



ONDRÁŠEK

**CZECH YOUTH AND CHILDREN
CHOIR**

Wednesday, July 2, 2014

7:00PM

Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden in Astoria

ONDRÁŠEK CZECH YOUTH AND CHILDREN CHOIR

Ondrášek, a choir from Nový Jičín (the Czech Republic), leads a wonderful life of a big family of musicians. It is a story of hard work, discipline and training, but also a story of an extraordinary community of children and young people who are linked together by love for Czech and Moravian songs, common experiences from the journeys around three continents, gratifying applause from audiences during the concerts and exhilarating delight in winning various national and international competitions and festivals.

The name of the choir was chosen by Václav Ptáček (born 1930), the founder of the choir, in spring 1967 as a synonym for free and open-minded youth. The word is inspired by a living legend of a Moravian outlaw Ondráš (actually, the word Ondrášek is a deminutive for both Ondráš and Ondřej (Andrew), a common Czech name). Full 25 years of existence of the choir is connected with the name of the founder which has always represented untiring work of conductor and composer. Thanks to professor Ptáček, Ondrášek has become a popular concert ensemble highly regarded and respected by the general musical and professional public.

In 1992, Josef Zajíček assumes the conductor's baton; he was one of the first members of the choir. There comes a brand new chapter in the life of the choir; a great success in the home country is followed by a lot of prizes at the international choir competitions and festivals. The name Ondrášek is to be heard on the most prominent stages around Europe. The choir wins in Arezzo (1995), Llangollen (2000), makes trips to Japan (1998), South Africa (2000), gives concerts at Ural (2004), travels to China (2012) and visits almost all European countries.

At home, the choir cooperates with many Czech major interprets and composers (Otmar Mácha, Petr Eben, Ilja Hurník, Antonín Tučapský). Ondrášek became a notable promoter of choir singing, the choir organizes musical programmes for children and young people, workshops for young conductors and since 1996, nationwide children's choir competition is regularly arranged by the choir. Over the whole time of existence, Ondrášek has cooperated with radio and television studios. The choir has shot several series of musical programmes for youth for the Czech Television, and recorded 8 CDs.

Ondrášek and its leadership have been awarded by a lot of remarkable prizes and awards for the long-standing and systematic work in the field of culture and education.

The most outstanding prizes at the international competitions:

1995	Arezzo - Italy	1st Prize
1996	Llangollen-North Wales	1st Prize
2000	Prague- Czech Republic	1st Prize - Petr Eben Prize
2006	Neerpelt- Belgium	1st Prize - Cum Laude
2007	La Valletta-Malta	1st Prize
2008	Prague - Czech Republic	1st Prize - Grand prix
2008	Bratislava - Slovakia	1st Prize - Grand prix Pentathlon
2008	Amiens - France	1st Prize - Grand prix
2010	Cork - Ireland	3rd Prize
2011	Tallin - Estonia	3rd Prize
2012	Guengzhou - China	Platinum medal
2013	Torun - Poland	Gold diploma

For more information about the choir please visit www.ondraseknj.cz.