

# Ensemble Inégal

Prague Baroque Soloists  
Vocal & Instrumental Ensemble

...Discover Zelenka  
with Ensemble Inégal...

*"An absolute discovery!" Diapason*

*"Ensemble Inégal – the Czech Star on the European sky of Early Music" Muzyka21*



Ensemble Inégal was founded in Prague in 2000 by the conductor and organist **Adam Viktora** together with the soprano **Gabriela Eibenová**. The core of the ensemble is formed of excellent Czech players and singers, all specialist interpreters of early music.

Initial success and superb reviews (Fanfare, Concerto, Early Music Review) procured the ensemble's first important performances at music festivals, such as the Prague Spring.

The year 2005, with the world CD premiere of Jan Dismas Zelenka's (1679 - 1745) Oratorio *Il Serpente di bronzo*, determined Ensemble Inégal's direction towards the work of this Baroque composer. The star of this man of genius has been rising steeply in the 21st century and the history of music is being re-written.

*"...There are people, who try to tell us there are no hidden masterpieces remaining to be rediscovered. *Il serpente di bronzo* is one work that proves them to be utterly, spectacularly wrong."*

Brian Robins, *Fanfare*

A whole series of CDs with Zelenka's world premieres followed, with the majority highly praised by critics. The

name of Ensemble Inégal has become synonymous with discoveries from J. D. Zelenka's legacy.

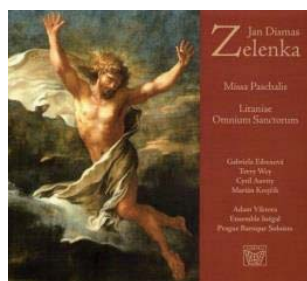
The ensemble accepted numerous invitations to international European music festivals, (Musica Antiqua Brugge, Oude Muziek Utrecht, Lufthansa Festival London, Aschaffener Bachtage and Bach Festival Riga) and collaborates regularly with many Czech and foreign media organisations (BBC, EBU, Czech Television, Czech Radio, Deutschlandradio Kultur).

From 2007 the ensemble organises its own festival series in Prague: CZECH MUSICAL BAROQUE – DISCOVERIES AND SURPRISES at which Czech Baroque compositions are newly premiered, with a special focus on the work of Jan Dismas Zelenka. Two new festival series were added from 2012: MUSIC VISIONS, presenting early and modern music in unusual contexts, and ENSEMBLE INÉGAL FOR CHILDREN: puppet shows with Baroque music and entertaining educational features.

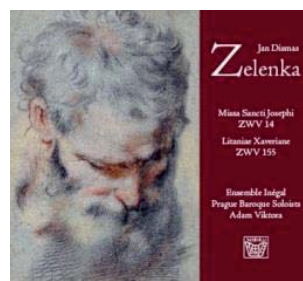
Ensemble Inégal aims and succeeds to collaborate with many excellent musicians: Terry Wey, Peter Kooij, Roberta Mameli, Carlos Mena, Hannes Rux, Florian Deuter, Jonathan Pešek, Jean Tubery, Lisandro Abadie, Kai Wessel, Cyril Auvity, and Makoto Sakurada.



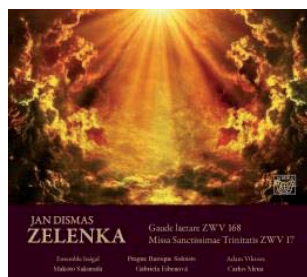
## The unique collection of re-discovered music by Jan Dismas Zelenka



*"Missa Paschalis is the work of a musical genius strategist... under the magnificent guidance of Adam Viktora all the parts are united in unison, absolute perfection..."* Gaëtan Naulleau, Diapason (FR)  
*"...the whole production is truly excellent ...I believe this to be one of the best Zelenka CDs ever..."*  
 Alistair Kidd, Zelenka Forum



*"Ensemble Inégal's fourth recording of Zelenka's music and again such an accomplishment! Adam Viktora's conception is highly theatrical, yet completely flowing. The way he expresses the shifts in this most beautiful music sounds completely natural..."* Diapason, (FR)



*"This is an energetic and rivetting performance..."*  
 Bertil van Boer, Fanfare Magazine (USA)  
*"One just listens in astonishment, a truly magnificent CD"*  
 Michael Wersin, Magazine Rondo (DE)  
*"...just listen how Zelenka and Viktora transform tones of a simple scale into absolute magic..."*  
 Brian Clark, Early Music Review (UK)



*"It is a beautiful work in an exemplary beautiful interpretation..."*  
 Kees Koudstaal, Prelude (NL)  
*"... on this recording Venus is... the impeccably stylish and sweet-voiced soprano Gabriela Eibenová. The effect of her refined rendition of the aria, coming after the persistent Zelenkian restlessness and excitement of the preceding hour and a quarter of music, is overwhelming..."*  
 Christopher Price, International Record Review (UK)



*"The concept and performance of Ensemble Inégal is truly first class"* Lukáš Vytlačil, Hudební rozhledy





*"Ensemble Inégal is a very fine group indeed. The soloists, especially sopranos Gabriela Eibenová and Hana Blažíková, sing beautifully and the choral forces bring power and clarity to every passage. The instrumentalists are also very good and conductor Adam Viktora leads a stylish and compelling performance."*

Craig Zeichner, Goldberg Magazine (ES)



*"This great success is due above all to the interpretation of this group under the direction of Adam Viktora, who has managed to paint the wild and lonely places of Zelenka's unique work"*

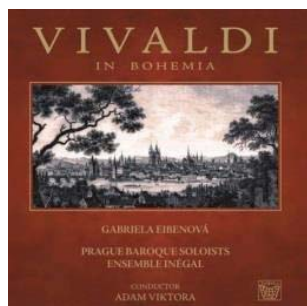
Olivier Rouviere, Diapason, (FR)

*"This is a very fine recording of a wonderful piece... Here, the singing (both solo and choral) is excellent and the instrumental playing is first rate."*

Brian Clark, Early Music Review, (UK)

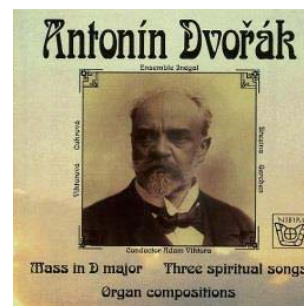


## Další nahrávky



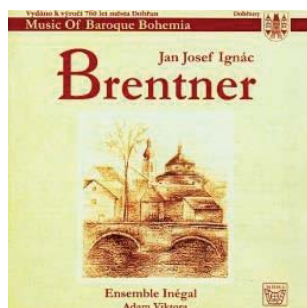
*"This excellent recording will undoubtedly further enhance the prestige of all participants..."*

Brian Clark, Early Music Review (UK)



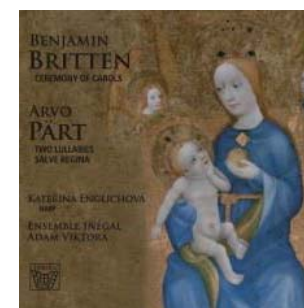
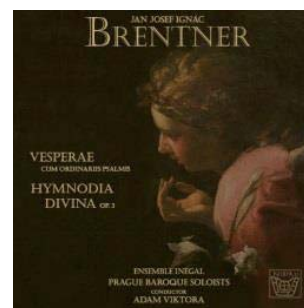
*"This wonderful disc demonstrates what a few inspired musicians can do and that a nearly unknown minor label can outdo all the world's majors, at least for an hour."*

James H. North, Fanfare, (USA)



*"The compelling musical performances of Ensemble Inégal are of the highest standard... J. J. I. Brentner and Adam Viktora's Ensemble Inégal must not be kept back from now on..."*

Bernhard Heider, Concerto, Das Magazin für Alte Musik (DE)





## Ensemble Inégal in 2014

- 18. – 22. 6. **Concert tour Vivaldi in Bohemia**  
Klatovy (CZ), Vejprnice (CZ), Schwäbisch Hall (DE), Niederstetten (DE)
- 16. – 23. 8. **Concert tour A. Dvořák – Missa in D**  
Uckermark (DE), Dalheim (DE)
- 4. – 6. 9. **Concert tour J. D. Zelenka – Missa Dei Filii**  
Prague (CZ), Bernau (DE), Lehnin (DE)
- 25. – 27. 9. **Concert tour J. D. Zelenka – Missa Sanctissimae Trinitatis**  
Gent (BE), Ettelbruck (LU), Pas-de- Calais (F)
- 4. 10. **J. D. Zelenka – Missa Sanctissimae Trinitatis**  
Dobruška (CZ)
- 11. – 12. 10. **Concert tour A. Dvořák – Missa in D**  
Stráž pod Ralskem (CZ), Schirgiswalde (DE)
- 13. 10. **J. D. Zelenka – Missa Sanctissimae Trinitatis,**  
**A. Dvořák – Missa in D**  
Praha (CZ)



## The Ensemble Inégal Festival Concert Series

### CZECH MUSICAL BAROQUE – DISCOVERIES AND SURPRISES

Every year since 2007 Ensemble Inégal has presented audiences with discoveries of unknown, yet important works from the Czech and European Baroque repertoire. Thanks to the innovative programming of the festival, Ensemble Inégal has given countless Czech and world premieres of works by J. D. Zelenka, as well as by A. Vivaldi, S. Capricorn, H. I. Biber and J. H. Schmelzer.



### MUSIC VISIONS

*"In Music Visions we present together seemingly distant musical worlds which in their essence come together",* says Adam Viktora, conductor of the renowned Ensemble Inégal.

At concerts performed in unusual venues listeners have had the opportunity to hear music by Veljo Tormis (Raua Needmine), Arvo Pärt (Salve Regina, Da Pacem Domine, Vater unser, Fratres) and the Requiem by Alfred Schnittke.



## Ensemble Inégal for children

The children puppet show with Baroque music, intended not only for small children, performed by the Divadlo pod Šťastnou Hvězdou (Theatre under the Lucky Star) and Ensemble Inégal is new on the Czech music and theatre scene. Under the direction of Cherkessian Evgeny Ibragimov and filled with beautiful music the show opens the door to an exciting world of fantasy, magic and humour.



## Loutkando Grando / Magic Play with Baroque Music

*"It was really a charming 'play with Baroque music' and the spontaneous reactions of children in the audience confirmed that the producers had hit the 'target group'. This 'musical lesson' was of a high professional standard, nothing was 'short changed' and even adults enjoyed it."*

Helena Havlíková, Opera Plus



## Interview with conductor and artistic director Adam Viktora

**Jan Dismas Zelenka holds a special place in your programmes and this is also confirmed by your discography. So far you have recorded mostly Zelenka's work, and many of them were premiere recordings.**



**of its time? What makes it so attractive, captivating for contemporary listeners?**

We are extremely fortunate to live at a time, when many of the works by this musical genius are completely unknown. In ten, twenty years there won't be any 'firsts' in this repertoire. There will be, of course, opportunities to re-evaluate things, but the fact that Zelenka's scores – this great and important music – have waited for us untouched until the 21st century is for me as a musician incredible, and from the point of a discoverer, sensational. But let's go back to the word discoverer. With small exceptions there was no need to discover any of the extant Zelenka's works, they have been all stored for centuries in Dresden. To get and play his scores is so simple, one could exaggerate and almost say 'take and play'. But one has to first of all ascertain what, why and how to do it...

...I respect greatly my friendship and collaboration with our publisher, the proprietor of the recording company NIBIRU, Mr. Tomáš Janeček. He is a good man, unflinching, a man of courage and inspiration. To him, above all, the musical world should be grateful for revitalizing a good chunk of Zelenka's beautiful music.

*Lukáš Vytlačil, Hudební rozhledy*

**Are you also of the opinion that the interest in Jan Dismas Zelenka's oeuvre is on the increase worldwide? What is the significance of his music in the context**

I don't think it's a matter of opinion, but a plain fact. Zelenka's music fascinates the musical world. It is built on solid foundations, underpinned by a masterful composition. J. S. Bach, who composed at the same as Zelenka, achieved in his monumental works a kind of synthesis of more or less everything music has achieved in two centuries. Zelenka, however, unlike Bach, was also able to look into the future without 'trespassing' the past in any way. He was highly individual, instantly recognisable, and perfect in conceiving and structuring the work. An excellent contrapuntist with a remarkable sense for the role of words in music, he was astounding in his sincere, humble emotional candour. This must have been the reason why J. S. Bach copied his works and described Zelenka to his son Wilhelm Fiedemann as one of the best composers he had ever met...

*Paweł Chmielewski, Muzyka21*





## Prague Baroque Soloist

A chamber music ensemble made up of members of Ensemble Inégal.

The group takes part not only in prestigious festivals of early music, but performs also at venues with no history of authentic early music concerts. The Prague Baroque Soloists play chamber music of Czech and European repertoire, musicians often accompany their concerts with a commentary and viewing of Baroque musical instruments.



## Contact

Ensemble Inégal  
Prague Baroque Soloist



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*Ensemble Inégal's founders Gabriela Eibenová and Adam Viktora in the front*

## Our Videos

🔊 J. D. Zelenka, *Missa Omnium Sanctorum*, live performance

🔊 J. D. Zelenka, *Il Diamante*, flashmob at the Prague airport



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