

**Věra Šustíková** /1956 Uherské Hradiště/, musicologist and director of melodrama. She studied guitar at the State Conservatory in Brno and music science/education and Czech studies at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University in Prague (PhDr. 1982). In 2015 she received her PhD on musicology at Palacký University in Olomouc. Since 1982 she has been working at the National Museum in Prague – at the Czech Museum of Music in various functions. She is the author of a number of musical exhibitions, e.g. Bedřich Smetana – Legend of My Country (Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto 1994), Zdeněk Fibich 1850–1900 (Prague 2000/2001), Life Is Just a Chance / Jaroslav Ježek (Prague 2006/2007, Bratislava and Hodonín 2007, New York 2009 and Toronto 2009/2010). She has organized two extensive foreign lectures and concert tours: *The Founding Generation of Czech National Music* (Canada 1994) and *Zdeněk Fibich* (USA and Canada 1996). In 2000, she prepared an extensive project to commemorate UNESCO's *International Festival of Zdeněk Fibich 2000*, ranked among the projects Prague – European City of Culture in 2000. She founded and in the years 2012–2018 managed the magazine *Musicological Forum*.

Since the mid-1990s, she has been consistently engaged in dramaturgy, direction and scientific research on melodrama. She is the author of the project *Revival of Concert Melodrama*, in which she founded and directed for years the Czech Melodrama Tour (awarded the Quality Certificate of the Minister of Culture P. Dostál 1999), Melodrama Art Workshops, the International Festival of Concert Melodrama Prague, the International Zdeněk Fibich Competition in Interpretation of Melodrama. She also organizes other lectures and seminars on melodrama and its interpretation. She cooperates with the Czech Radio and with artistic schools. In 2002–2012 she taught melodrama at DAMU. Since 2018 she teaches the subject Music and Word at HAMU.

For example, she has written the libretto for a cross-section of the Fibich's trilogy of *Hippodamia* (theater critics ranked the project among the 5 most successful theatrical achievements of the Czech Republic in 2010), she has reconstructed the libretto of the stage melodrama *Bratrovrah* by Fr. Škroup (premiered on November 23, 2008), she has reconstructed the historical dramatization of A. J. Tairov and produced a screenplay for the work of S. Prokofiev that has not yet been performed: *Eugene Onegin* (premiered on December 8, 2013), which was subsequently recorded on CD, she created from extracts of Dante's *Divine Comedy* the text to Liszt's *Dante Symphony* for the Olomouc Philharmonic (premiered on January 28, 2016 in Olomouc), she has reconstructed the libretto of Praupner's *Circe* (premiere on November 27, 2016 in Kladno). The last major work is the concert performance of A. Honegger's oratorio *Joan of Arc at the Stake* for the Czech National Symphony Orchestra with the conductor L. Pešek (premiered on April 19, 2017 in th Smetana Hall in Prague) or the adaptation of Schuman's dramatic poem with music *Manfred* (premiere on December 9, 2018).

She has published her knowledge of her 20-year directing, dramaturgical, pedagogical and scientific activities in three separate books *Zdeněk Fibich and Czech Concert Melodrama* (2014), *Fibich's Hippodamia and Hippodamia by Vrchlický* (2016) and *New Wave of Concert Melodrama* (2017).

**Věra Šustíková has been a member of the Zdeněk Fibich Society since 1982. In 1996 she became the Vice-Chairman and in 2001 the Chairman of the SZF. Through Fibich's Society, she realized most of the melodramatic activities of her project "Revival of Concert Melodrama". In 2006, SZF transformed into a purely professional association and in 2018 she handed over the presidency to Jiří Petrdlík.**

**Currently, she holds the post of Vice-Chairman of the SZF, Melodramfest Artistic Director and Director of the International Zdeněk Fibich Competition in Interpretation of Melodrama.**