

New documentary film devoted to W. A. Mozart and Prague

ADIEU ♦ MOZART

Director
Martin Suchánek

Screenplay
Zdeněk Mahler

Adieu Mozart

New documentary film devoted to W. A. Mozart and Prague



The most beautiful and the most absorbing film about Mozart's triumph and love.

„Love! Love! Love! It is the soul of a genius.“

The Prague of 1787 gave Mozart a grand welcome. He wrote about it: *“People here talk of nothing else but Figaro, nothing else is played, trumpeted, sung and whistled but Figaro, no other opera is frequented but Figaro!”*

The Prague audiences were entranced with the beauty of Mozart's music as much as with the spirit of revolt that it represented.



The makers of the film take advantage of a strong and emotional story narrated by Mozart's friend, a star among European opera singers, Josepha Duschek: *“Mozart heard me sing for the first time at a concert in Salzburg. He was twenty one and my voice gave him erotic excitement... A relation was born between us that was to last whole life...”*

It was Josepha Duschek who initiated Mozart's invitation to Prague. There Mozart himself conducted *The Marriage of Figaro* in the Estates Theatre and the premiere of *Symphony in D major*, which entered music history as “Prague Symphony”.

Josepha Duschek also witnessed the birth of Don Giovanni. At her summerhouse Bertramka the night before the premiere Mozart wrote the legendary 292 bars of the overture to the opera of operas. The premiere met with great acclaim.

“Yesterday my opera Don Giovanni was performed for the first time and with great success. I wish all my friends could share my joy!”

On the occasion of the coronation of Leopold II the opera La clemenza di Tito was premiered in Prague.

The relation between Mozart and Josepha was crowned by the aria that Mozart dedicated to her: Bella mia fiamma, addio – Farewell, my beautiful flame.

The film, full of authentic details, attractive settings and wonderful music, is more than a documentary. It is a burning flame, an entrancing narration that presents the less famous part of the life and art of a musical genius who raved on a stage in Prague:

“My Praguers understand me!”



Prague was the only city that gave the deceased Mozart a worthy farewell. The bells in Prague were chiming for half an hour, twelve students with torches stood an honorary guard by the symbolic catafalque in the Church of St Nicolas.

Over four thousand Prague citizens came to honour the memory of Mozart. A hundred and twenty singers and joined theatre orchestras performed the majestic Requiem.

Adieu Mozart

Excerpts from Screenplay



The camera slowly moves over a shining candlestick and on the white and golden piano it reveals a folded letter. A hand breaks the seal.



A beautiful lady holds the letter in the flame of the candle: the flame devours the page. Behind the ladies dreamy gaze memories start drifting...



It started sprightly...

Despite the freeze music and singing was heard from afar.

Muffled up in sheepskin blankets and warmed up with wine Mozart and his Constance whooped in a carriage. They passed the time making up nicknames.



Across Charles Bridge over the Vltava River the carriage headed towards the Castle and the palaces of nobility.

Mozart, Prague and Love

Adieu Mozart

Excerpts from Screenplay



Amadeus had heard about Prague before – that it was a musicopolis, a city of music, the conservatory of Europe.

He made friends with tens of musicians that came from Prague.

Now he was able to get to know Prague himself.



He wrote an enthusiastic letter to Vienna about his acceptance in Prague:

“I neither danced nor flirted. The first, because I was too tired – the latter out of my inborn silliness. I watched with pleasure, though, how everybody hopped to the music of my Figaro. People here talk of nothing else but Figaro, nothing else is played, trumpeted, sung and whistled but Figaro, no other opera is frequented but Figaro!”



The Nostitz Theatre was built to serve “Patriae et Musis” – the country and the muses. Mozart was especially interested in the high quality of the singers and orchestra.

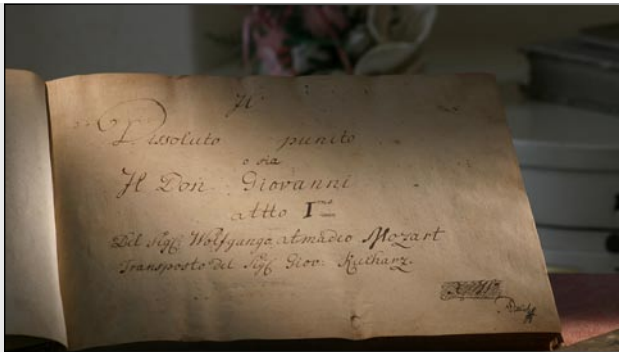


Mozart had always been concerned about clothing - this time he primped himself for the premiere with special care.

Mozart, Prague and Love

Adieu Mozart

Excerpts from Screenplay



The theatre impresario offered him an advance if he composed a new opera for Prague. Mozart accepted.



Mozart was stricken by the news from Salzburg that his father Leopold was dying.



His father Leopold died without seeing Mozart.

On the same day his favourite starling died. The funeral he held for him was in fact a ceremony in memory of his father.



In the morning Mozart threw mandarins in the opposite window to wake up the librettist.

Da Ponte left; reputedly he was summoned to Vienna...

The dashed Mozart disappeared and the rehearsal was cancelled!

Mozart, Prague and Love

Adieu Mozart

Excerpts from Screenplay



Josepha Duschek turned Bertramka into a lavish manor house, renowned for its hospitality and good music.



On the eve of the postponed premiere he invited the whole ensemble there!
The ladies and gentlemen eagerly plunged into exuberant revelry.



He has not yet written a single note of the overture!



In a few hours the 292 legendary bars were written.

Mozart, Prague and Love

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Yesterday my opera Don Giovanni was performed for the first time and with great success. I wish all my friends could witness my joy. Everyone here tries to persuade me to stay for several more months and to write another opera...



Before Amadeus left for Vienna again, I had cakes and coffee served in the pavilion...



The moment he entered I locked the door from the outside and said:
 “I shall not let you out until you have composed the promised aria for me!”



When Joseph died the throne was reluctantly taken over by Leopold.
 In order to calm down the Czechs, he agreed to his coronation in Prague. Such occasion,
 however, demanded an opera.
 The time-proven Mozart was addressed and a time-proven libretto La clemenza di Tito
 chosen.

Mozart, Prague and Love

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Excerpts from Screenplay



Mozart wasn't mentioned in the list of guests at the court. I had to intercede for him.



In the meantime His Majesty arrived to Prague with fanfares and his Court: 105 carriages rattled on the royal road across the Old Town Square to the bridge and by the Church of St Nicolas up to the Castle.



The coronation, however, was accessible to attested representation only.
Josepha, who sang the solemn mass, smuggled Mozart to the side choir loft through a side entrance...



We were going back through dark night...
At the statue of the crucified Amadeus had the carriage stopped.

Mozart, Prague and Love

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The failure of the opera was appeared in the “Coronation Journal”.
On the third page it says that an opera was also performed.
Their Majesties were most enchanted by the new chandeliers.
Not a word about music. Neither the name of the opera nor its author is mentioned.



A sorrowful part of the aria “Bella mia fiamma, addio...” changes into the monumental Requiem.



Prague said farewell to Mozart by a commendation held in the Church of St Nicolas.
Prague bells were chiming for half an hour.



Twelve students stood honorary guard at the symbolic catafalque.

Mozart, Prague and Love

Adieu Mozart

Historical Background



In the beginning of 1787 Mozart was invited to Prague to conduct the Marriage of Figaro. As thanks he gave a concert of his new Symphony in D major K. 504 “Prague“. It was proved that his music enchanted not only parlours of the nobility but the whole city.

At the end of his stay he received an order to compose a new opera for Prague. The subject was up to him. He chose Don Giovanni. At that time Prague was for Mozart an oasis of artistic understanding and friendship.

In October 1787 Mozart came to Prague with his librettist da Ponte. They stayed at Bertramka, the summerhouse of the singer Josepha Duschek. It was there where Mozart composed the famous overture the last night before the premiere. The Opera of Operas, conducted by Mozart himself on 29th October 1787, was attended by all the local elite. Don Giovanni meant an absolute triumph. Mozart’s words: “My orchestra is in Prague“ testifies to the mutual warm relation among him and Czech musicians.



His stays at Bertramka were the most beautiful moments in Mozart's short life. Prague was always described as Mozart's secret city. Before he left Prague he composed the concert aria "Bella mia fiamma, addio" for Josepha Duschek.

The last Mozart's trip to Prague happened under different circumstances. In the summer of 1791, when he was working on the Magic Flute and the Requiem, he received a hasty order to compose a coronation opera for Prague. La clemenza di Tito was premiered on 6th September 1791. Upon his return to Vienna, seven weeks before his death, Mozart finished his only Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622, which he wrote for his Prague friend, an excellent clarinetist Anton Stadler. The premiere took place in Prague on 16th October 1791.

Mozart died shortly after that on 5th December 1791 and Prague remembered him by a mass by Rössler-Rosetti, performed among others by Josepha Duschek. It was held in the Church of St Nicolas at Little Quarter and attended by four thousand of Pragers.

Mozart, Prague and Love

W. A. Mozart

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Mečislavova 7, 140 00 Prague 4

Obecní dům, a.s.

nám. Republiky 5, 111 21 Prague 1

Czech Republic

www.bva.cz

www.mozartprague2006.com

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