



“Great Czechs by Little Czechs”

Embassy of the Czech Republic

October 3 - 31, 2011

The Embassy of the Czech Republic presents the exhibition “Great Czechs by Little Czechs”, a posters made by Czech children depicting the greatest Czech personalities. The exhibition, spearheaded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and graphically designed by Tomáš Coufal, is based on the art education project “The Greatest Czech” organized by Škola hrou in a connection to a national survey searching for the greatest Czech personalities. The exhibition features 19 internationally renowned Czech personalities, selected by children ages 8 to 12. On the posters, one can see such figureheads as Antonín Dvořák, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, and Miloš Forman from the perspective of a child. The posters also include children’s drawings and descriptions, in which one can find the real core of each personality.

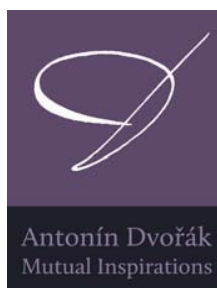


In the words of an eleven year old girl, Dvořák’s “grief made him famous... (when) his children died and to face up to such a grief, he composed Stabat mater that made him famous all over the world... (yet) he remained a Czech even (when working) in America... he missed home and wrote his most famous piece From the New World.” Notably, most of the other Czechs featured in the exhibition came to America to inspire and be inspired as well.

The project is inspired by the work of well-known pedagogue, humanist, and philosopher Jan Amos Komenský, a visionary of the 17th century. His ideas of new educational methods and a better attitude towards children surpassed his time. He sought to guarantee private education to every child and found a new system of education and cultural understanding to evade all possible wars. Even though all of his ideas did not come into fruition, Jan Amos Komenský is regarded as the father of modern education.

For more information about this unique project, visit <http://www.czech.cz/en/76234-great-czechs-by-little-czechs>.

The exhibitions will be on view Monday through Thursday (10 am-4 pm) and Friday (10-2 pm). Please call 202/274-9105 to schedule an appointment.



The *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011 - Antonín Dvořák* runs from September 8, 2011, commemorating the 170th anniversary of the birth of the composer, and ends on October 28, 2011, Czech National Day. The festival features more than 500 local and international artists, 30 concerts and events, and a dozen prestigious venues in the Washington, DC, community. The festival is spearheaded by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg, focusing on the mutual inspirations between Czech and American cultures. For more information about the festival, please visit www.mutualinspirations.org.