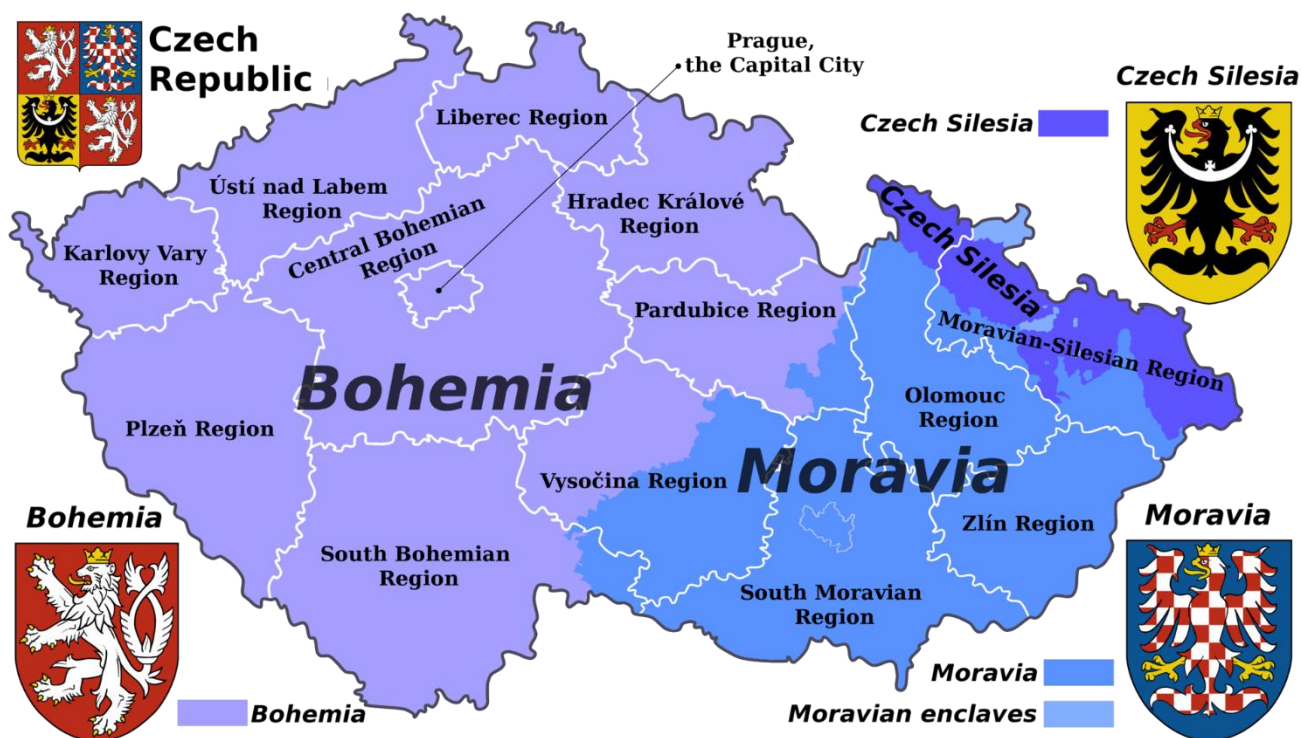


LONDON REGION MUSIC DAY

SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2019

At Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG

MUSIC OF THE CZECHS



LONDON REGION MUSIC DAY

SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2019

PROGRAMME

- From 10.00 Registration (St. Pancras Room, lower level)
- 10.45-10.55 Introduction by the Chair of the London Region, Catherine Ware
'Music of the Czechs: Geographical and historical context'
- 11.00 – 12.00 **'Evocations of Prague'**
A London Region Music visit to Prague, remembered through a sequence of images, accompanied by poetry, prose and music
Hugh Noble, Redbridge U3A
- 12.05 – 13.05 **'Bedřich Smetana – a Czech Icon'**
A joint presentation with recorded musical excerpts
Andrew Mills & Michael Sodring, Barnet U3A
- 13.05 BREAK FOR LUNCH**
- 14.00-14.15 **'Czech folk songs'**
Introductions & performance in English
Ralph Samel and his Ukelele Group, Barnet U3A
- 14.20-15.20 **'Another kind of Nationalism: The development of the Czech string quartet'**
Talk with recorded musical excerpts
Robert Hugill, U3A in London
- 15.25-16.25 **'Dvořák in England'**
Talk with recorded musical excerpts
Terry Heard, Membership Secretary, The Dvořák Society
- 16.25 -16.30 Close of day by Don Moore, Merton U3A

Extra information on the talks

Hugh Noble: 'Evocations of Prague'

2012, Hugh joined the London Region Music trip to the Prague Spring Festival. The programme included trips to the main concert halls and an excursion to Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) which evoked thoughts of Leos Janacek and his muse, Kamila Stosslova. He wrote her nearly 730 letters which became the subject of his second quartet, *Intimate Letters*.

There was not a great deal of free time, but Hugh took what opportunities he could to explore and to photograph what he saw. On return home he combined a selection of the photographs with extracts of Czech music and some Czech poetry, beautifully recorded by Ella Marks in translation, to produce a slideshow which was enjoyed by the group a few weeks later.

Robert Hugill: 'Another kind of Nationalism: The development of the Czech string quartet'

In the early 19th century Bohemia was securely a part of the Holy Roman Empire and its culture was forced to be Germanic with native Czech firmly suppressed. Over the period of 100 years, the Czech nation gradually redeveloped its nationhood and national identity. In remarkable parallel to this the genre of the Czech string quartet moved from a pale imitation of German composers to a distinctively Czech genre. Robert Hugill looks at how nationhood and music intertwine, touching on composers such as Smetana, Dvořák and Janáček.

Andrew Mills & Michael Sodring: 'The life and work of Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884)'

The two leading Bohemian composers in the Nineteenth Century were Smetana and Dvořák. While Dvořák's wide range of works are loved and admired the world over, only a few of Smetana's are played with any regularity, except in the Czech Republic. We would like to look at some of the lesser known of his works, showing how they came to be written, and hopefully showing why they should be better known.

Terry Heard: 'Dvořák in England': Antonín Dvořák was the first Czech composer to gain an international reputation while remaining based in his homeland. He travelled widely, to Austria, Germany, Hungary and Russia, and from 1892 to 1895 was Director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York. Dvořák visited England nine times, becoming immensely popular as a composer and conductor, and receiving commissions for several major works. This illustrated talk will outline these visits and the important choral and orchestral works he introduced here.

Cost: £25 Per person including refreshments on arrival

Please note that lunch is not included as there is a restaurant and small café in Kings Place and many coffee shops and cafés nearby.

Online Booking Form: Visit Events page of U3A London Region website:

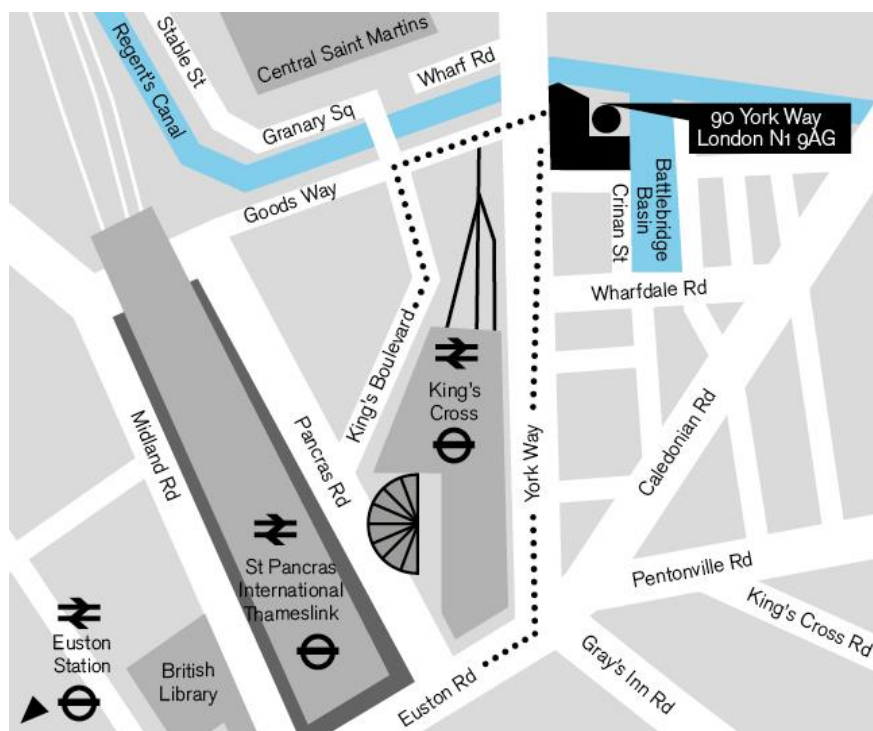
<https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/events>

We recommend applying online as it's quick and simple.

Postal Application: Please complete the separate Postal Application form which can be downloaded from the Events page as above.

HOW TO GET TO KINGS PLACE

<https://www.kingsplace.co.uk/your-visit/getting-here/>



Tube: The nearest tube station is King's Cross St. Pancras, on the Circle, Metropolitan, Hammersmith & City, Piccadilly, Northern and Victoria lines. From the tube station the quickest way to Kings Place is via King's Boulevard. You may also walk up York Way.

Train: King's Cross St. Pancras and Euston are the nearest mainline railway stations.

Bus: The nearest bus route to York Way/Kings Place is the 390. Other services running to nearby King's Cross St. Pancras are bus routes 10, 17, 30, 45, 46, 59, 63, 73, 91, 205, 214, 259 and 476.