

To Make a Real Theatre:

Preparation of a monograph on the Bohuslav Martinů's musical theatre until 1938, including a critical edition of the librettos



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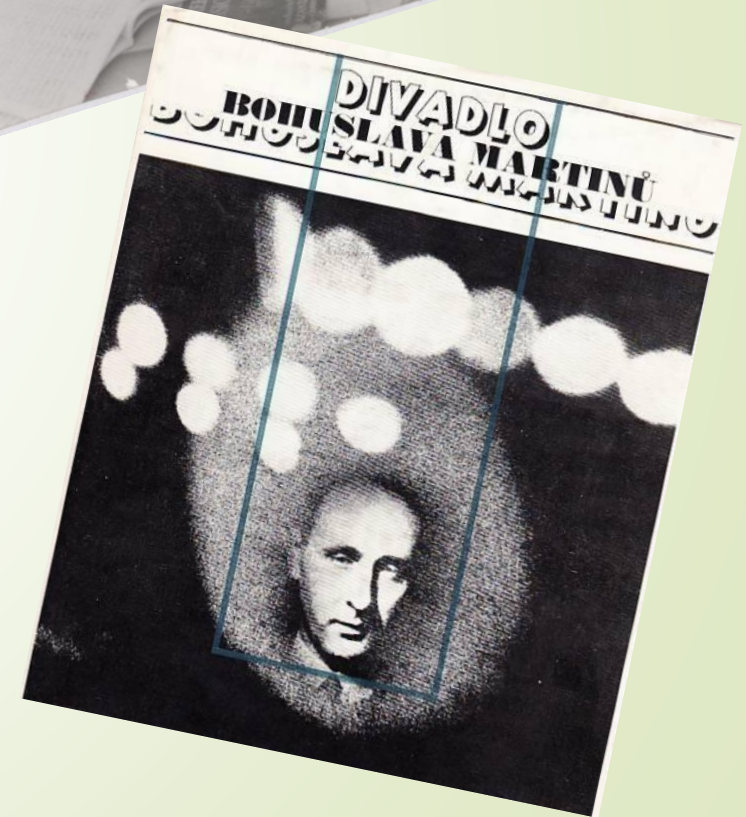
Structure of the presentation

- Project introduction
- Newly discovered sources
- Future goals



Project introduction

- Librettos of Bohuslav Martinů's stage works up to 1938
- Composer's reflections on musical theatre
- Facsimiles of original librettos
- Complete list of all productions
- Reference book for musicologists, performers, dramaturges, students and members of the general public



Realised stage works up to 1938

- *The Night*, H 89 (1913–1914)
- *The Shadow*, H 102 (1916)
- *Istar*, H 130 (1918–1921)
- *The Revolt*, H 151 (1925)
- *The Butterfly that Stamped*, H 153 (1926)
- *The Amazing Flight*, H 159 (1927)
- *The Kitchen Revue*, H 161 (1927)
- *The Soldier and the Dancer*, H 162 (1926–1927)
- *On Tourne!*, H 163 (1927)
- *Tears of the Knife*, H 169 (1928)
- *Three Wishes or Inconstancy of the Life*, H 175 (1928–1929)
- *Check to the King*, H 186 (1930)
- *The Day of Good Deeds*, H 194 (1930–1931)
- *The Chap-Book*, H 214 I (1931–1932)
- *The Plays of Mary*, H 236 (1933–1934)
- *Mariken of Nimègue*, 236/2 I (1933–1937)
- *The Voice of the Forest*, H 243 (1935)
- *Comedy on the Bridge*, H 247 (1935)
- *Theatre Behind the Gate*, H 251 (1935–1936)
- *Juliette (The Key to Dreams)*, H 253 (1936–1937)
- *Alexander Bis*, H 255 (1937)



Missing stage works up to 1938

- *Dances with Veils*, H 93 (1912–1914) (autograph missing; draft)
- *Windows into the Mist* (1920) (autograph missing; draft)
- *Christmas Carol*, H 112 (1917) (autograph missing; drafts, libretto)
- *Who is the Most Powerful in the World?*, H 133 (1922) (autograph missing; score in copyist's hand)
- *The Judgement of Paris*, H 245 (1935) (autograph missing)

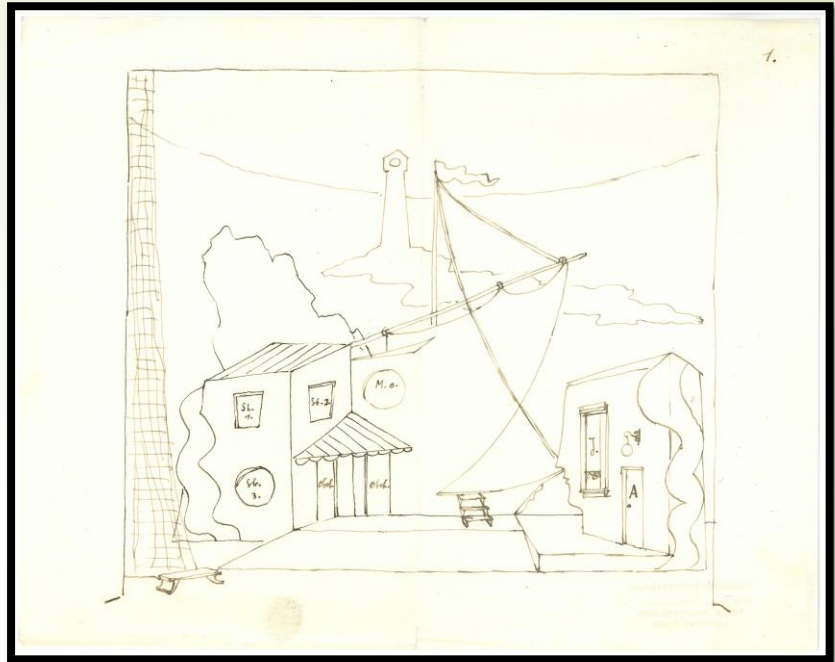


Unrealised stage works up to 1938

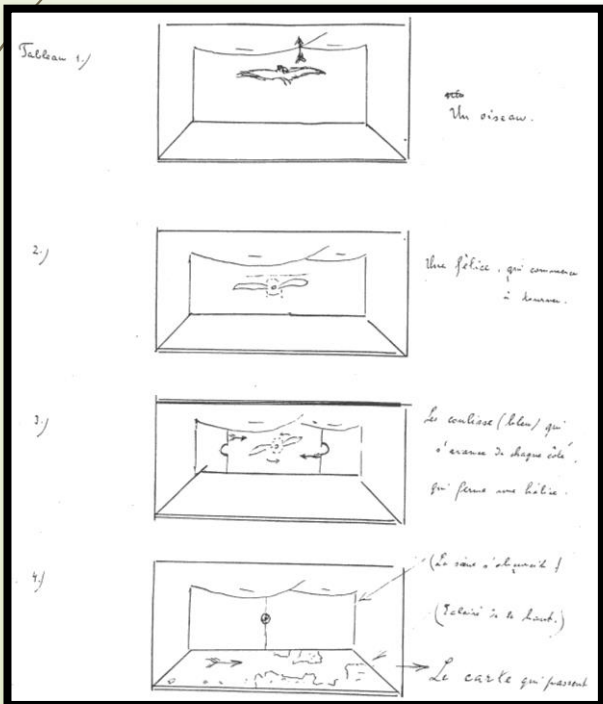
- *Peter Pan* (letter from Martinů to Augustin Berger, 1921)
- *Windows into the Mist* (letters from Martinů to Otokar Fischer, 1920)
- *An Old Story* (letter from Martinů to the Czech Academy of Sciences, 1922)
- "*Mechanical opera*" (letter from Martinů to Camill Hoffmann, 1929)
- *Saint Wenceslas* (letters from Martinů to Stanislav Mojžíš-Lom, 1933)
- *Evenings on a Farm near Dikanka* (article in Literární noviny, No. 13, 1935)



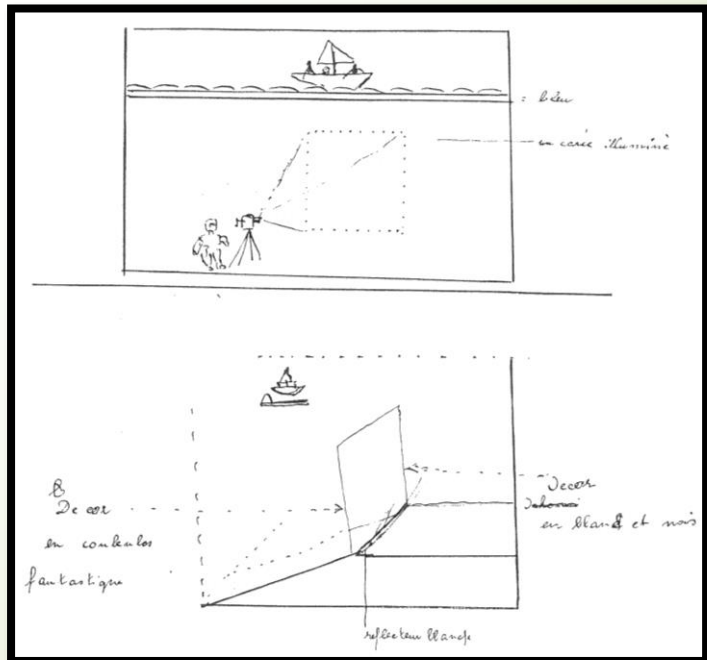
↑ The scene of the ballet *Istar*, H 130



↑ Stage design of the opera *Juliette*, H 253, by František Muzika

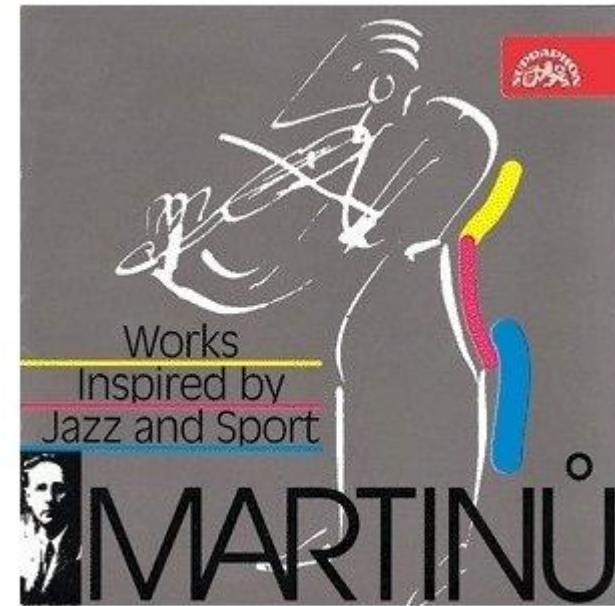


← Stage design of the ballet *The Amazing Flight*, H 159, by Martinů



← Stage design of the ballet *On Tourne!*, H 163, by Martinů

The Kitchen Revue, H 161 (Prologue)



Newly discovered sources

- The source research is focused on the 1920s and 1930s, the years Martinů spent in Paris
- Reformers of the French theatre
- Parisian theatres that might have inspired Martinů for his work
- The estate of the librettists and other artists with whom Martinů collaborated



Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier

- Founded in 1913 by the theatre producer and dramatist Jacques Copeau (1879–1949)
- Reform of the French theatre – "anti-illusory principle"
- Acting school in 1915
- Leaving the theatre in 1924
- Léon Chancerel (1886–1965), dramatist and director, pupil of Copeau



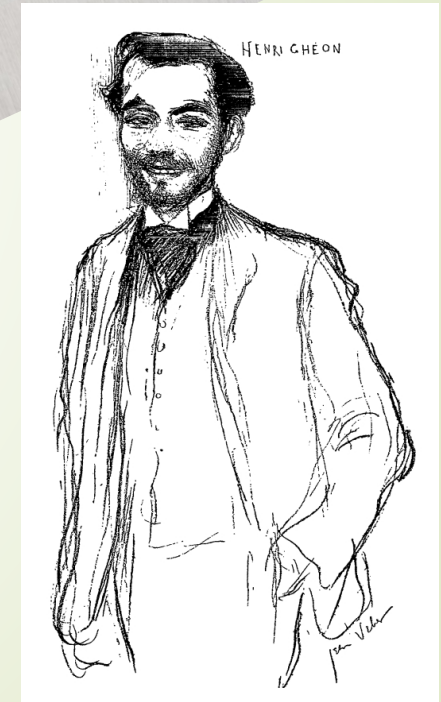
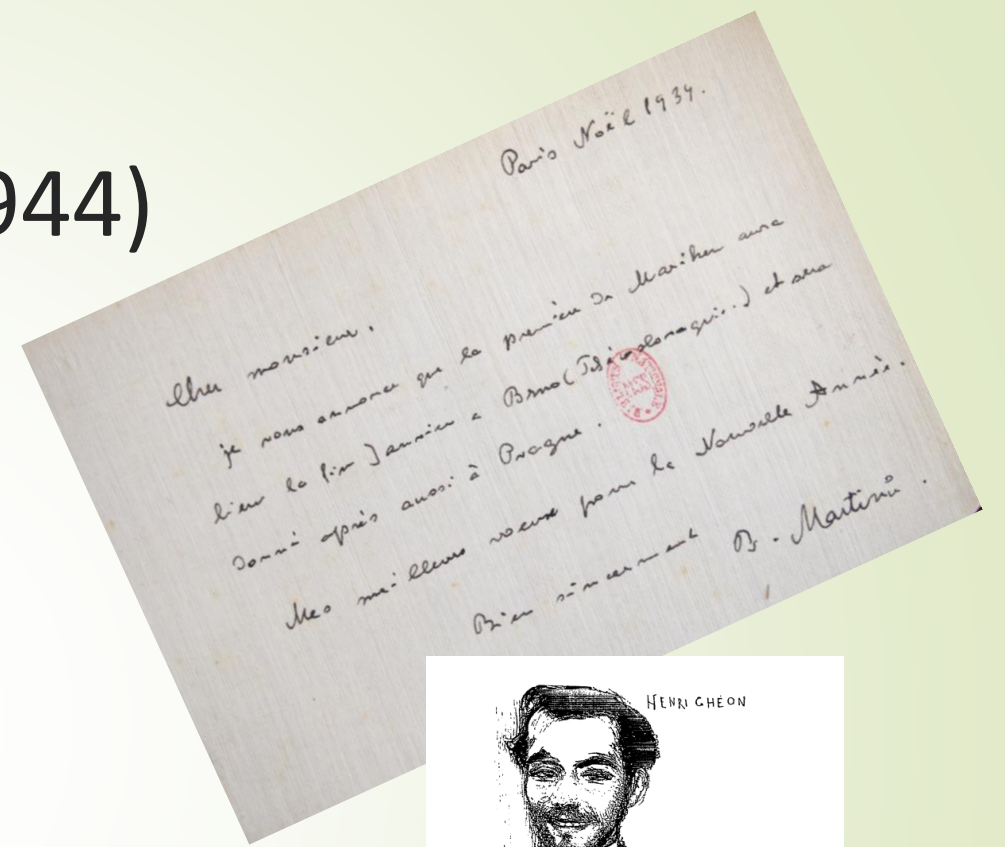
Théâtre Bériza

- Founded in 1924 by the opera singer Marguerite Bériza (1880–1970)
- *The Amazing Flight*, H 159
- Premiere of the *L'Histoire du soldat* (Igor Stravinsky) in 1924 and *Angélique* (Jacques Ibert) in 1927
- Programmes from the Bibliothèque nationale de France



Henri Ghéon (1875–1944)

- Librettist of the opera **Mariken of Nimègue**, H 236/2 I
- Correspondence between Martinů and Ghéon (1931–1937), synopsis by Martinů, libretto and the play by Ghéon were found in the Bibliothèque nationale de France
- Next volume of the BMCE with the opera Alexander Bis, H 255





Future goals

- To discover more about Martinů's contacts with French artists
- To collect other important texts about French theatre
- Continue collecting all materials for each stage work
- Complete English translations
- Complete editing of the librettos
- The monograph will be published by Königshausen & Neumann in 2023

Sources

- Bohuslav Martinů with a cat (Bohuslav Martinů Centre in Polička, call no. PBM Fbm 295)
- Bohuslav Martinů holding the book "The Greek Passion" in his left and a pencil in his right hand working on the score of his opera (Archives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague)
- Book cover of *Divadlo Bohuslava Martinů* by Miloš Šafánek, in: *Obalkyknih.cz* [online, cit. 2022-7-24]: <https://www.obalkyknih.cz/view?nbn=cnb000153955>
- The scene of the ballet *Istar*, H 130 (National Theatre Archive)
- Stage design of the opera *Juliette*, H 253, by František Muzika (private property)
- Stage design of the ballet *The Amazing Flight*, H 159, by Martinů (National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague, call no. 59L283)
- Stage design of the ballet *On Tourne!*, H 163, by Martinů (National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague)
- Prologue of *The Kitchen Revue*, H 161, from the CD "Martinů: Works Inspired by Jazz and Sport" © 1971 Supraphon Music a.s
- Bohuslav Martinů reads a postcard with a magnifying glass (Archives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague)
- Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier, in: *Radiofrance.fr* [online, cit. 2022-7-24]: <https://www.radiofrance.fr/francemusique/podcasts/les-grandes-salles-de-la-musique-classique/le-theatre-du-vieux-colombier-a-paris-1-4-9302898>
- Jacques Copeau, in: *wikipedia.org* [online, cit. 2022-7-24]: https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Copeau
- Marguerite Bériza, in: *bnf.fr* [online, cit. 2022-7-24]: https://data.bnf.fr/en/14986781/marguerite_beriza/
- Letter between Martinů and Ghéon, 1931 (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, NAF 28142)
- Henri Ghéon, in: *bnf.fr* [online, cit. 2022-7-24]: https://data.bnf.fr/en/11904791/henri_gheon/



Thank you for your attention!