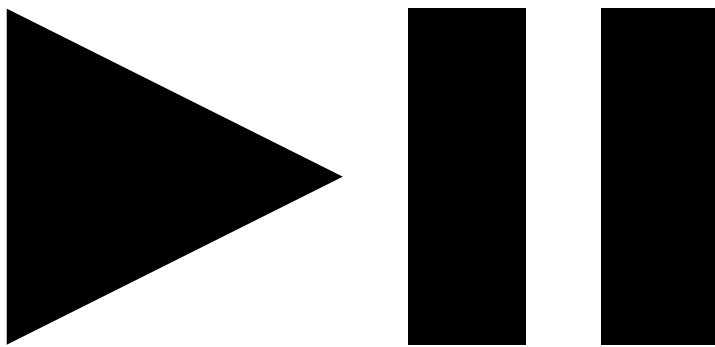


# THE GALLERY OF MUSIC 17TH YEAR



A Series of Chamber Concerts  
↳ The Concert Hall of the County House

## Press Release

The Gallery of Music is a series of chamber concerts focused on providing a better understanding of classical music from all historical periods including the current one. In 2022, we will present important pieces of both solo and chamber music from various historical periods including the current one. Pieces by international and national composers will be performed by successful musicians who have established themselves on the national and international art scenes.

The main purpose of the concert series is to support high-quality concert art that can be developed in an architecturally and acoustically unique concert space – the Concert Hall of the County House featuring a piano from Steinway & Sons.

## The Spring Gallery of Music will present:

May 24, 2022, 6pm

Ensemble Ricercata

Helga Varga Bach (soprano)

Ivan Šiller (piano)

## Concert Programme:

Charles Ives: 114 Songs (selection)

Majority	Lincoln, the Great Commoner
Evening	Remembrance
The Last Reader	Resolution
At Sea	The Indians
Immortality	The Housatonic at Stockbridge
The New River	Religion
Disclosure	Grantchester
The Rainbow	Incantation
a) Duty; b) Vita	The Greatest Man
Charlie Rutlage	Hymn

## More Information About the Programme

The piano player Ivan Šiller and soprano Helga Varga Bach will perform a selection of twenty songs at their concert in Nitra in order to illustrate the wide range of Ives' creativity and compositional variability.

The American composer Charles Ives (1874 – 1954) is an important personality of the American music culture. However, his visionary approach to music still leaves a lot to be discovered as even today, we keep finding new contexts within his works.

Songs play an important role in Ives' compositions, they used to guide him throughout his whole life. Altogether, he wrote around 200 songs while 114 of them he prepared for publishing himself (1922). In this regard, he followed the Austrian-German tradition from the 19th century when composers such as Schubert, Schumann or Brahms would create series of songs, the so-called Lieder. Ives draws inspiration from various life situations and experiences and reflects upon his American patriotism, religiousness and spirituality. A cowboy ballad Charlie Rutlage, an ecologically focused song The New River, his respect for democracy and humanity in the song Lincoln, the Great Commoner, but also his contemplation of living and non-living things in the song Immortality, these are just some of the themes the composer felt strongly about at the time. He uses them to turn poetry and also his own texts into music.

## More Information About the Performers

IVAN ŠILLER is a concert piano player, conductor and organiser of music and educational projects. He studied piano in Bratislava (the Academy of Performing Arts) and Ghent (Royal Conservatory), he also took residencies in the US (Tanglewood Music Center), Canada (Banff Centre for the Arts) and Germany (Ferienkurse für Neue Musik Darmstadt). He usually performs

contemporary music as a part of an ensemble or solo, while also doing musical re-interpretation of fine art. He enjoys collaborations with other musicians and forms various groups like the Cluster ensemble, Ensemble Ricercata or the Prague Modern. He also cooperates on creating alternative “educational institutions” – the VENI ACADEMY student project or a series of workshops called the SoundOrchestra that focus on improvisations, graphic scores and experimental music. He has created several festivals, concert series and other musical projects. He is the chairman of the Slovak section of the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) that he also cooperated with on the best music project of the year 2013 – ISCM World New Music Days. In 2016, the Cluster ensemble’s first CD was nominated for the Tatra banka Foundation Art Award, the Crystal Wing and the Radio Head Awards prize.

HELGA VARGA BACH started with concert performances back during her studies. She has collaborated with such chamber ensembles as Camerata Bratislava, Musica aeterna, Solamente naturali, SKO Bohdana Warchala, Musica Florea, Collegium Marianum, Voci Festose and others and also different conductors (John Toll, Stephen Stubbs, Andrew Parrott, Peter van Heyghen and others). As a concert singer, she also performs abroad – Hungary, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic... where she cooperates with a number of instrumentalists and ensembles (e.g. she has regularly performed with the leading Hungarian cembalist Soma Dinnyés as a part of vocal recitals of early Baroque composers).

Admission:

Adults: 5 EUR

Students, seniors: 2,5 EUR

Disabled: 1 eur

Children under 12: Free

Pre-sale:

Nitra Gallery (during opening hours)

Nitra Gallery, Župné námestie 3, Nitra

[www.nitrianskagaleria.sk](http://www.nitrianskagaleria.sk)

All programming and performers are subject to change.

The texts have not been proofed for grammar.