

Outstanding achievements of teachers at the Faculty of Music of JAMU

Prof. Miloslav Jelínek is a world's leading double bass tutor. During his many years at the Faculty of Music of the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts, he has trained tens of renowned double bass players who perform with the most prestigious world orchestras and achieve great results in their solo careers. Prof. Jelínek is also a prominent international personality in the field of organizing double bass related music life – he is involved in developing double bass companies and organizes master classes, lectures, workshops, interpretation competitions, etc. Thanks to his artistic and teaching experience, he is a frequent guest to tens of international panels and committees. In terms of the current university tutor requirements, Prof. Jelínek is nearly a model person who, thanks to his international artistic and teaching abilities, is capable of raising double bass players that may compete with the best artists of the world.

His creative and teaching activities leave a substantial imprint also through his role as the Head of the Department of String Instruments of JAMU FM.

Prof. Jelínek has brought tens of first-rate double bass players to graduation at FM (one of his most famous graduates is Gunárs Upatkiens, currently a member of the Berlin Philharmonic and a double bass professor at Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler, Berlin).

Particular teaching results (in the last three years):

Mentoring Einars Everss, a JAMU FM student who became the deputy head of double bass players of the Danish National Symphony Orchestra in Copenhagen in 2019.

Prof. Milan Polák has achieved extraordinary results in teaching clarinet at the Faculty of Music of JAMU in Brno. In the course of his teaching career, he has managed to raise a number of top-ranking graduates who have achieved international recognition. His work is made unique by the fact that these top results have been achieved continuously, throughout his activity at FM. Prof. Polák thus significantly shapes the clarinet class of our institution, keeps bringing innovations in the teaching process and demonstrates an excellent capability of evaluating the individual talents of each student and developing them to the maximum within their artistic growth. He is capable of reflecting his own concert experience, which includes many international activities, both solo, chamber and orchestra performances, in his teaching work and pass the most of it to his students. Therefore, in the context of JAMU FM, he is a striking teaching and artistic personality who contributes to its prestige to a great extent.

Doc. Zdeněk Šmukař is a significant singing tutor at the national level. At the JAMU Faculty of Music, he has been raising leading Czech singers long-term, who have achieved international recognition. The teaching work of Doc. Šmukař is closely connected to his extensive art experience gained not only in the Czech Republic, but also in a number of foreign countries. His organization legacy is considerable as well. In his role of the Head of the Department of Singing, he managed to include the Department in the European elite; he has also been very noticeably in a number of boards, art panels and organizational committees.

Doc. Zdeněk Šmukař has been raising excellent singers at the JAMU Faculty of Music long-term who are able to achieve significant international successes.

Particular teaching results: Mentoring Tadeáš Hoza, a student of singing at the JAMU Faculty of Music, who has achieved significant success in international competitions as well as within his artistic career – in 2018 he won the 1st prize in the junior – male category of the International Antonin Dvorak Singing Competition in Karlovy Vary, 2nd prize of the Czech Music Fund Foundation (song category) and the Czech Radio Pilsen Manager Award. Moreover, Tadeáš Hoza is also a guest performer at the National Theatre Brno Opera and works with Collegium 1704 of V. Luks and the Czech Ensemble Baroque Brno.

Prof. Alena Vlasáková has achieved extraordinary success in piano teaching, both in raising individual graduates who can boast with excellent international accomplishments, and in building a general concept and didactics of piano teaching. Her lifelong contribution to the field is unique and perpetual. Prof. Vlasáková keeps bringing new impulses in piano teaching and didactics and therefore is one of the key tutors not only at JAMU FM but also within the field in general. Her teaching work is organically intertwined with extensive art activities, her publication work is significant as well.

Prof. Vlasáková has created and practically applied an innovative piano playing methodology.

The results of her lifelong activities can be presented in the form of specialized publications – *Komplexní estetická výchova klavíristů* ("Complex Aesthetic Education of Pianists") (Prague, 1977); *Klavírní pedagogika I. – elementární stádium* ("Piano Teaching I. – Elementary Stage") (Prague, 1991); *Klavírní pedagogika – první kroky na cestě ke klavírnímu umění* ("Piano Teaching – First Steps towards Piano Art") (Prague, 2003); as well as by the most striking successes in practical teaching – see particular results:

Mentoring Pavel Zemen (Piano Teaching Programme), a student of JAMU FM who graduated in the follow-up Master's Programme in 2019. Pavel Zemen has recently ranked among the top young pianists of the world. One of the most significant of the many successes is the participation in the semi-final of the Leeds Piano Competition 2018, one of the largest interpretation competitions in the world (see the reference in Part 3 for more details).