre
2nd theatre set



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National Theatre Brno

2nd biggest

3 buildings

NdB **Národní
divadlo
Brno**

- most active
- 5 COVID-19 opera premieres
- 6 open air performances
- *Musical riddles* – online project
- supporting video clip
- *Step behind the curtain* – online version
- dozens of online opera performances, concerts, etc.
- despite all limitations - original dramaturgical plan (no production cancelled)

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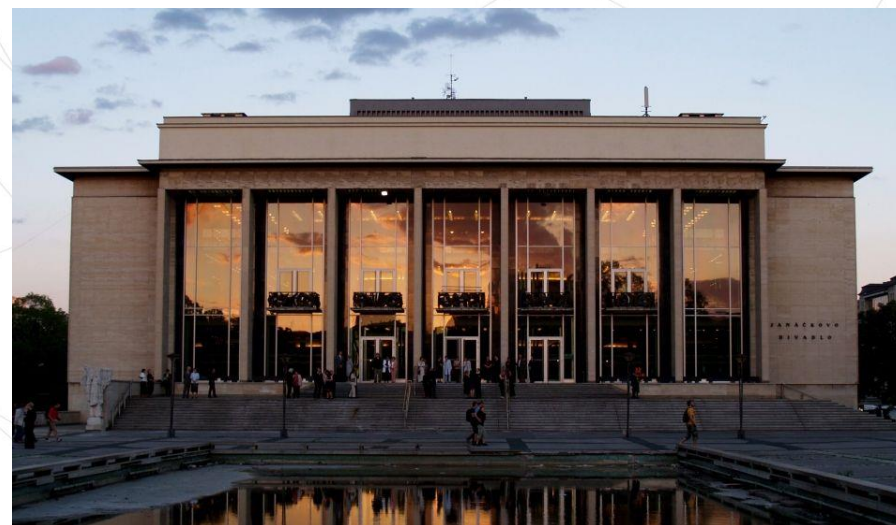




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National Theatre Brno
Mahen Theatre



National Theatre Brno
Janáček Theatre



National Theatre Brno
Reduta Theatre



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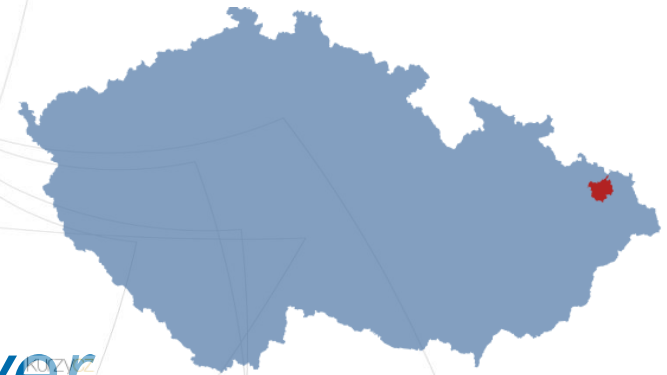
**National Moravian-Silesian Theatre
Ostrava**

3 buildings, four-component

**NÁRODNÍ DIVADLO
MORAVSKOSLEZSKÉ**



- *Theatre under cover* – streaming programme
- 5 COVID international opera premieres
- Czech composer's concerts, opera premieres
- 1 CD, 1 book
- significant increase in COVID concerts production





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National Moravian-Silesian Theatre
Myron Theatre



National Moravian-Silesian Theatre
Dvořák Theatre



National Moravian-Silesian Theatre
Theatre 12



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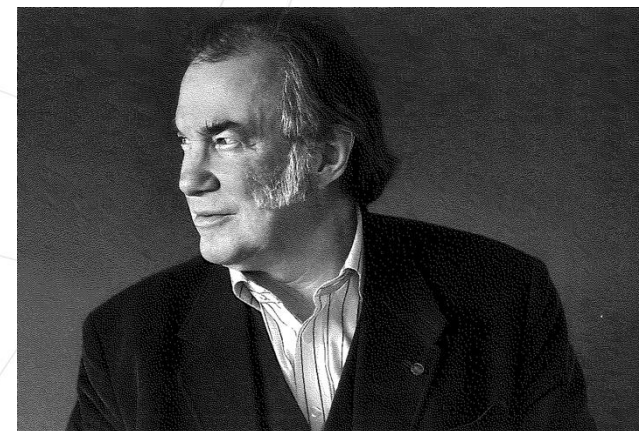
Dalibor Bedřich Smetana

case study – opera performance

National Theatre, Brno

premiere: February 2nd, 2024

dir. David Poutney





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Opera

Time: 15th century

Place: Prague

- opera in 3 acts (production in Brno – 2 main parts)
- synopsis





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Performance

- production influenced by COVID-19:
 - intimate scenography
 - interactive stage design
 - online broadcasts within the performance
 - relatable cold environment
- symbols - acknowledged musical instruments on stage (Zdeněk)
- Northern Ireland – The Troubles (Bobby Sands)





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PERFORMANCE VIDEOS



Sources

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Thank You for Your Attention