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Od:

CZU - Welcome centre

Předmět:

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Welcome Centre
for International Scholars



Welcome Centre for International Scholars

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year 2024!



We have stepped into the **new year 2024** and we are happy to present you our new Welcome Centre Newsletter to **inform you about upcoming events and offer you some tips on activities on the campus and in the city of Prague.**

 *We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and began the New Year successfully and with joy. We would like to wish you all the best for 2024, many great achievements in your professional career and a lot of happiness in your personal life* 

The Welcome Centre is here to make your life in the Czech Republic more comfortable and you can count on our help for any support with logistical issues or tips on life in Prague and many other services.

We are looking forward to seeing you in one of our many events throughout the year.

All the best from Mirka, Martina, Alena and Ranjodh



A LOOK BACK TO THE EVENTS IN 2023



The year 2023 was rich in activities, events and trips organized by the **Welcome Centre**. It started in **January** with a cultural visit to the [National Theatre](#) to watch the famous opera *Bartender Bride*. In **March**, we went on our first one-day trip to western Bohemia, where we visited the castle [Loket and the spa town Karlovy Vary](#). In **April** our trips continued with an organized tour of [Prague gardens](#) with Jiřina Posledníková, a local tour guide.

In **May**, we enjoyed another wonderful outing, this time to [Průhonice Park](#), and at the end of **July** we traveled to the village called Mořinka and we visited the [Karlštejn Castle](#). We were accompanied on both trips by Mr. Lukáš Pospíšil, MSc, the Head of the International Relations Office, who earlier taught at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences. As our guide, he shared with us some fascinating information. In **August**, we explored Beroun and [Koněprusy caves](#).

One of the most memorable events of the last year was without doubt the [International Garden Party](#) in **September**. CZU employees joined us with their families in the community garden of Suchbát, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. At this event, we had the opportunity to taste some delicious food and beverages from many different cultures.

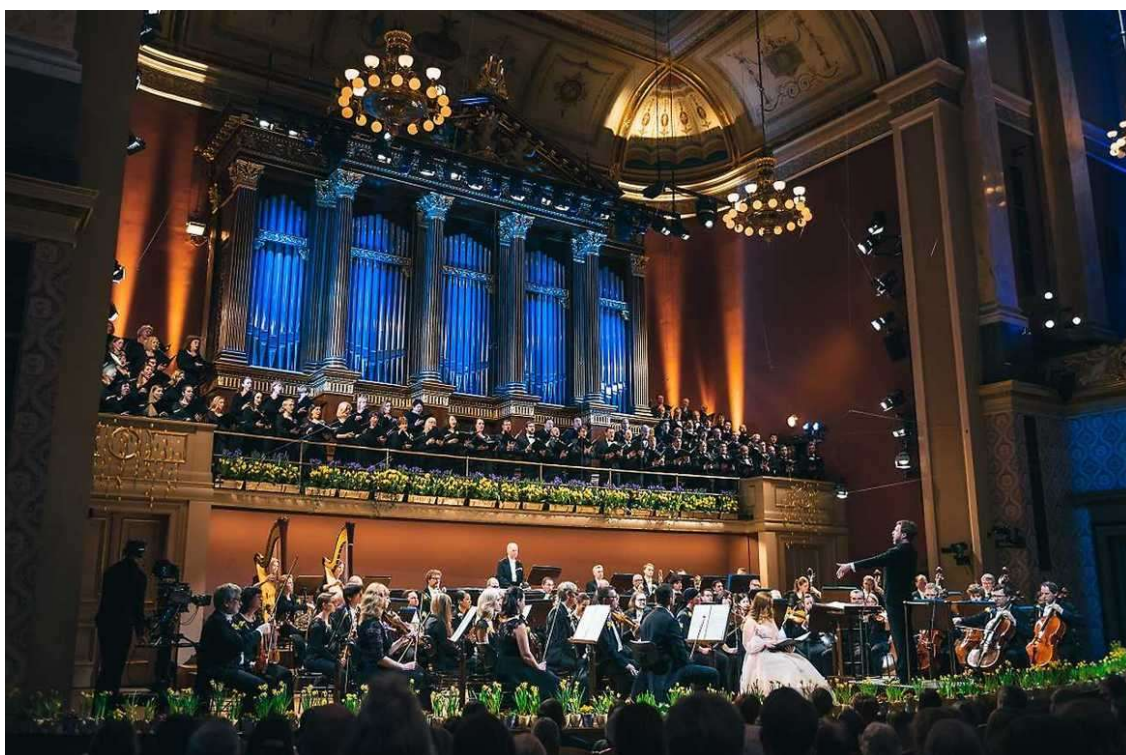
We wrapped up the summer season with a trip to northern Bohemia, where we

spent a memorable weekend at our CZU cottage in [Janov nad Nisou](#) and enjoyed different activities in the region and cooking together.

The last trip in the year 2023 was a visit to [Vienna](#), the capital city of Austria. This beautiful city welcomed us with its many historical sights and very special atmosphere of the **Christmas** markets and we are sure that all of the participants enjoyed themselves and they will have fond memories of the day spent in Vienna.

During 2023, we have also organized some seminars and lectures.

CZU WELCOME CENTRE UPCOMING EVENTS



We will begin the new year with two cultural events:

On January 25th with the **opera Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** at the Estates Theatre (Stavovské divadlo), one of the most beautiful historical theatre buildings in Europe. Don Giovanni premiered at the Estates Theatre on October 29, 1787, under the baton of Mozart himself.

On February 5th with a **concert in Rudolfinum**, where the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra led by pianist and conductor Sir Andreás Schiff will be performing Antonín Dvořák, Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.



SEMINARS ON IMPORTANT TOPICS

We are planning some interesting seminars throughout the year on topics that you might find useful while living in the Czech Republic.

Seminar Health Care System in the Czech Republic will take place on **February 27th at 5 P.M.** at the CZU campus (room n. to be defined). The presentation will be held by Bc. Petra Kaucká Oral from Integroční centrum Praha o.p.s. The seminar will cover the following topics:

- **Public health insurance**
- **Commercial health insurance**
- **Insurance paid by the state**
- **Finding a doctor, visiting a specialist, fees**

- Hospitals, emergency rooms, emergency pharmacies
- Prescription medication, co-payments
- Sick leave

Sign-up here: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/jCsDmnbH5q>

You will be informed in advance about other programmed seminars.



EASTER WITH THE WELCOME CENTRE

On Friday March 22 the Welcome Centre will be organizing an **Easter** get together. In the Czech Republic, many Easter traditions are still observed and practiced, especially in villages, and different regions may have their own traditions and customs. We would like to share with you at least some of these, such as painting and decorating Easter eggs (kraslice) or braiding willow branches (pomlázka). As usual, this will be an opportunity to taste some typical food prepared for the occasion (beránek, mazanec, Velikonoční nádivka).



We will be sending out more detailed information soon.



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CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES

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 *We would like to congratulate all those who successfully completed the Czech language course last semester* 

Czech language courses will continue in the new semester and we are pleased to invite all of you, whether you are a complete beginner or you already have some basics.

There will be two levels, taught by our teacher professor Kateřina Bíglová.

Beginners can sign-up here: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/BemU4qvaPV>

Advanced can sign-up here: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/BemU4qvaPV>

Cost: Beginners 1 950 CZK (13 lessons), Advanced 3 400 CZK (17 lessons)

When: Beginners from February 21st every Wednesday from 16:00 to 17:00

Advanced from February 1st every Thursday from 16:00 to 17:00

Classes will run until May 30th, 2024.

Where: Faculty of Environmental Sciences, room D 324



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LANGUAGE CAFÉ



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We are happy to announce that The Welcome Centre International Club will start organizing once again its traditional Language Café meetings. The main focus of the new Language Cafés will be on the **Czech language**. Our aim is to make your life in Prague as comfortable as possible and this might be easier when you know how to communicate in certain situations. We will organize the meetings in close cooperation with the **Czech language teacher Mrs. Bígllová**, in order to concentrate on the most important and useful topics. However, the Language café is open to anyone. You can come and join us for a fun time together even if you are not taking the Czech language courses, **there is no need to sign up**. It will be a good occasion to get to know other people and maybe even find a buddy to exchange other languages of interest.

The first Language Café will be held on Thursday 8th February,
from 12:00 in the PEF Cafeteria!

EVENTS IN PRAGUE



MASOPUST

From February 8th until February 14th, you can enjoy the celebrations of **Masopust**, which is the **Czech version of Mardi Gras**. 'Masopust' is an old Czech word meaning 'meat fast' and it signs the period of feasting and fun before the start of Lent. Masopust dates back to the 13th century and is celebrated every year to usher out winter and celebrate the arrival of spring. **During this time, you can watch colorful costumed parades with a variety of masked characters, theater performances, old crafts, carnival balls, dances, operas, concerts, activities for kids and exhibitions.** Of course, during these celebrations, you can taste some traditional delicious food and drinks. Many restaurants will offer dishes that were consumed in medieval times.

Masopust in Prague is celebrated in both outdoor and indoor settings. Events held on streets and squares all over Prague are usually free. There will be also numerous indoor events held in theatres, museums and galleries.

You can find more information here:

<https://www.carnivaland.net/prague-carnival/>

YEAR OF CZECH MUSIC 2024

This year's edition of the Year of Czech Music will be held in the spirit of the main message: 'We are music'. In addition to classical music, it will also offer other genres: from folk music to jazz to alternative genres.

Smetana 200 - Bedřich Smetana deserves to be given a unique position in the Year of Czech Music 2024 that matches his prominence. Especially as this year marks the 200th anniversary of his birth.

More information about the events can be found here:

<https://www.rokceskehudby.cz/en/>

OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER



Since November 2023, we have a new member to our team. **Alena Gentile** comes originally from Prague, but she has lived abroad for over 25 years. During this time, she concluded her university studies and she also gained a lot of work experience in different fields. Thanks to all this experience, Alena understands very well what it means to move to a new place, trying to figure out your life there amidst all the difficulties and differences you have to face. Therefore, she will be here with us to make your experience as smooth as possible.

MEDICAL FACILITY TIP

UNICA Clinic Prague, Bucharova 2657/12, Prague 5

The Unica clinic provides the most modern comprehensive care in the field of gynecology and obstetrics: preventive examinations, contraceptive counseling, surgical interventions, aesthetic gynecology, infertility treatment, pregnancy care, treatment to improve menopausal symptoms.

Unica offers also a comprehensive holistic medical examination with a specialist in internal medicine. This is a specially compiled set of examinations that serve to diagnose the overall state of health and can detect disease before clinical symptoms appear.

Should you be interested in making an appointment, please contact the Welcome Centre for further information.

! IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT !

CZU EMPLOYEES' FAMILY MEMBERS HEALTH INSURANCE

Please be aware that due to the new Czech amendment for foreigners in the Czech Republic concerning foreigners' comprehensive medical insurance, the insurance limit for one insured event increased from CZK 3,000,000 to CZK 10,000,000 (EUR 400,000).

Newly, it is possible to arrange the insurance with all insurance companies that are authorized to provide such insurance (e.g. PVZP, UNIQA, AXA, Vitalitas). CZU employees and family members are entitled to a 20% discount with the Vitalitas insurance provider. Please contact the Welcome Center for the discount.

If you have valid PVZP insurance, please register 8 days before the expiration of the current contract with any of the authorized insurance providers (e.g. PVZP, UNIQA, AXA, Vitalitas).



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Our mailing address is:

welcome.centre@czu.cz

Disclaimer:

The Welcome Center will be pleased to provide advice and support in all non-academic issues. Please note, however, that you will have to make the final decision in all issues discussed and the Welcome Center and its staff cannot take any responsibility or assume liability for these decisions. You are receiving this newsletter because you are signed up for our mailing list. **Unsubscribe from the list** by simply sending us an e-mail to welcome.centre@czu.cz. If this newsletter was forwarded to you by a friend, you can subscribe to our mailing list also via welcome.centre@czu.cz.

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