

## Jaromír Honzák — Press kit

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*No pretense, only bare honest music. I'm blown away.*

- John Rapson, Professor of Music, Director of Jazz Studies  
The University of Iowa

*A nice change from the usual jazz bass player albums, which tend to be filled with tricky rhythmic patterns that have no meat around the bone."*

- François Couture, All Music Guide

*Sophisticated harmonies, long intensifying spaces, decomposing emotions, profound empathy – these are the moments which characterize a high quality performance of the Honzák Quintet."*

- Roland Kánik, All About Jazz

*"With his albums, Honzák has brought a spirit of openness and freshness into the domestic jazz scene."*

- Petr W. Vaněk, Metropolis

*An unique quality in his music remains constant: a desire to explore the unknown; pleasure taken in unbounded creativity; or an urge to inspire or be inspired.*

- Czech Radio 3 – Vltava

Jaromir's albums Early Music (2017), Uncertainty (2014), Little Things (2009), A Question To All Your Answers (2007) and Present Past (2003) were awarded the Anděl Award as the best jazz album of the year.

In 2009 his album A Question To All Your Answers ranked third in the Instrumental Jazz Album category of the Just Plain Folks competition.

In 2002 Jaromir was runner-up in the USA Songwriting Competition, with his tune Present Past and in 1999 Jaromir was a runner-up in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, with his tune Old Couple.

Jaromir's tune Constant Struggle was published in the European Real Book (Sher Music).

Jaromir has been on Czech and international jazz scenes since the mid-1980s.

Throughout the years he has appeared with all the major Czech jazz leaders as well with international artists such as Art Farmer, Phil Wilson, Don Friedman, Amina Claudine Myers, Victor Lewis or Kevin Hayes.

In 1989 Jaromír was awarded both Berklee and Fulbright scholarships to attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston. There he studied with Bruce Gertz, Hal Crook, John La Porta, Rick Peckham and others and performed with fellow students Jorge Rossy, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Roy Hargrove, Mark Turner and Chris Cheek.

Since returning to the Czech Republic in 1990, Jaromír has documented his work as a bandleader, bassist and composer in eight recordings on which he collaborates with a range of international artists, including Jorge Rossy, Chris Cheek, Sissel Vera Pettersen, Jon Falt, Antonin-Tri Hoang, David Dorůžka and others.

Presently, Jaromír leads his Jaromír Honzák Quintet and is a member of Luboš Soukup's Points Septet and Iva Bittová's band Čikori.

Jaromír leads the jazz department at the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts (HAMU) in Prague, where he is active as a teacher of bass and improvisation.

### **JAROMÍR HONZÁK QUINTET**

David Dorůžka - guitar

Luboš Soukup - clarinet, tenor saxophone

Vít Křišťan - piano, keyboards

Jaromír Honzák - acoustic and electric bass

Martin Novák - drums

The Jaromír Honzák Quintet performs mostly original compositions by the leader. Grounded in contemporary jazz, but open to the many influences beyond, the band performs music both fragile and charged with energy.

**David Dorůžka** is a graduate of Berklee College of Music. In 2000, Pat Metheny selected him as the only guitarist to attend a prestigious workshop in Aspen, Colorado, where David's lecturers were Christian McBride, Joshua Redman, Brian Blade and Herbie Hancock. David is the holder of several Angel Awards for his albums and as a soloist he is invited to collaborate with musicians from all over the world.

Today, **Luboš Soukup** lives in Copenhagen, where he graduated from The Rhythmic Music Conservatory. He leads several music projects in parallel in Copenhagen and in Prague. Luboš has released more than a dozen original albums with music of various flavors. His album Earth, recorded together with guitarist Lionel Loueke, was well received worldwide. He regularly performs with his projects at major European jazz festivals.

**Vít Křišťan** is a graduate of the Academy of Music in Katowice and the Jazz Academy in Odense, Denmark. He has a long-standing interest in his international contacts in various projects with which he performs throughout Europe (Marek Kadziela, Agnieszka Twardoch, Inner spaces, Joanna Kucharczyk Quartet, Tomáš Hobzek Quartet, Concept Art Orchestra, etc.). He has recorded a number of acclaimed albums both with his own music and as a member of other music projects.

**Martin Novák** is a graduate of the Jazz Institute Berlin, where his teacher was a prominent drummer and composer John Hollenbeck. Martin is one of the most sought after and most versatile drummers. Among the musicians he has collaborated with are Lenka Dusilová, Jana Kirschner, Ondřej Pivec, Iva Bittová, Osian Roberts, Nick Etwell, Matěj Benko, Rich Perry, Steve Fishwick, Sam Sadigursky, Bob Montgomery and others.

<https://jaromirhonzak.com/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/jaromirhonzakjazz/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6li6DLg\\_8i4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6li6DLg_8i4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-BxZHehiuY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTWdW1OyOhs>