

Music in the Czech lands 1750-1830

(also music by czech composers outside Czech lands)

Jan Václav Stamic (1717-1757) MANNHEIM

František Xaver Brixl (1732-1771) PRAGUE

Jiří Antonín Benda (1722-1795) GOTHA

Anton Rössler Rosetti (ca1750-1792) GERMANY

Antonín Rejcha (1770-1836) PARIS

Václav Jan Křtitel Tomášek (1770-1850) PRAGUE

Jan Václav Hugo Voříšek (1791-1825) VIENNA

Jan Václav Stamic (1717-1757)

- Born in Německý Brod, studied at jesuit college in Jihlava and later Prague (gymnasium, university)
- „Composer, violinist and teacher. He ranks among the most important early Classical symphonists and was influential in making the court of the Elector Palatine at **Mannheim** a leading centre of orchestral performance and composition“ (GROVE).
- Sinfonia pastorale op. 4/2 (Presto)
- Organ concerto No. VI F major (Allegro)
positiv, 2 violins, viola, double-bass only,
harpsichord

František Xaver Brixl (1732-1771)

- Son of a church musician, studied at piarist gymnasium. 1759 appointed Kapellmeister of St Vít Cathedral (the highest position in Prague and in the country).
- Best known and probably most influential composer in Czech lands with an output ca 500 works, mostly sacred music: masses, litanies, oratorios, works for so called *Musica navalis*.
- Missa di Gloria (mid of the 18th century, together 45 minutes)
Gloria + Et in terra (chorus, strings, 2 clarini, organ)
- Sinfonia in C minor (Allegro molto)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVUS6lZIkjM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNHDJ5IkXdE&feature=related>

„Bixi was one of the leading musical figures of mid-18th-century Bohemia. His tremendous output of about 500 works was rooted in the Neapolitan style... Bixi's style is distinguished from that of his contemporaries by its fresh melodic writing, vivacious rhythm and lively bass lines, and from that of his predecessors by its simple yet effective instrumentation. He often made use of folk music in his works. During his lifetime his music was widely disseminated in Bohemia and Moravia, as well as in other countries... He had a profound effect on Bohemian musical taste, and Mozart's favourable reception in Prague in the 1780s was at least partly due to Bixi's lasting influence. The easy appeal of his musical style left an impression on Czech composers for the rest of the 18th century“ (GROVE).

Cítoliby

- Village situated 60 kilometres to the northwest from Prague with flourishing artistic activity, initiated by the art-loving noble family Pachtas of Rájov.
- Group of musicians, concentrated at the local court, active also at the village church. Václav Jan Kopřiva (1708-1789) was the leading person for so called Citoliby School – ca six musicians/composers from the following generation.
- Karel Blažej Kopřiva (+1785): Fuga-Pastorella in C

Jiří Antonín Benda (1722-1795)

- Son of a bohemian musician, studied at piarist gymnasium in Kosmonosy (as Brixi) and later at jesuit gymnasium, 1742 emigrated with his parents and sister to Prussia to join his brothers as violinist in the court orchestra.
- 1750 appointed Kapellmeister of the dukes court at Gotha. Composed church music and stage works, esp. Melodramas (first Ariadne on Naxos, 1775, appreciated by Mozart, followed by Medea and Pygmalion).

Synopsis (Ariadne on Naxos, premiere 1775)

Ariadne (spoken role), having fled from Crete with Theseus (spoken role), awakens on the desolate island of Naxos to learn that he has abandoned her. Feelings of disbelief, anger, grief and love swirl in her mind along with tender memories. A storm mounts and at its height she throws herself from a cliff into the sea (GROVE).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybJPvg4WI6w>

Anton Rössler Rosetti (ca1750-1792)

- studied at jesuits in Prague
His Requiem of 1776 was used at a memorial ceremony for Mozart in Prague in 1791.
- Oratorio Jesus in Gethsemane (1790)
- Cantata Halleluiah
- Number of instrumental compositions for wind instruments

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBWmcDgfvfY>