

NIKOL BÓKOVÁ RELEASES A NEW ALBUM MARKED BY A PERSONAL TONE AND FEATURING AN ALL-STAR LINE-UP

The third album by pianist and composer **NIKOL BÓKOVÁ** is released just one year after her previous one, *Unravel* (2020), which had been preceded by Bóková's debut, *Inner Place*, nominated for an Anděl Award in 2019. The line-up in this recording is like the author's dream come true. Her colleagues are the world-renowned French-horn player **RADEK BABORÁK**, foremost Czech guitarist **DAVID DORŮŽKA**, award-winning double-bassist **JAROMÍR HONZÁK** and drummer **MICHAL WIERZGOŃ** who has collaborated with Nikol on her previous two albums. All are important representatives of two musical worlds – jazz and classical music – which Nikol has been originally and sensitively combining in her work. The material of the album draws on personal experience. The title, **PROMETHEUS**, alludes to Greek mythology but the individual compositions evoke experiences shared with a loved person whose passing immediately preceded the

project. **NIKOL BÓKOVÁ** has authored all the music on this album and used it to paint images and conjure up emotions and memories. **PROMETHEUS** contains strong melodic material and its dynamism is determined, among others, by the changing tempo, so typical of the author's work. The various musical worlds and the sound of the individual instruments on this album mingle naturally, even intuitively. This has been reflected in the smooth, spontaneous recording process which only took two days, without any preliminary rehearsals.

DAVID DORŮŽKA, a respected author, performer and sought-after sideman of many Czech and international jazz formations has commented on the collaboration with Nikol, saying that *"It was an honour to be part of this recording. Nikol is a phenomenon on the Czech musical scene, mostly due to her combination of a brilliant technique and crystal-clear sound with a gift for composition and improvisation which, in her case, elude genre pigeonholing. I admire musicians who aren't afraid to take a step in the dark, and Nikol is one of these."*

JAROMÍR HONZÁK expresses a similar view of Nikol's work: *"I don't know anybody else who would be able to cross the boundaries between the European classical-music tradition and the world of jazz so naturally. In her approach to jazz, Nikol is convincing not just as a performer, but an author of original and powerful music. I've been very honoured to have been part of the recording!"*

For **RADEK BABORÁK**, who has dozens of classical music recordings under his belt, the participation in the **PROMETHEUS** project was his first experience with jazz and, as he has suggested, his collaboration with Nikol will have its continuation: *"This collaboration with Nikol and the band created for this project, was both a musical challenge and great pleasure for me. Not only have I met excellent new colleagues with whom we have go on really well but I have also been part of the creation of a completely new and emotionally rich work. I really look forward to hearing the recording. And it is great to know that with Nikol, it has not been just one-time collaboration. Already this week one of the parts of Prometheus will be performed in a new version for seven French horns and an organ at a concert."*

The album was recorded at the SONO Records studio in collaboration with sound engineer Milan Cimfe. The mastering is by Adam Karlík and Pavel Karlík. The cover design is by Jonatan Kuna from the Najbrt Studio, the photograph of Nikol Bóková on the cover and the promo photos are by Jan Vala. The album is released on 21 May 2021 on CD and digitally as MP3 and WAV (only for download), and it will also be available on LP. The album is

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distributed by SUPRAPHON and is available also from the ANIMAL MUSIC e-shop at www.animalmusic.cz. Album PROMETHEUS is released as part of the Animal Music Edition 2021, supported by a grant from the City of Prague.

NIKOL BÓKOVÁ is one of the most talented young authors on the contemporary jazz Czech scene whose compositional work draws on her training as a classical pianist and combines elements of jazz, classical music, pop music and minimalism. Over the space of three years she has recorded three albums which met with high critical acclaim. Her debut album INNER PLACE was nominated for the Czech Music Academy Award and the second album, UNRAVEL, took second place in the Czech Jazz Survey by Czech jazz critics and promoters. Besides composition, Nikol has pursued a solo career and collaboration with orchestras. Her repertoire stretches from Baroque to contemporary music and she regularly appears with foremost Czech orchestras on Czech and European stages, performs solo recitals and records classical music for the Czech Radio. In collaboration with the visual artist Jan Vala she has co-authored the CATAPLASM project and has been promoting it within the Patreon donor platform. In the project, Bóková combines the world of classical music with her own work and creates masterclasses, piano lessons for beginners, videoclips and audio-visual projects in which she allows listeners a peek into her own musical world and creative process.

In her own trio, Bóková collaborates with double-bassist MARTIN KOCIÁN and drummer MICHAŁ WIERZGOŃ, both of whom are also members of Purple is the Color.



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