

CZECH MUSIC AFTER 1945

Novák, Eben, Husa

Jan Novák (1921-1984)

- Studied 1947 with Aaron Copland and Bohuslav Martinů in US, returned to Czechoslovakia on the 25th of February 1948 (day of communist takeover).
- After Soviet invasion in August 1968 emigrated (Denmark, Italy, Germany)

Examples:

- Missa Philadelphiae (1952): for the wedding of composer's brother
- Oratorium Dido (1967): for mezzo, speaker, male choir and orchestra

Karel Husa (1921)

- American composer and conductor of Czech birth.
- In 1947 he studied with Arthur Honegger and Nadia Boulanger.
- In 1954 he joined the music faculty at Cornell University (he became an American citizen in 1959).
- Music for Prague (1968)

Petr Eben (1929-2007)

- Composer and pianist, organ player.
- Acknowledged mostly for his compositions for organ.
- Number of church compositions, often cites chant melodies or medieval hymns.
- Te Deum for Prague 1989

Petr Eben

- Music for me is not mainly something that sounds, but something that addresses people. I take it not as something that creates acoustic space but as something that creates space for me and you. For me music is an encounter. An encounter with the listener, a way of addressing them, a kind of message, an encounter with God in prayer or praise. I am always concerned with the addressee. I am not only interested in how a tone sounds, but also how a tone is heard, not only what its timbre is, but also how the timbre is perceived. A composition is not for me a deflated balloon but a balloon thrown into the air and waiting for hands to catch it.

Music for films

- Zdeněk Liška
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dstdn9jjth4>
- Luboš Fišer
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ROCrI5Aunc>
- Jan Novák
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xxk-pZyvbE&feature=related>