

The Czech and Slovak  
**SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
Společnost pro vědy a umění (SVU)

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The Fifth  
**6-Minute Challenge**

In cooperation with the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic.

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00pm  
Bohemian National Hall  
321 E 73 St, New York City

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## Moderated by Christopher Harwood, PhD

*Please hold your questions until the Q&A after the last presentation.  
Use the back page for your notes.*

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### PRESENTERS *(in order of appearances)*



**Andrea Cumpelik** was born in Queens, and also spent much of her life in the Czech Republic with her Czech family. She is finishing her Bachelor's in neuroscience at NYU, where she also does research on associations between reward and place, and how they go wrong in addiction. She has presented her work at the annual Society for Neuroscience conferences in 2015 and 2016, as well as the Max Planck's Symposium conference. After graduation she plans on pursuing a PhD in Europe and continuing a career in neuroscience research. She currently serves as the president of NYU's Society for Undergraduate Neural Science, and contributes to the Medical Dialogue Review, a student-run journal at NYU. She strongly believes that more scientists should know how to communicate their work to the general public who are funding them, especially in the light of recent political events.

**Hobbies, interests:** teaching yoga, playing the violin (badly), discussing science

**Contact:** acumpelik@nyu.edu



**Josef Machač**, MD, was born in Přerov, Czechoslovakia and lived in Olomouc until 1964, when his family emigrated and settled in the town of Bohemia on Long Island, NY. He received his bachelor and MD degrees in 1975 and 1978, respectively, at Brown University, and received postgraduate training at the Mount Sinai Hospital in NY. From 1986 until 1995, he headed the stress ECG and nuclear cardiology laboratory at Mount

Sinai. In 1992, he became Director of Nuclear Medicine, and in 2003, Professor of Radiology and Medicine. Dr. Machač has authored or co-authored 120 scientific papers in peer-reviewed publications, and 18 book chapters, and has trained numerous residents and fellows. He retired in July 2016. For the last 3 years, he has been volunteering part-time as a general internist and cardiologist at the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI) clinic in Hackensack, NJ for working people who cannot afford health insurance, where he was asked last year to organize an obesity treatment program. Josef has been an active member of the Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences (SVU) since 1980.

**Hobbies, interests:** beekeeping, brewing beer, travel and reading, folk dancing, Yoga, Tai Chi and other martial arts.

**Contact:** josefmachac14@gmail.com 2



**Magdalena Urbánková**, born in Prague, has spent the last 20 years in the lovely Garden State. She received her BA in History and Political Science from William Paterson University. She studied art privately. Currently, she studies with Julie Friedman. Besides her paintings and murals she also creates art lessons promoting Czech cultural heritage and history and supporting bi-lingualism in Czech-American children. Each art project introduces a Czech artist, such as Josef Čapek, František Kupka, and Josef Lada. Currently, she is working on developing art projects based on the lives of persons of Czech heritage in the US and how the

immigrant experience of their families influenced their lives. The series will include persons of Czech heritage both from the past such as Eugene Cernan, Anton Cermak, Louis Brandeis, and from the present, Meda Mládková and Madeleine Albright.

**Hobbies, interests:** art, history and politics

**Contact:** [mu@urbanek.info](mailto:mu@urbanek.info); <https://magdamurals.wordpress.com/current-work/>

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**Anna Rathkopf** lived in Prague until 2005 when she met her American husband and moved to New York City. She received her MA in Jewish Studies from the Charles University in Prague, and continued her work at the Center for Jewish History and then at the NYS Holocaust Claims Processing Office in New York. Her love for reading and photography led her naturally to blogging. At first, her blog was intended for her Czech friends. It gained popularity and was nominated for a Czech blogging award. Her husband suggested writing it in English as well. The idea of an English blog *Czech Mom NYC* took a real turn this December

when Anna was diagnosed with breast cancer. She and her husband, a professional photographer, decided to create a project called *HER2*. HER2 is the name of a protein that indicates a more aggressive type of cancer - but also a dark play on words. The goal of this project is to raise awareness about the possibility of cancer in people under 40 and the importance of relationships and love during adversity.

**Hobbies, interests:** photography, travelling, reading and writing, theatre and art, hiking and backpacking

**Contact:** [annarathkopf@gmail.com](mailto:annarathkopf@gmail.com); <https://czechmomnyc.com>



**Barbora Gregusová** is a PhD student in Music Theory at Columbia University. She was born in Presov and grew up in Bratislava, Slovakia. She holds a B.M., *magna cum laude*, in Music Theory and Composition and an M.M. with dual concentration in Music Theory and Musicology from the University of New Mexico. Her master's thesis, titled "Reconsidering Fibich's *Šárka*: Myth, Gender, and the Construction of a Nation," explores late nineteenth-century Czech opera using feminist analytical frameworks. Barbora has presented her

work at various conference venues, including the regional meetings of the Rocky Mountain Society for Music Theory and the West Coast Conference for Music Theory and Analysis, and the International Academic Conference on Czech Music. Supported by the Columbia GSAS Fellowship, Barbora's current research examines constructions of identities (nationality, gender, sexuality, etc.) in late nineteenth- and early twentieth century Czech opera.

**Hobbies, interests:** Yoga, cooking, and exploring fine dining in NYC

**Contact:** bg2538@columbia.edu

CANCELLED!



**Jan Zika** is a media expert and former Czech Television news anchor with a PhD from the Institute of Economic Studies of Charles University in Prague. He worked briefly in investment banking, but followed his passion for audio-visual media to become an executive producer and host at Z1, the Czech Republic's first private TV news channel. He subsequently hosted his own business news show, conceived the first continuous finance-focused programming in Czech history, and led the redesign and rebranding of the channel. In 2011, Jan moved to Czech Television where he

presented over 2000 hours of live programming and was recognized for reviving the company's presentation style and increasing audience engagement. Since 2015 he has worked for NBCUniversal managing on-air graphics design and implementing projects for NBC News and MSNBC, including NBC's 2016 general election augmented reality graphics.

**Hobbies, interests:** travel, cinematography, fine arts, visual presentation

**Contact:** janzika@gmail.com



**Elizabeth Molnar Rajec**, PhD, professor emerita of Germanic languages and literature, was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. She escaped to Austria by crossing the Iron Curtain. Since 1957 she has lived in New York where she gets to use all five of the languages she can speak fluently. While studying, she supported herself by working in the fashion industry. She graduated from Columbia University (BS) and Rutgers University (MLS). In 1974, she received her PhD from CUNY with a dissertation on onomastics in the works of Franz Kafka. Later, she worked

as a university librarian. In 1980, she was a Fulbright scholar researching Ferenc Molnar in Budapest, Hungary. She has served as president of the Kafka Society of America. She has published extensively on Franz Kafka, Ferenc Molnar and on literary onomastics. She has exhibited her kaleidoscopic photomontages in twelve solo exhibits. Elizabeth is also a longtime member of the PEN Club and the SVU.

**Hobbies, interests:** music and photography

**Contact:** [erajec@yahoo.com](mailto:erajec@yahoo.com)



**Adela Wagner** is a New York-based photographer, visual activist and lighting designer. In her projects she transforms contemporary social issues into visual concepts with which she hopes to provoke questions and debate, and raise awareness to contribute to change. Adela's artistic journey started in Prague, Czech Republic, and continued with residencies and exhibitions throughout Europe. She received her BA from the University of Economics in Prague, Czech Republic; She later studied at The International Center of Photography in New York, where

she was a teaching assistant. Her work received a prize in the Alter Ego European competition on cultural diversity, and since then it has been exhibited in more than 22 countries of Europe, as well as around the USA. Her project *All People Are* is currently continuing its tour through the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, and the USA.

**Hobbies, interests:** Creating music, and discovering new coffee shops while biking the streets of Brooklyn.

**Contact:** [info@adelawagner.com](mailto:info@adelawagner.com); [www.adelawagner.com](http://www.adelawagner.com)



**Karolína Syrovátková**, DMA, is an internationally recognized pianist called by ABQ Review "a true poet of the piano." Born in Prague, Karolína began her professional music studies at the Prague Conservatory in the Czech Republic. In 2002 she moved to the USA to pursue her studies. She is the winner of several international competitions including the North London and the Sidney M. Wright Presidential Competition. She received her BM from the University of Maryland, and MM and DMA from the University of Texas at Austin *summa cum laude*. Her project

about Janáček's music *In Search of a Vanished Present* has been nominated for several awards." Karolína has frequently appeared in concerts and master classes in Europe, North and South America and China. As a conductor, Karolína performed at the EAMA festival at the "L'École normale" in Paris. She is currently recording the entire piano works of Leoš Janáček. Karolína created a classical music series *Living with the Great Composers* incorporating dramatic performances into her concerts.

**Hobbies, interests:** hiking fourteeners in Colorado, mountaineering, painting, photography, dancing ballroom and Latin dances, getting a private pilot license, practicing yoga, tai-chi, teaching the Alexander technique to injured musicians.

**Contact:** [www.karolinasyrovatkova.com](http://www.karolinasyrovatkova.com)

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*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 the subject of their studies or project in six minutes or less and in language appropriate for a non-expert audience.*

Produced by [czechmatters](http://czechmatters.com)

*Special thanks to Jiří Mírovský for his technical support.*

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& LITERARY ASSOCIATION

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



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## Upcoming Event!

Wednesday, May 17 at 7pm

### The Czech Republic and The United Nations



A presentation and a panel discussion

Moderated by Jiří Ellinger, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN.

Meet diplomats of the Czech Mission to the UN and find out what keeps them busy, worries them and makes them laugh at work. Get the inside scoop on both, serious and not so serious matters: *How strong is the voice of the Czech Republic?* or *Why do national delegations serve free ice cream at the UN?* You will be able to ask other questions during the Q&A.

Organized by Czech and Slovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) in New York and the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the UN.

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## JOIN US!



The Czech and Slovak  
**SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**Společnost pro vědy a umění (SVU)** 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.

We welcome your membership, suggestions, support and collaboration on any future programs.

**Contact:** [newyork@svu2000.org](mailto:newyork@svu2000.org)

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