



2nd Gala Ball of the Czech Air Force Commander

January 10, 2025, Zofín Palace, Prague



The background features several thick, light blue, hand-drawn style lines that swirl and loop across the white page. The lines are fluid and organic, creating a sense of movement and depth. The text is centered within the composition, overlaid on the white space between the lines.

THE SKY IS OUR SEA

SALUTE BY THE CZECH AIR FORCE COMMANDER

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Guests,

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you to the 2nd Gala Ball of the Czech Air Force Commander. I am glad that we have gathered tonight to celebrate friendship, uphold traditions and the friendly collaborative spirit which has a crucial importance for the security and defence of the democratic world.

I perceive this Gala Ball not only as an opportunity for social gathering. To me, it chiefly serves as an opportunity to show respect and convey sincere thanks to all those who have made it possible for the Czech Air Force to become ever stronger, more capable, mission ready and trustworthy. It is you, the service members and your families, our associates and supporters, who enable the Air Force to perform our mission through your high professionalism and effort. I firmly believe that tonight will not only be a pleasant experience but also an opportunity to strengthen our mutual understanding and friendship. I wish you much fun and enjoyment in unforgettable atmosphere in these premises and a beautiful evening full of joy and inspiration.

Thank you very much for being here. Long live the Air Force!

Yours sincerely,

Major General Petr Čepelka



CZECH AIR FORCE



Czech Air Force Command



21st Tactical
Air Force Base



22nd Helicopter Base



24th Air Transportation
Base



25th Air Defence
Missile Regiment



26th Air Command, Control
and Surveillance Regiment



Pardubice Airport
Authority

CZECH AIR FORCE

The Czech Air Force secures sovereignty, defense capability, and territorial integrity of the Czech Republic and its airspace.

The primary mission of the Czech Air Force is to protect the Czech airspace. The Czech Air Force units and components perform carry out this task within the NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence System, and in case of threat, the system is supported by the National Reinforcement Air Defence System (NRADS).

In the event of an armed conflict, the Czech Air Force is designated to win air superiority, provide close air support to the Land Forces, perform surveillance, and airlift for personnel and supplies.

In performance of the Czech Republic's commitment to NATO and the EU, the Czech Air Force units and components assign its forces and assets to prepare task forces in support of international operations. The most important missions performed in this respect have involved the Heli Unit deployment in Poland and enhanced Forward Presence in Latvia designed to strengthen the Eastern flank. Our service members have also played an important role in MFO Sinai on sustained basis. In 2025, the deployment of a Czech air unit for ASICIPPN is scheduled to ensure the air space integrity of Iceland.

In peacetime, the Czech Air Force provides Search and Rescue (SAR) service to assist aircrews in distress, the helicopter emergency medical service, airlift of forces, leading officials, and it forms a part of the Integrated Emergency System for assistance in consequence management in natural and anthropogenic disasters.

PROGRAMME

LARGE HALL

19.00 - 19.45

Opening ceremony

20.00 - 21.45

Dance orchestra

JAMES BAND

21.50 - 22.00

Announcement of the winners
of the online charity auction

22.00 - 02.00

Dance orchestra

JAMES BAND



PROGRAMME

SMALL HALL

19.00 - 19.45

Opening ceremony

20.00 - 21.45

ABBA WORLD REVIVAL

21.45 - 22.30

80's & 90's MUSIC
DJ Martin Hrdinka

22.30 - 24.00

LUCIE REVIVAL

24.00 - 02.00

80's & 90's MUSIC
DJ Martin Hrdinka



LUCIE
REVIVAL

PROGRAMME

KNIGHTS' HALL

19.00 - 19.45

Opening ceremony

20.00 - 01.00

Military Artistic Ensemble

ONDRÁŠ

Ondráš
VOJENSKÝ UMĚLECKÝ SOUBOR

PARTNERS

Diamond Partner



Platinum Partners



Gold Partner



PARTNERS

Silver Partners



Bronze Partners



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dear Partners,

Allow me to sincerely express my gratitude for your support, thanks to which the second Gala Ball of the Czech Air Force Commander can take place. Your forthcoming attitude and willingness to cooperate prove that together we can create something truly unique. Thanks to your contribution, we can enjoy this unforgettable evening as a wonderful opportunity for the aviation community and friends to come together in a beautiful environment imbued with entertainment, dance, and elegance.

I immensely appreciate your trust and partnership and I am looking forward to our future cooperation. I believe that also in the future, we will be able to create exceptional moments and memorable experiences together that will not be forgotten for a long time.

Yours faithful and grateful,

Major General Petr Čepelka

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Petr Čepelka', written in a cursive style.

THE HISTORY OF THE ŽOFÍN PALACE AND THE SLOVANSKÝ ISLAND

The Slovanský Island with the Neo-Renaissance Žofín Palace is located in the very heart of Prague. In the course of history, the island became a place of meeting for Praguers and prominent personalities who enjoy the hospitality of the palace to this day. Over the past years, the Slovanský Island together with the Žofín Palace have become a symbol for both Czech and international social, political, cultural, and business events of an extraordinary importance.

The island, on which the building of the Žofín Palace stands, did not exist at all at the beginning of the 17th century. It started to emerge gradually thanks to sediments from the Vltava in the 17th and 18th



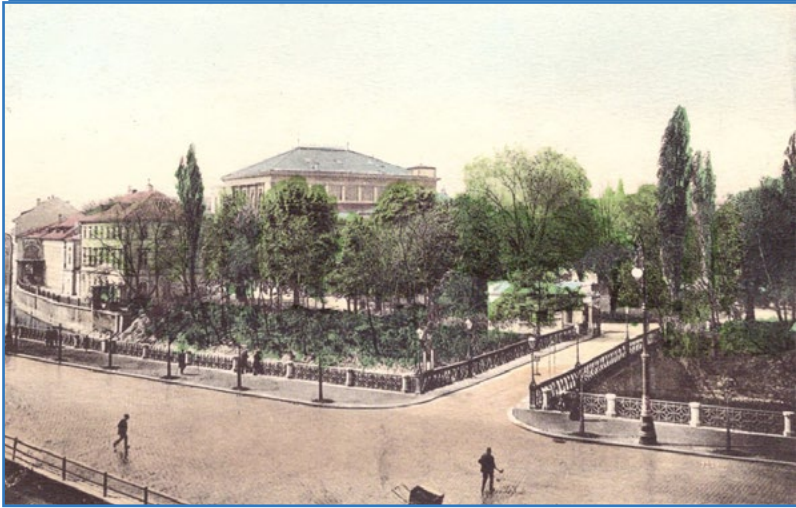


century. It became a regular island after the big flood in 1784, during which a 250-metre long and 100-metre wide island was formed. The newly-formed place was secured by a low dam that protected the island from external influences and poplars were systematically planted along its entire circumference.

Leather dyers moved to the island from New Town to carry on their trade, which gave the island its first name – Barvířský ostrov (Dyers' Island) or shortly Barvířka. In 1817, next to the shacks on the island, the first wooden pub and primitive baths were built.

Until 1830, the island changed its owner several times. In the years 1823–1824, the then owner Václav Schiega ordered to build a bridge to the island. In 1834, miller Václav Novotný bought one half of the island, later also the rest of the island, and undertook to allow the public the entrance to the island to rest.

The new owner of the island generously decided to transform it into an important social and cultural centre of Prague and organized extensive construction works on the island in the years 1835–1837.



These endeavours also included plans to build three new buildings – a restaurant, a bath house and a residential building. The plans were drawn up by the chief designer of the provincial civil engineering directorate in Prague, Vincenc Kulhánek. The construction was managed by builder Josef Tredrovský and was completed in 1836.

On the 30th of May, on the occasion of opening of the Palace, a gala ball took place in the large hall. On the 27th of September 1840, archduke Franz Karl, father of the future emperor Franz Joseph I, visited the island. In memory of the visit, the island, after the consent of the archduke, was named after his wife Sophie (in Czech Žofie) of Bavaria – Žofínský ostrov (Žofín Island). The name Žofín sounded nobly to Praguers and so they quickly forgot the original name of Barvířka.

A decade later, on the 2nd of June 1847, the Slavic Congress was inaugurated on the Žofín Island. It was presided by František Palacký and many important Slavs of their times attended the congress. It was one of the milestones of the Slavic movement which launched

a gradual process of our nations towards self-determination. The event gave the island its current name – the Slovanský (Slavic) Island and the name Žofín was left to the main palace.

History was made on the island and in the palace. The place acquired its current look after the reconstruction of the palace in 1884–1886, after it had been bought by the city of Prague.

After the flood in 2002, which exceptionally strongly affected the island and the palace, everything was quickly renovated and the Slovanský Island and the Žofín Palace became even more beautiful.

Over the past years, the Slovanský Island and the Žofín Palace have become a symbol for Czech and international social, political, cultural, and business events of special importance.





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