

Artists Help Children

Beautiful melodies by old masters, opera arias and Czech carols could be heard in Jeseník Chapel on Saturday. After a year, the historic site hosted the advent concert again for the ninth time. The profit was donated to the children from the Social Care Home for Young People in Jeseník, who personally took it over.

As usual, the audience was welcomed by Christmas carols played by the Osker's Brass Band from Ceska Ves. Also, Sinfonia band from Olomouc was greatly applauded for their performance of Czech carols adapted by a Mexican composer, who showed his own perception of these Christmas songs.

Omar Rojas, whose music has been played in famous concert halls all over the world, is now a student of Janacek Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno. He decided to adapt Czech carols thanks to his friend Richard Pohl. "I received an interesting invitation and I wanted to take part in the concert. The carols I have adapted are musically very interesting."

An unintentional surprise of the evening was Mario Zhang, a Chinese tenor living in Germany, who came to Jeseník to visit his friend Jana Dolezilková (an opera singer), and became the star of the event. "He helped me prepare for the performance and I just thought that he could sing too," said the graduate of Janacek Conservatory in Ostrava and in Athens.

In addition to two arias, Mario also agreed to sing Silent Night with her. This Christmas song is traditionally sung together with the handicapped children at the end of the concert. The first words of the song moved many of the visitors to tears. The moment was made even more intense by Marcelka Pupiková, a girl from the Social Care Home, who recited a poem for handicapped children.

"Each of us sometimes asks for some words of understanding, therefore I thank all the people who have supported us," said the organiser of the concert Jarmila Pohlova who presented the children with 7,460 CZK. Mario Zhang donated another 1,000 CZK.

The next year will be a jubilee year. "On the 10th year, we are going to organize ten benefit concerts for the Social Care Home in Jeseník. We expect some help from the sponsors who would like to support children in need," added Jarmila Pohlova.

Olomoucky den, 10. 12. 2007