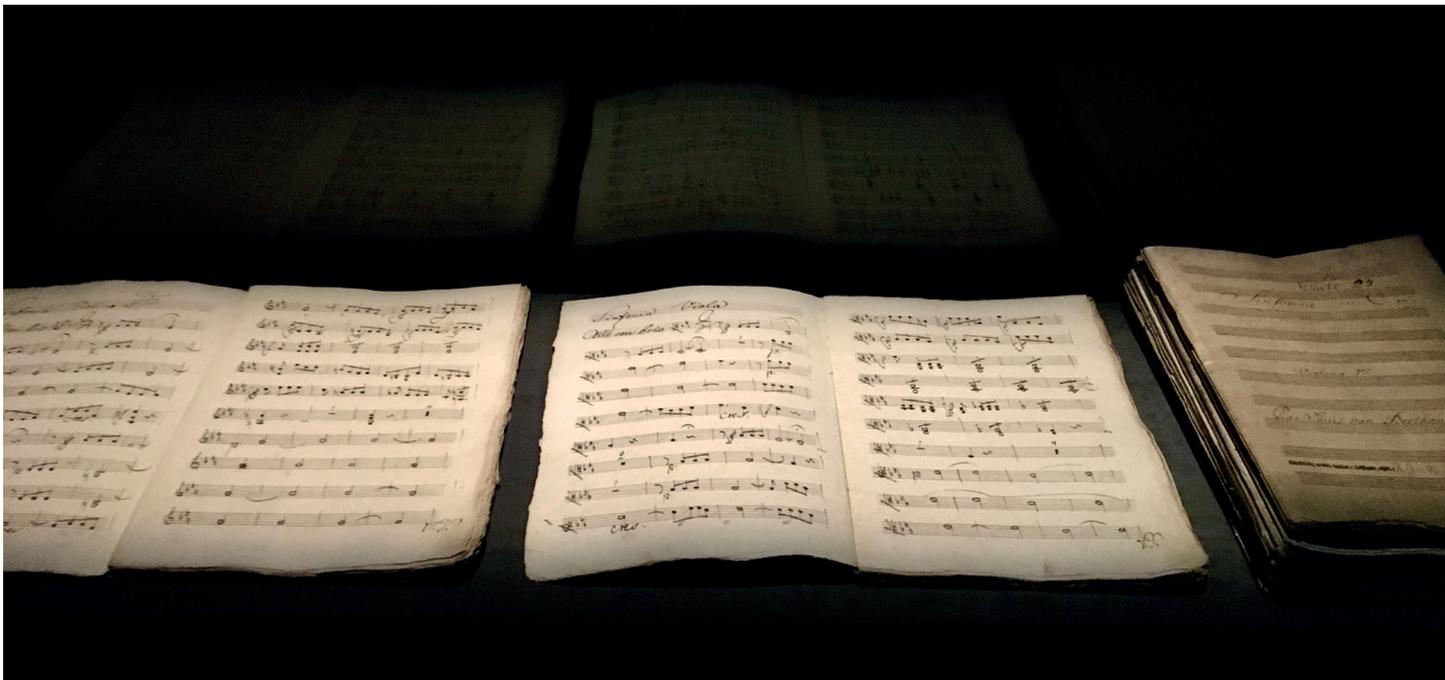




AMERICAN FRIENDS

FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CZECH CULTURE, INCORPORATED

250 YEARS OF BEETHOVEN



Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827): *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67*, ink manuscript on paper. Currently on display in the *Beethoven Moves* exhibition at the *Kunsthistorisches Museum*, Vienna

You would be hard pressed to find anyone who hasn't heard the most famous opening in all symphonic music: that of Beethoven's 5th Symphony. A period manuscript copy, hand-annotated by the composer himself, is one among several manuscripts and first printed editions of his works belonging to the Lobkowitz Collections. This year, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with a variety of exciting music activities.

The Collections loaned several works to the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn which included a receipt from Beethoven to Franz Joseph Maximilian, 7th Prince

Lobkowitz (1772–1816), for his Symphony no. 3, (*Eroica*) and two portraits of the 7th Prince and his wife, Marie Caroline. Beethoven's Symphony no. 5, Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus* and Overture to *Egmont* were also loaned to the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna for one of the most important exhibitions of the year (see article, Page 4).

We will also publish the second volume of *The Lobkowitz Collections Music Series* entitled *Beethoven*, authored by Dr. Kathryn Libin. The edition focuses on the composer's career and remarkable

relationship with his life-long patron, the 7th Prince Lobkowitz, and also reveals exciting new discoveries.

A more permanent commemoration of this Beethoven year is the expansion of our music galleries at the Lobkowitz Palace, for which we are finalizing architectural plans for an early 2021 opening. The new galleries will display many more scores and objects from the rich Lobkowitz Music Collection, including instruments from the family's orchestras, personal letters, and never-before-seen treasures — all enhanced with unique audio-visual elements.





SPOTLIGHT: ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK IN AMERICA

This article was a collaborative effort by our Wellesley College intern, Lucy Norton, and Lobkowicz Collections Musicologist, Eleonore Kinsky.

Edited by Ileana Lobkowicz



Antonín Dvořák statue in front of Dvořák's Birth House, Nelahozeves

When Antonín Dvořák arrived in New York on September 27, 1892, the city welcomed him with great anticipation. The story of his humble beginnings as the son of a poor butcher from the small Bohemian village of Nelahozeves, and rising to become one of the leading Czech composers to achieve worldwide recognition, greatly appealed to the U.S. public and press who viewed his compositions as a reflection of Czech national style.

With the hope that he could inspire a similar national awakening among U.S. composers, Jeannette Thurber, founder of the National Conservatory of Music of America, hired Dvořák to direct the conservatory and conduct concerts. During his tenure as director, Dvořák was a teacher and mentor for his aspiring students and hosted concerts to showcase their compositions. In particular, he developed a close working relationship with Harry T. Burleigh, a black student who started at the conservatory shortly after Dvořák's arrival. The grandson of a former slave, Burleigh introduced the Czech composer to spirituals, gospels, and plantation melodies.

Dvořák's exposure to these melodies not only informed his works, but defined his impression of American national music: one that was rooted in African-American traditions.

On Sunday, May 21, 1893, the *New York Herald* published an interview with Dvořák in which he declared, "In the Negro melodies of America, I discover all that is needed for a great and noble school of music."

It was a revolutionary concept that was not well received by many American and European contemporaries and viewed as a challenge to traditional European composition. For Dvořák, this was the future for a uniquely American sound. The composer drew upon African and Native American music to inspire his own works, including his famous *New World Symphony*, which premiered at Carnegie Hall in December 1893.

His early intuition predicted the transformation of classical music and the advent of jazz — forming the foundation of American musical life.





View of Nelahozeves Castle, Dvořák's Birth House, and the Vltava River

NELAHOZEVES: CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

This past year, we have focused on advancing our plans for the Dvořák Birth House Museum and consolidating our fundraising operations. Since August 2020, we have resumed work on our plans for the Lobkowicz Library & Study Center at Nelahozeves.

DVOŘÁK BIRTH HOUSE MUSEUM

This year our architects Wright&Wright and our Czech project team have been working on the technical design stage of the proposed new museum. Latest proposals now include the reconstruction of a former barn as the museum's ticket office, shop and café, and the renovation of a former outbuilding into a versatile Activity Room for educational programming.



Computer generated image of the Activity and Education Studio designed by Wright&Wright

We have been building partnerships for our future public program, which will include children and adult education workshops, concerts by young local and international musicians, and ground-breaking music therapy workshops.

This fall, we will appoint an exhibition design practice to implement plans for the museum exhibition spaces. We are seeking an organization that can create a truly memorable visitor experience, engaging modern technologies while respecting the history of the building.

LOBKOWICZ LIBRARY & STUDY CENTER

We have begun preliminary scoping and planning on the new library and archive building at Nelahozeves Castle. The proposed underground building would create sustainable modern storage facilities for the entire library and all works on paper, including the family archive, maps, prints, and music manuscripts.



The AKH young musicians perform a new setting of Beethoven's Third Symphony (Eroica) at Nelahozeves Castle, July 2020

DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

With fundraising severely impacted by current circumstances, we are working harder than ever to meet our fundraising target for the completion of the Dvořák Birth House Museum in 2022. We await the outcome of a major European grant application which will be announced by December 2020, and continue to reach out to international donors and foundations.

For more information, please contact jemima.montagu@lobkowicz.cz



BEETHOVEN MOVES ...



Lobkowicz family in the entrance of the Kunsthistorisches Museum for the exhibition preview

The Lobkowicz Collections loaned its most iconic musical manuscript, Beethoven's Symphony no. 5, as well as Overtures to *The Creatures of Prometheus* and *Egmont*.

To demonstrate the universal impact and appeal of this revolutionary composer, the exhibition combined different art forms, including performance, modern and contemporary art — uniting Beethoven with works by Goya, Friedrich, Turner, Rodin, and Sehgal. This ambitious approach broke through the conventional by showcasing different artists and media to evoke the spirit and emotion of Beethoven.

Jasper Sharp, a member of the curatorial team, describes their vision.

“One thing that was very important to us at the beginning, and also maybe something of a relief, was the understanding that this should not be the type of Beethoven exhibition that people would expect. That this wasn't the classic biography in exhibition form...



John Baldessari sculptural sound piece, Beethoven's Trumpet (With Ear)

They come expecting to see an image of Beethoven in the first room or on the poster or in the last room and he doesn't appear anywhere in the exhibition.”

The museum welcomed just over 100 attendees in September for an intimate, socially distant premiere, bringing together artists, museum members, sponsors and donors for personal tours of the exhibition. *Beethoven Moves* remains open until January 2021.

... excites, inspires, overwhelms, provokes, and more. The Kunsthistorisches Museum captured the expressive power of Ludwig van Beethoven's music in their imaginative temporary exhibition *Beethoven Moves*, marking the 250th anniversary of his birth.

IN MEMORIAM



BRIAN IGOE

We lost a talented and beloved board member, Brian Igoe, in April. His unwavering support and deep commitment to education was extraordinary. We were blessed to have had him in our lives and will keep his inspiration in our hearts and our work.



JUDR. MIROSLAV POPELÁŘ

After 30 years of working together, we mourned the death of our longtime friend, legal counsel and architect of the Lobkowicz restitution in Czechoslovakia, Miroslav Popelář, or as he was known to everyone, “Dr. P.” Combining a brilliant legal mind with a lifelong passion for history, Dr. P wisely counseled us as we rediscovered our Bohemian heritage and reconnected with today's Czech Republic. He strongly endorsed our vision and we know he would want us to continue in our mission to share this wonderful cultural heritage that was his life's work.



KAREL JEŘÁBEK MEMORIAL

We honored the memory of long-time Lobkowicz Librarian and Archivist Karel Jeřábek (1899–1950) with a concert in the Roudnice Castle chapel in September. Jeřábek tragically fell to his death under suspicious circumstances while the Czechoslovak Army was physically confiscating the Lobkowicz Collections from Roudnice Castle in 1950.



CONSERVATION: TWO PORTRAITS RESTORED



Prince of Nassau-Hadamar after restoration

Countess Ursula of Lippe after restoration

A pair of panel portraits depicting Johann Ludwig, Prince of Nassau-Hadamar (1590–1653) and his wife, Countess Ursula of Lippe (1598–1638) were restored this year by conservator Martin Martan, thanks to a generous donor. Johann Ludwig was a diplomat who played an instrumental role in finalizing the Treaty of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). He and Countess Ursula were the grandparents of Princess Klaudia Franziska of Nassau-Hadamar (1660–1680), who married Ferdinand August, 3rd Prince Lobkowitz (1655–1715), in 1677.

Mr. Martan restored the severely discolored surface of Countess Ursula's portrait and repaired a split in the canvas. The restoration of Johann Ludwig's portrait was primarily focused on repairing cracks in the painting's wooden backing. For the first time in their history, both beautifully restored works can now be admired on permanent display in the Ernestine Room of the Lobkowitz Palace Museum.

EDUCATION GOES ONLINE

While these unprecedented times have forced us to postpone many of our activities, they have also pushed us to reimagine ways to deliver our educational programs. We readapted our popular Curator Challenge to an online platform, where students were given uncatalogued objects from the Lobkowitz Collections and tasked with researching their purpose and provenance. This year's objects featured a 19th-century Xylotheque specimen, a 15-kreutzer coin depicting Maria Theresa, and a Biedermeier purse. Students from the International and German Schools of Prague also joined us online this year with great enthusiasm.

We welcomed Wellesley College interns Anjali Aralikal, Ella Mints, and Lucy Norton, as well as Oxford University student, Farren Yuan, who capably carried out our remote internships. Their tremendous work and engagement particularly enhanced our writing and marketing efforts. "Everything about the experience really exceeded my expectations," says Ella of her internship. "Not only did I become familiar with the history and content of the Collections, but I was able to complete exciting projects in the span of just six weeks."

Determined to continue offering interactive learning experiences, we have developed exciting new programs at Nelahozeves Castle, including a children's tour aimed at deepening knowledge of art, music, and history, enhanced with creative workshops. We also launched



Digitization of objects for virtual Curator Challenge program with Lobkowitz Collections staff, Yellow Room, Nelahozeves Castle

a special program dedicated to renowned Czech composer, Antonín Dvořák, and Czech poet, Karel Jaromír Erben, who inspired Dvořák's symphonic oeuvre. Students will not only acquaint themselves with their poetic and musical works, but also learn more about classical music and 19th-century poetry through creative activities and discussion. We are in the process of designing additional lesson plans for various age groups, integrating such topics as Cabinet of Curiosities, and Humanism and the Renaissance. We are committed to fostering student learning both locally and abroad as we expand our educational initiatives.





STAFF NEWS



MARTINA BŘEŇOVÁ
Prague Development Director responsible for fundraising activities in the Czech Republic and Europe. From her recent leadership role at the Avast Foundation in the Czech Republic, Martina arrives with philanthropy experience from several Czech non-profit organizations, including People in Need.

PATRIK SUCHÝ
Development Coordinator supporting our development efforts in the Czech Republic and Europe. With a European History background, Patrik has been involved in various crowd-sourcing projects and cultural heritage organizations.

IEVA SMIDT
US Development Manager coordinating fundraising activities in the U.S. The Lithuanian native brings over a decade of fundraising experience for political causes and candidates, as well as for non-profit organizations across the United States.

JAN PAVELKA
Public Relations and Communications Manager. A former journalist and humanitarian worker for Czech non-profit People in Need, Jan has been involved in various aid projects in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka.

PETER GREGORY
Newest AFPCC board member. Peter is a retired real estate executive with thirty-three years' experience and has been actively engaged in numerous community and charitable activities. These include Hale Reservation, the Boston Episcopal Society, and the Cabot Corporation Foundation where he served as managing director and head of corporate giving.



Brooks Lobkowicz, President
Hugh L. Warren, Treasurer
Molly Q. Eberle, Clerk
Cathryn C. Griffith, Member-at-Large
Thomas S. Hansen, Member-at-Large
Peter Gregory, Member-at-Large
Susan H. Lawrence, Member-at-Large
Mary M. Masri, Member-at-Large
Ingrid Swanson, Member-at-Large

The AFPCC is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the cultural wealth of the Czech nation. It is our purpose to make these national treasures more accessible to the public, to develop opportunities to study Czech cultural heritage, and to garner new support for cultural life in the Czech Republic.

For more information on mail or online donations, please visit: www.lobkowicz.cz/en/donate

Please contact **US Development Manager** Ieva Smidt regarding gifts of stock, anonymous donations, and other questions. Email: ieva.smidt@lobkowicz.cz, Phone: (+1 850-567-8022)

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