**Final Report - International Youth Encounters in Terezín 2019**

An international youth gathering “**International Youth Encounters in Terezín”** was held in Terezín between August 19 and 22, 2019. The aim of the meeting was to commemorate the legacy of the composers who were despite the difficult conditions of imprisonment in the Terezín ghetto during the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia able to create melodious tones and forget (and help others forget) about the woes of life in the ghetto, and to recall this legacy to students as well as to wider public. This year´s meeting was the third edition of the international youth encounters. The first meeting took place in 2017, at the same year that the Terezín Composers´ Institute was founded.

The participants of the youth encounters were students, professors, musicians and supporters of the Institute. Lectures, workshops and music performances were organized for all participants in Terezín, more precisely in the former Magdeburg Barracks and in the House of Culture. Lectures were given by prof. Lubomír Spurný (Masaryk University, CZ), David Fligg (Royal Northern College of Music, UK), prof. Yuval Shaked (University of Haifa, Israel) and prof. Michael Beckerman of New York University (USA). To complement these activities which were focused primarily on music, a lecture with the survivor of the Terezín Ghetto, Mrs. Doris Grozdanovičová was organized. In addition, a guided tour of the Small and Great Fortress and the attic space was conducted in Czech and English. Those were the premises where Jews were imprisoned during World War II.

A student PhD. conference was held in parallel with the meeting. The aim of the conference was to increase interest in the research in the field of Terezín composers. The PhD students had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the music of the Terezín composers in several ways, and in the context of the Terezín environment.

The principal aim of the encounters was to introduce, support and raise the awareness of the works of composers from the Terezín ghetto. This goal was successfully achieved. The mission of the Terezín Composers´ Institute was thus supported, as Institute´s core task is to preserve, commemorate and develop the legacy of Terezín composers.

The main benefit of the youth meeting is certainly the newly acquired knowledge and experience that the students had the opportunity to gain directly at the places where composers faced their grim fates. During the event, there was a natural interaction among the students who continued their cultural and language education. There is no doubt that this event has contributed positively to the development of international relations and has helped Institute's future cooperation with enthusiastic individuals and with international institutions alike.

As part of the meeting program, the participants were given access to concerts of the simultaneously held international music festival ETERNAL HOPE: Gustav Mahler and the Terezín composers which is organized annually by the closely cooperating Endowment Fund ETERNAL HOPE. Compositions by the jubilee Gideon Klein performed by Virtuosi Brunens and the works of other Terezín composers performed by the Brno Children's Choir (CZ) or the Black Oak Ensemble from Chicago (USA) were among the works on this year´s festival program.

We consider the third year of the International Youth Encounters in Terezín project a success and we will continue in the tradition of meetings where students, young musicians and friends of the Institute have the opportunity to gather in Terezín and commemorate and pay due respect to Terezín composers. We envisage to increase attendance and expand the international composition of speakers in the coming years. In addition, we would like to improve our social networking which would allow our project to be more familiar to target groups around the world.

This year's meeting was attended by 60 participants from the Czech Republic, the United States of America, Turkey, Germany, France, Israel and the United Kingdom. The whole event was significantly supported by the Czech-German for the Future and the German Embassy to whom we hereby extend our gratitude. The Institute's activities are continuously supported by the Terezín Memorial and the City of Terezín.

