

Foreword



EMBASSY OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC



To open a series of events to celebrate the Czech Republic's National Day, we are delighted to present this concert at the Leighton House Museum. Tonight's concert is an initiative of our London Embassy and LACCS, and will showcase the outstanding contribution of Czechs to the world's musical heritage.

I am honoured to present the talented Czech guitarist Vladislav Bláha in what will be his second solo performance at this venue. Vladislav studied at the Brno Conservatory of Music under Arnošt Sádlick and at the Liszt College of Music in Weimer, Germany, with Roland Zimmer. Completing his studies, he attended masterclasses by Costas Cotsiolis (Greece) and Abel Carlevaro (Uruguay). The British Council awarded Vladislav a grant to study under Gordon Crosskey at the Royal Northern College of Music and with John W. Duarte in London.

Vladislav Bláha has given concerts in most European countries as well as in the United States, Asia and Latin America. At present he teaches at the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno and frequently gives masterclasses and performs at international festivals. As a soloist he has recorded six CDs and has participated in ten other CD projects.

Tonight's programme includes a selection of guitar pieces from around the world. European music is represented by Manuel de Falla (1876-1946), *Pantomima*, *Farruca* and *La Vida Breve*. Other composers are Nikita Koshkin (b.1956) with his *Usher Waltz* and the British John W. Duarte (1919-2006) with his *Americana Opus 96*. Latin America is represented by Jorge Cardoso (Argentina) with *Dos Temas De Milonga* and Carlos Atilano (Venezuela) with *El Editor* and *Valse de Vladislav*, a World Première especially written for tonight's concert and dedicated to Bláha.

Czech music is represented by two outstanding personalities of the European classical guitar tradition. Vladislav Bláha will play *Sonata* by Antonín Tůčapský (b.1928) and *Elegy* and *Hora - Romanian Dance* by Štěpán Rak (b.1945).

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the sponsors for contributing to the success of this event, as well as my cordial thanks to the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society for its kind support in organizing this musical evening in the United Kingdom.

Jan Winkler
Ambassador

London, 24th October 2006