



Dvořák Birth House: The Race Has Begun



*Computer Generated Image (CGI) of the new entrance to the Antonín Dvořák Birth House,
Wright & Wright Architects*

Significant progress has been made over the last year to advance our biggest capital project to date: the renovation of Antonín Dvořák's Birth House in Nelahozeves, which will be transformed into a new museum and international musical heritage site. With exhibition plans finalized, we are entering the exciting second phase of this project with continued ambition. The finish line is in sight and there is no turning back!

As we approach our goal to open the museum by spring of 2024, we have begun the construction tender, which we hope to complete by the end of this year. By that time, we will have chosen a construction company to begin renovating the house, with the goal of completing construction work by January 2024. This will leave several months to install the exhibition before opening to the public—unveiling Dvořák's revitalized home exactly 120 years after the composer's death. You can expect that we will be planning numerous cultural events to celebrate the composer's 2024 anniversary year.

We have finalized the creative design of the exhibition with the renowned museum design firm Ralph Appelbaum Associates. The exhibition—most of which will be housed in the main historic tavern building—will tell the inspirational story of the composer's childhood and explore the influences that his life in Nelahozeves had on his later music. The innovative technology used to enhance the exhibition has been carefully chosen with longevity in mind, featuring numerous interactive elements with which visitors can engage, while maintaining the authentic integrity of the historic building. We are enlisting the help

of vendors, illustrators, filmmakers, and script writers to create the content for the exhibition. We have also selected some of the only original possessions extant from Dvořák's childhood on loan from other institutions, such as a prayer book the composer kept throughout his life, which he received from Prince Lobkowitz in 1852.

We are reaching out to music organizations and institutions around the world to seek guidance and support, building cooperative relationships and developing public educational programming for visitors of all ages.

Our global campaign to promote this project has garnered local attention and support in several Czech media publications. We have presented the project at the Dvořák Festival in Nelahozeves, to the British Dvořák Society for Czech and Slovak Music, and to Professor Michael Beckerman, musicologist and vice president of the Dvořák American Heritage Association. We continue to spread the word among our U.S. and international audiences to help make our vision a reality.

We are now at a critical juncture. The final fundraising year is ahead of us. To ensure the opening date of spring 2024, we are seeking funding for the remaining 40% of the total 6 million USD project cost.

We are grateful for your continued interest and support. With your help, we believe the re-birth of Dvořák's house will leave an indelible mark on the musical, cultural landscape in Central Europe and beyond.



Preserving Cultural Heritage with NFTs & Blockchain Technology

Our entry into NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens) began in 2021 after seeing an opportunity in and necessity for creative applications of technology to preserve and share the Collections.

The outcome of our exploration was Non-Fungible Castle 2021, an event hosted at the Lobkowitz Palace in Prague, which included a free temporary exhibition of NFTs and an international conference convening thought leaders and changemakers from both the traditional art world and the tech sector to discuss how blockchain technology can be incorporated into cultural heritage practices.

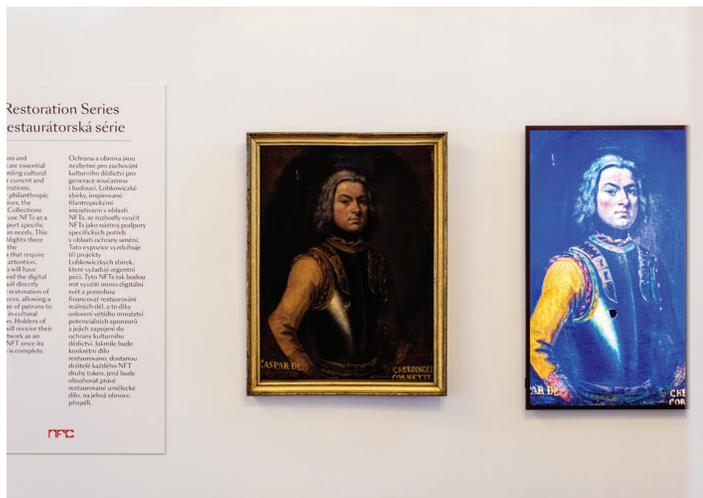
The exhibition featured original NFTs created by the Lobkowitz Collections, including *Antaeus's Contest*, depicting the degrading sgraffito rendering from the 16th-century façade of Nelahozeves Castle; *Forgotten Menuet*, an animated piece of lute music unheard for over 250 years; and *Unseen Gaze* which uses X-ray and infrared imaging to reveal a hidden layer of history behind the painting.

A second NFT series called “Proof of Patronage” highlighted works from the Collections that needed restoration. This series showcased a unique philanthropic model that sets the price of an NFT at the cost of restoration.

Buyers receive a before and after NFT of the work as recognition of their patronage. Sale proceeds and additional donations financed over 50 restoration projects. These beautifully restored pieces can now be appreciated by the world, including *A Wild Boar in a Landscape* (1694), a painting featured in Wes Anderson’s award-winning film *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014), and a *Portrait of Doña Margarita Teresa Infanta of Spain, Archduchess of Austria and Empress* (1662-1664), now on permanent display at Nelahozeves Castle.

The second edition of Non-Fungible Castle will take place in November 2022. This year’s theme explores how blockchain technology can be used to rediscover, share, and preserve cultural identity. The event will include an exhibition, an interactive cultural program at Nelahozeves Castle, and a conference and gala. All raised funds will support the renovation of Dvořák’s Birth House and other restoration projects in the Lobkowitz Collections.

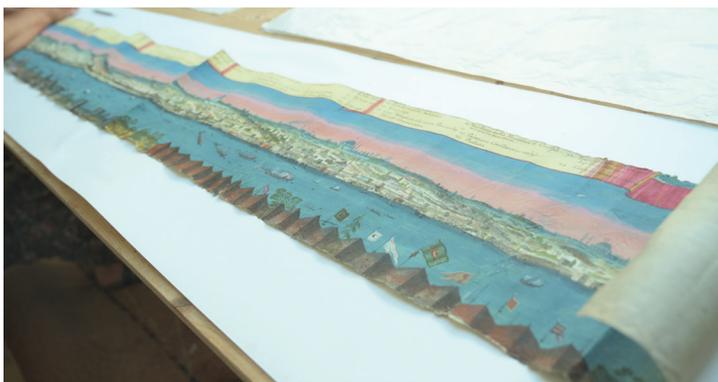
We hope Non-Fungible Castle can serve as a model for cultural institutions to increase accessibility, deepen relationships with a broader community of patrons and creators, and establish a creative platform to raise awareness and support for philanthropic projects.



Non-Fungible Castle Exhibition, 2021



Non-Fungible Castle VIP Gala, 2021



17th-century View of Constantinople scroll

Our restoration activities in 2022 thrived unlike ever before. In addition to numerous restored paintings, the Chinese Belvedere at the Lobkowicz Palace and a seven-foot-long paper scroll from the 17th century were brought back to life.

The Chinese Belvedere, formerly part of a Renaissance tower structure, was converted at the end of the 19th century to the fashionable Chinoiserie style, where European artists imitated Chinese art. The elaborate ceiling is framed with reliefs, and defined by a central oval depicting the sky, surrounded by branches, blossoms, floral motifs, birds, and butterflies in Art Nouveau style. The walls are adorned with garden pavilions, mythical creatures, and Eastern landscapes.

Two skilled restorers spent over four months meticulously working to repair all minor and major damages. The painted surfaces were properly cleaned and retouched, and the room's Renaissance-style windows repaired. In the fall of 2022, an extraordinary paper scroll,

featuring a watercolor illustration of a panoramic *View of Constantinople* from the Golden Horn inlet, returned from our restorer's workshop. Created after 1628, it features Constantinople's most famous mosques, including Soliman's Mosque and the Valens Aqueduct, completed by Roman Emperor Valens in the 4th century A.D.

The watercolor was originally twisted and poorly preserved. The scroll was professionally flattened, its damaged edges strengthened, and loose pigments retouched. Finally, a unique acid-free paper box was created to preserve the scroll.

Visitors to the Lobkowicz Palace Museum can once again admire the unique Chinese Belvedere and the Constantinople scroll in a temporary exhibition. These two restorations were made possible by the generous funding of a private donor at the Non-Fungible Castle 2021 event, and The Achelis & Bodman Foundation, respectively.

Education

Our expanding curatorial team continues to create diverse and dynamic educational programs across all Lobkowicz heritage sites.

Our 12th annual Junior Curator Challenge saw students engage directly with precious objects from the Collections, exploring their purpose and provenance before presenting their discoveries to their peers, faculty, and families. This year, a record 128 Czech, American, and German students participated.



Dominika Fink (left) with Dr. Laurence Libin (right) showing a Hammerklavier from the 1830s at the Lobkowicz Palace to Vassar College students

We oversaw three experiential programs for Juniata and Vassar Colleges, and the University of Colorado Denver, and hosted six interns from several international universities. This immersive, hands-on experience included preservation work, visits to restorers' workshops, special lectures, and student presentations.

Two Vassar students catalogued graphic art, libretti, and musical instruments from the Lobkowicz Music Collections. The program was created with and led by Vassar faculty members Dr. Kathryn Libin, associate professor of the



Students from Deutsche Schule Prag presenting for the Junior Curator Challenge



Interns from Leiden University and Wellesley College examining objects at the Lobkowitz Palace

Music Department, and Dr. Bart Thurber, director of The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, and Curator Emeritus of Musical Instruments at the Met, Dr. Laurence Libin. Fifteen students from the Recording Arts program at the University of Colorado Denver received music lectures and conducted an acoustic measuring project in various rooms at the Lobkowitz Palace, Nelahozeves, Střekov, and Roudnice Castles. Their research will help us plan how to adapt castle spaces for different musical performance genres.

Our eight-year partnership with the Albright Institute at Wellesley College continues to thrive with two Wellesley students taking a ten-week deep dive into the Lobkowitz Collections and the workings of a non-profit arts and cultural organization. International internships also grew as we welcomed students from the Universities of Düsseldorf, Prague, Leiden, and Liverpool. We are excited to host a new residential program with Boston College in 2023.

Music Partnerships



AKH concert in the courtyard of Nelahozeves Castle

We are pleased to continue our close partnerships with three renowned music orchestras: PKF – Prague Philharmonia, the Czech Chamber Music Academy (AKH – Akademie komorní hudby), and more recently, Boston Baroque.

Our program with the Prague Philharmonia includes a lecture series called “Stories from the Arts” presented by Lobkowitz Collections’ curators, followed by concerts with international soloists. This year’s talks focused on the violins in the Collections, Baron Gottfried van Swieten, a music lover and patron of Mozart and Beethoven, Meissen porcelain figurines, and a cookbook belonging to Polyxena, wife of the 1st Prince Lobkowitz. The concerts took place at the Lobkowitz Palace and featured the music of Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, and other celebrated composers.

Our partnership with the Czech Chamber Music Academy, which fosters international musical talent, began in

2019. Since then, the Academy has carried out a series of concerts across our various heritage sites. In 2022, their first concert featured a talk by our curator Dr. Petr Slouka, who shed light on the Lobkowitz family Kapellmeister, Anton Wranitzky (1761-1820), followed by music from Haydn, Schulhoff, and Wranitzky. The second open-air concert was performed in the courtyard of Nelahozeves Castle, and was dedicated to Antonín Dvořák and his upbringing in Nelahozeves.

We continue our exciting programming with Boston Baroque for the 2022/2023 season, featuring the music of Bach, Händel, and Mozart, enhanced with specially selected images of objects from the Lobkowitz Collections. This fall, we offer insights about Händel’s *Messiah* from Welsh conductor and scholar Malcolm Bruno, a discussion of Mozartiana in the Lobkowitz Collections by Dr. Kathryn Libin, and a conversation about modern Lobkowitz history with Alexandra and William Lobkowitz.



Vassar College students cataloguing graphics at Nelahozeves Castle

Our music cataloging project reached another milestone with the completion of the remaining Baroque music for plucked instruments, leaving only the libretti.

Musicologist and Curator of the Lobkowitz Music Archive, Dr. Petr Slouka, has led this project and employed more support from Dr. Kathryn Libin and Vassar music students as part of their summer residential educational program at Nelahozeves Castle.

The Vassar students also helped to catalog graphics and music instruments with our specialist team, including Collections Registrar Dominika Fink; Collections Assistant Curator Veronika Červená; former Curator of Musical Instruments at The Met Dr. Laurence Libin, and Dr. Bart Thurber of Vassar College.

Beyond Bruegel

Since 2018, the Lobkowitz Collections has been part of a research project called “Inside Bruegel” led by the Kunsthistorisches Museum (KHM) in Vienna. Together with other panel paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder housed at KHM and other institutions, our Collections’ masterpiece, *Haymaking* (1565), underwent a technical study using cutting-edge imaging devices in KHM’s laboratory. Specialists captured the painting at very high resolutions through X-rays, macrophotography, and infrared reflectography.

This new content is now displayed on touchscreens in the Bruegel Room of the Lobkowitz Palace, offering an unprecedented opportunity for specialists and art lovers

Cataloging Continues

The second phase of cleaning, conserving, and cataloging our Arms collection is now complete. We have also now begun digitizing the firearms and cold weapons.

The cataloging of our glass negatives and other photographic materials is in its final phase. Following a crucial preparatory period of surveying materials, implementing a large-capacity database, and outfitting storage facilities, Curator of the Lobkowitz Library & Archives, Soňa Černocká, began the conservation, restoration, and digitization of these precious materials earlier this year.

Finally, we began the behemoth task of cataloging the 65,000-item Lobkowitz Library, most of which is listed in 19th-century handwritten inventories. Our future goal is to make the Library accessible to students and scholars for research, not only in person, but also through an online database.



(Left to right): Alexandra Lobkowitz, Simon Bobak, Dita Baker, and Martin Martan examining Haymaking.

alike to see what lies beneath the surface of the painting in astonishing detail—from zoom-in features of the painting to newly published findings about its provenance. This research also allows our curatorial team to better observe the painting’s condition changes to ensure long-term preservation.

This summer, *Haymaking* was also examined by a committee of three specialists in painting restoration: Simon Bobak, honorary chief conservator of the Hamilton Kerr Institute, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Martin Martan, chief lecturer at the Faculty of Restoration of the University of Pardubice and a long-term restorer of the Collections; and Elke Oberthaler, chief of Paintings Conservation at KHM.



Beethoven Room at the Lobkowitz Palace

International Museums Unite in Prague

Leading up to the 26th International Council of Museums General Conference, ICOM Prague 2022, William Lobkowitz was honored to be one of the keynote speakers in a preliminary hybrid forum last year to present the Lobkowitz Collections' digital initiatives during Covid. This August, we were proud to participate again in ICOM's main conference by offering an exclusive tour for

members of the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Instruments and Music at the Lobkowitz Palace focusing on our newly renovated music galleries. Conference visitors were also invited to Nelahozeves Castle for a rich program, including an exhibition tour, a talk on the Lobkowitz Library, and a presentation about our plans for the Antonín Dvořák Birth House Museum.

Institutional Grant Funding

Institutional grant funding is essential to support our restoration activities, programming, and capital projects. Our fundraising efforts were rewarded in the spring with two institutional grants.



Gathering in front of Dvořák's statue for the annual Dvořák Music Festival at Nelahozeves

We received almost 6 million CZK (c. 244,000 USD) from the Iceland Liechtenstein Norway Grants, which will be used to install the new interactive museum exhibition at the Dvořák Birth House. Later this year, we aim to apply for two more major grants which would help us to reach our goal to open the museum by spring 2024.

The second grant of 100,000 CZK (c. 4,000 USD), which we received from the Central Bohemian Region, will partially cover the costs for the annual Dvořák Nelahozeves Music Festival in September. This festival celebrates Dvořák's birth with special programming, concerts, and guided tours. The festival was founded by the Antonín Dvořák Society in 1951, around the time when his birth house in Nelahozeves opened to the public for the first time in history.



Antonín Dvořák Birth House, Nelahozeves

Friends Trip to Prague May 2023

Join Brooks and William Lobkowicz in May 2023 when they will be leading another Friends trip to Prague—continuing our long tradition of sharing a behind-the-scenes tour of our cultural initiatives, many of which would not be possible without your generous support. Stay tuned for more information.



Bidding Farewell

We say goodbye to Ieva Smidt, our U.S. development manager since September 2020. Ieva brought energy and enthusiasm expanding our member outreach and offerings and supporting our Dvořák Birth House capital campaign project. Ieva will be working in the non-profit educational field, and we wish her all the very best.



Remembering a Hero

Madeleine Albright's passing was a great loss to the world and for us. This Prague native, with all her accomplishments and commitments worldwide, always had time for culture, education, and her alma mater. She was a wonderful friend and an inspiring leader, leaving a permanent legacy of supporting student interns at the Lobkowicz Collections through the Albright Institute at Wellesley College. We hope to honor Madeleine's memory by exemplifying her values through our continued cultural efforts.



Welcoming Our New Board Member Peter Erichsen

Peter is a partner at Ropes & Gray and has spent most of his career handling legal issues facing educational institutions, private foundations, and museums. In addition to serving as assistant attorney general in the Justice Department and associate counsel to the president of the United States, he spent 4 years and 6 years, respectively, as vice president & general counsel at the University of Pennsylvania and the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles.



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Lobkowicz Collections, o.p.s. (est. 1994) is the Czech non-profit entity and public-benefit organization that oversees the management, conservation, and restoration of the Lobkowicz Collections and provides the curatorial, administrative, and educational programming to make them accessible to audiences worldwide.