

Notes:



Společnost pro vědy a umění (SVU)
Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences
New York Chapter
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6-MINUTE CHALLENGE #14

Wednesday, MARCH 22, 2023
Bohemian National Hall, 3rd fl.
321 E 73 St., NYC



Produced by Suzanna Halsey
Moderated by Christopher Harwood, PhD

Program

PRESENTERS *(in order of appearance)*

Pavel Semerák

Viktor Dvořák

Eva Giannone

Michala Metzler

Jaroslav Borovička

Jaroslav Bendl

Irena Michalčík

Eva Jamníková

Tomas Jamník

Q&A

Light wine reception and networking

Please hold your questions until the Q&A, after the last presentation.
The event will be recorded and later posted on our YouTube Channel.

The SVU 6-MINUTE CHALLENGE is a series conceived in 2014 by Suzanna Halsey for SVU New York. Czech and Slovak students, scholars, scientists, artists, and professionals are challenged to present themselves their work, project or subject of their studies in six minutes, or less, and in the language appropriate for a non-expert audience..



Tomáš Jamník is a cellist and currently, a Fulbright scholar at Julliard School in New York. Born in Prague, he graduated from the Prague Academy of Performing Arts, and continued his studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Leipzig and at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. In 2006, he won the Prague Spring International Music Competition and was a finalist at the Pierre Fournier Award 2011 in London. Tomáš has performed extensively with top international orchestras in Europe, U.S. and Asia. In 2016, he founded a project *Vážný zájem* (Serious Interest), organizing classical music concerts in people's homes. Tomáš premiered works by lesser known Czech composers such as Miroslav Srnka, Jan Ryant Dřízal, Michal Nejtek, Slavomír Hořinka, Jiří Gemrot and Ondřej Kukul. Since 2015, he has served as the artistic director of the Czech Chamber Music Academy, and since 2019 as the artistic director of the Ševčík Academy. Tomáš plays the 1784 Lorenzo Storioni violoncello.

Note: Tomáš will perform Antonin Dvořák's *Largo* on Sunday, March 26 at the DAHA's Spring Musicale at Bohemian National Hall.

Contact: www.tomasjamnik.cz

Special thanks to **Helena Fisera** and **Jiří Mírovský!**



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We welcome your comments, suggestions, skills, and/or donations.

SVU-NewYork Chapter is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization promoting Czech and Slovak intellectual history and heritage through lectures, presentations, film screenings, and readings at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City.

Visit our YouTube Channel for the past events:

www.youtube.com/c/CzechoslovakSocietyofArtsandSciencesSVUNY

Our events are made possible by the support of
the **Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA)**.



Irena Michalčík, educator and OCR athlete, grew up in Strani, a small Moravian village on the border with Slovakia, surrounded by traditional south-Moravian folklore, where she developed her love for music and culture. In 2006, she received her MA in Education (Music and Russian Language and Literature) from Masaryk University in Brno. Later she moved to Wyoming and then to Montana, starting her career as a Music Educator in public schools. Later, she was in charge of the World Music Program in two middle schools in Bozeman, MT. There she quickly

grew to love the outdoors and active lifestyle. In 2014, she found a new challenge, Spartan Race, and became the champion in her age group at the 2019 Spartan US National Championship. Since 2018, after moving to New York, Irena has been teaching music at OWN2 Charter School (International Baccalaureate School), and the Czech language at the Czech School in Astoria where she coaches students for various cultural performances, as well.

Interests and Hobbies: Functional fitness and healthy lifestyle, video/photo shooting and editing, traveling, music.

Contact: IG @iriland, LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/irena-michalcik-m-ed-54450a46/



Eva Jamníková is a violinist and music educator, born in Prague and based in Berlin. She graduated from Hochschule für Musik Carl Maria von Weber in Dresden, mentored by Ivan Ženatý, and continued her studies at Kunstuniversität Graz under the mentorship of Eszter Haffner. During her studies, she became a member of the Dresden Philharmonic, later she was a member of the Neubrandenburger Philharmonie and Kammerorchester Berlin. After the birth of her second child, she decided to pursue more connections between music and other artistic genres, such as move-

ment and visual arts, exploring the possibilities of cultivating auditory sensitivity, especially by young children. She studied Elementary Music Education at Universität der Künste in Berlin and founded a project *Nastraž uši* (Perk up Your Ears!) She is currently a music teacher at Musikschule in Berlin Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg and MusikPlus! in Charlottenburg, and also heads an *Otakárek* class at the Otakar Ševčík Academy in Horažďovice, Czech Republic.

Interests a Hobbies: traveling, reading, photography, swimming

Contact: www.sevcikacademy.cz, www.nastrazusi.cz



Pavel Semerák, a Prague native, studied at the Czech Technical University and has worked for the Czech Foreign Ministry since 1996 as an architect/engineer, lived in Libya, Sweden, and in the USA. Between 1999 and 2011, he was instrumental in renovating the Bohemian National Hall. Pavel manages teams working on renovation projects of Czech embassies in Stockholm, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Oslo, Tokyo, Seoul, Tbilisi, The Hague and Washington, D.C. A founding member of Lacrosse in the Czech Republic, he is a three-time European Vice-Champion player. After his athletic career, he served as coach and a General Manager of Czech Lacrosse at multiple World and European Championships over the past 20 years, and as President of the Czech Lacrosse Association.

Interests and Hobbies: lacrosse, hockey, biking, music, photography, traveling

Contact: bnh.team@gmail.com, IG: @semerakpavel



Viktor Dvořák, a native of Brno, Czech Republic, graduated in international relations at the Prague University of Economics and from the Law Faculty of Charles University. In 1999, he started his diplomatic career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Focusing on international security-related multilateral diplomacy, he worked at the Security Policy Department and the UN Department of the Czech MFA. As part of his diplomatic career, he served abroad on the following missions: 2001-2006 as a junior diplomat at the Czech Permanent Delegation to NATO in Brussels and in 2008-2012 as a Deputy Ambassador at the Czech Permanent Mission to OSCE (*Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*) in Vienna. Since 2017, he has been serving as a Counsellor at the European Union Delegation to the UN in New York.

Interests and Hobbies: History and international relations, hiking, biking, and traveling. When not working (a rare sight!) you can find him playing competitive volleyball, baseball, or tennis.

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Contact: viktor.dvorak@eeas.europa.eu



Eva (Peštuková) Giannone, a baker and natural medicine promoter, was born in Olomouc, Czech Republic. As a teenager, her family moved to Prague, where she studied at Hotel and Restaurant High School. After graduating, she worked at a travel agency inspiring her to come to New York. Her love and passion for the hospitality business led her to work at well-known establishments such as Amy's Bread, where she worked as a general manager. That is when she realized that her

true passion was baking and started her own baking business specializing in cookies. She had the opportunity to collaborate with numerous event planners, the Czech Consulate and the Czech Center, and other companies to supply their Holiday gifting. In early 2020 she opened a dealership for a Czech company, Energy a.s., which manufactures and distributes herbal supplements, and became a consultant and a therapist for Energy USA, helping her clients to become and stay healthy.

Interests and Hobbies: Traveling, biking, cooking, Broadway shows, healthy lifestyle.

Contact: Eva@product.energy



Michala (Hlaváčková) Metzler, is a designer and philanthropist. Born in Uherské Hradiště, she studied at International German School. In 2010, she founded her kitchen design studio in Prague and in 2013, she was invited to work in NYC to integrate German kitchen brands in the USA. In 2017, Michala founded a nonprofit, *My Life MyPlanet*, to facilitate the interconnectivity of Eastern healing methods with Western medical systems. With her husband, she runs a bioresearch company in Tel Aviv and Rwanda, studying the use of cassava on Covid 19 and cooperating with the Bill Gates Foundation. In 2021, they founded

OYA New Earth to create a digital platform and luxury futuristic sustainable resorts delivering a transformative holistic body-mind-spirit experience, from neuroscience and biohacking to plant medicine and indigenous wisdom. The guest can connect with the best therapists, shamans, healers, or innovators. Michala and her husband also take care of their five children.

Interests and Hobbies: her work, travels, art, skiing, and tennis

Contact: OYANewEarth.com, MyLifeMyPlanet.org



Jaroslav Borovička was born in Mladá Boleslav, an industrial town in the Czech Republic. He came to the U.S. for his graduate studies and received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. Currently, he is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics at New York University, having previously worked for the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago and Minneapolis. In his research, he focuses on macroeconomic modeling, financial markets, and decision-making under uncertainty. He is the proud father of two daughters,

Interests and Hobbies: hiking and running.

Contact: jaroslav.borovicka@nyu.edu



Jaroslav Bendl, a native of Vysoké Mýto, is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. After receiving his PhD in 2016, he came to New York, lured by an opportunity to be one of the first analysts in a newly established research group. It focused on revealing regulatory mechanisms beyond various neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative diseases through the epigenomics lens. Jaroslav is a co-author of over 30 research articles, a former recipient of the Young Investigator Award from the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation (2019-2021) and a current holder of

the Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship (2021-2023). Apart from professional reasons, he never fell in love with the city. Therefore, he currently resides in White Plains, enjoying bicycle riding on picturesque Westchester roads.

Interests and Hobbies: cycling, rock climbing

Contact: jaroslav.bendl@mssm.edu