

## Marta Topferova & Aneta Majerova

### Leoš Janáček's folk ballads & Moravian folk poetry in songs



**Marta Topferova – voice**  
**Aneta Majerová – piano**

Singer **Marta Topferova** and the pianist **Aneta Majerova** have come together to study and perform Leoš Janáček's folk ballads and Moravian folk poetry in songs. Janáček's songs are hauntingly beautiful, mysterious, closely tied to the Moravian landscape, traditions, and folklore. Moravia also happens to be the region where Marta was born, so it has been particularly inspiring for Marta to get to know this genius Czech composer.

Marta & Aneta have been honored to receive a grant from the Leoš Janáček Foundation to perform several concerts of Janáček's works in the spring of 2016. Then in October of 2016, Marta, Aneta and Marta's Milokraj ensemble will perform a collection of Janáček's songs at the prestigious Janáček Festival in Brno (<http://janacek-brno.cz>), featuring new arrangements for Marcel Comendant on cimbalom, Stanislav Palúch on violin, David Dorůžka on guitar and Robert Ragan on bass.

**Marta Topferova** is one of the finest singers and songwriters of her generation. She has been heavily influenced by Latin American folk music, as well as her native Czech roots. Her powerful voice and spirited songs are rooted in traditions ranging from Venezuelan vals and merengue, Argentine folklore, Cuban Trova, as well as Slavic folk music. As a steady creative force on the New York music scene for

sixteen years, Marta has collaborated with some of the best musicians from the Latin, jazz and classical circles, and this experience has forged a unique mix of styles in her work. Marta recently returned to her homeland, the Czech Republic, in order to conceive and launch an ensemble of Czech and Slavic music - Milokraj - meaning "beloved land". The result is a new collection of original songs, featuring an all-star Eastern European line up: Slovak violinist Stanislav Palúch, Moldavian cimbalom player Marcel Comendant, Czech guitarist David Doruzka and Slovak bassist Robert Ragan. Their debut CD was funded by the Czech Ministry of Culture as well as Prague's City Hall, and ranked among the top ten groups on the World Music Charts Europe. To date, Marta has released seven albums: "Milokraj" (2013 Animal Music), "The Other Shore" (2011 World Village), "Trova" (2009 World Village), "Flor Nocturna" (2006 World Village), "La Marea" (2005 World Village), "Sueño Verde" (2003 Circular Moves) and "Homage to Homeland" (2002 self-produced). Marta has toured the US, Canada, Europe, Argentina and Thailand, enchanting fans worldwide for over a decade.

"Topferova sings with an elegant longing in her voice" – New York Times

"A leading light of the nueva canción movement of today" – BBC

#### WEB

[www.martatopferova.com](http://www.martatopferova.com)

Slovak pianist **Aneta Majerová** (born 1979) is a graduate of the Žilina Conservatory in the class of Darina Švarná; the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica in the class of Marián Lapšanský; and the Pedagogical Faculty of Charles University in Prague. She has participated in residencies at the Academy of Music in Prague and the Gnessin Academy in Moscow with Maria Gambarian and Nana Nemtsicveridze. She honed her interpretational skills at the International Courses of Interpretation under the guidance of such artists as Lazar Berman, Eugen Indjic, Jiří Skovajsa, Robert Roux, Eugen Pridonoff, Boaz Sharon and Maria Gambarian. In the last ten years, she has performed in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, USA, Russia and the Seychelles. She is a recipient of first prizes in the State Competition of Slovak Conservatories in Chamber Music and of the International Schubert Competition for Piano Duets in Jeseník. As a devoted interpreter of the music of Gideon Klein she is a recipient of support from the Gideon Klein Foundation. She has been teaching at the Prague Conservatory since 2009.

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[www.majerova.com](http://www.majerova.com)