

Jiří Bezděk / 1961 Pilsen /, composer, music theorist and pedagogue. Between 1975 and 1981 he studied accordion at the Pilsen Conservatory (under the guidance of J. Vlach and E. Zomer). In 1983 he began studying composition at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague under Václav Riedlbauch. Here he studied music theory as well. He continued his studies at the Department of Music Education of the Faculty of Education of the University of Ostrava under the supervision of Ilja Hurník, and he gained his doctorate at the Faculty of Education at Charles University in Prague in 2000. In 2006 he was appointed Associate Professor of Music Theory and Pedagogy at the Pedagogical Faculty of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. In 2018, she successfully completed heis professorship at Prague's HAMU.

He began his teaching activities as an external teacher of the Pilsen Conservatory in 1984, where he became a full professor in 1990. In the same year he accepted the position of Assistant Professor at the Pedagogical Faculty of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. For 15 years he also worked as a music teacher in Bavaria at Musikwerkstatt Regen.

Since 2006, he has been the principal teacher of composition at the Pilsen Conservatory, and since 2009, he has been the head of the Department of Music Culture at the University of West Bohemia. Since 2018 he has been the head of the Department of Music Theory at HAMU, but he also works at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University in Prague, where he teaches PhD students.

In his professional publishing work, Bezděk focuses primarily on teaching the history of music in the second half of the 20th century and on teaching harmonization of melody. He devotes himself to the popularization of music, often lectures for various institutions mainly in South and West Bohemia (pedagogical centers, University of the Third Age, music schools, etc.) or for the Czech Radio.

In the field of music pedagogy and methodology, he has created, among other things, a comprehensive system of keyboard playing and released a multi-part Czech keyboard school-book, widely used in elementary art schools throughout the country.

Bezdek is the author of nearly 70 songs, of which 6 CDs have been released. Many of the compositions have been performed at international festivals and tribunes (in Reykjavik, Vienna, Sofia, Munich, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Weimar, Chemnitz, Rohr, Arhus, etc.) and at many home festivals. In 2002, the American chamber ensemble Moebius Ensemble - a company of Columbia University teachers in New York commissioned a composition by Jiří Bezděk. In 2004, two of his compositions were premiered in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on the day of the Czech Republic's accession to the EU. Bezděk's compositions are regularly performed abroad by the ensemble Musica ad Gaudium and harpsichordist Alena Tichá. Since 2013, they have been published by the German publishing house Edition Brendel.

In 2007 Bezděk's artistic and scientific profile was published (by Jaroslav Fiala; edited by UWB Pilsen).

Jiří Bezděk is the Chairman of the West Bohemian Music Center, the member of the Association of Music Artists and Scientists. In 2009, he became the Vice Chairman of the creative association Přítomnost in Prague.

As a melodrama composer, Jiří Bezděk presented himself at the International Festival of Concert Melodrama Prague in 2012 and has been cooperating ever since. He is member of the Zdeněk Fibich Society since 2016. He has been a member of the Committee since 2019 and has been elected Director of the newly established the International Zdeněk Fibich Competition in Composition of Melodrama.