

## The Music for Sirens - A Succession of Several Sounds and Silences

Hudba k siréně - Sled několika zvuků a tich

Each first Wednesday of the month at noon, sirens ring out across the Czech Republic for approximately three minutes. It is simply a test of their operability, but it has become something of an event over the years

In 2020, BERG Orchestra, Prague's leading contemporary music ensemble in coproduction with the Czech Radio asked 20 Czech composers to write music miniatures using the siren test as an instrument.

The result is a series of site-specific public micro-concerts, which take place at various places. Performed and broadcast live monthly by Czech Radio and on Facebook, the project brings new music and playful concepts to large daytime audiences. Incorporating sounds of everyday life, the miniatures encourage us to listen to the surrounding environment, so important to our existence, as a musical structure, while awakening unorthodox thinking on music. A specific place is integral to each composition, and the live broadcast further extends the listening situation; many can listen from their receivers while surrounded by the real sound of sirens, wherever they are.

In March 2020, the project celebrated the first year of its continuity. During the first season, more than 10 compositions were written, performed and broadcast live. We are now about to continue in the second season, until March 2021. The concepts so far dealt with spaces such as an auditorium, a campus, a library, town walls, printmaking workshop, hydrological centre, etc.

Ian Mikyska - <https://www.ianmikyska.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLq03klGEM7Ed0SRkk2d00w4PUiZpyCa1f>

<https://www.hudbaksirene.cz>

[https://www.berg.cz/en/about\\_orch.html](https://www.berg.cz/en/about_orch.html)

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Submitting organisation: | <b>Český rozhlas - Czech Radio</b>  |
| Contact:                 | <b>Alena Righini Golková – <a href="mailto:alena.righinigolkova@rozhlas.cz">alena.righinigolkova@rozhlas.cz</a></b> |
| Author:                  | <b>Ian Mikyska</b>  |
| Director:                | <b>Jan Trojan</b>   |
| Sound:                   | <b>Libor Ščerba</b>   |
| Commissioning editor:    | <b>Ladislav Železný</b>   |
| Producer:                | <b>Martin Klusák, Eva Kesslová</b>  |
| Production company:      | <b>Czech Radio and Orchester BERG</b>   |
| Title of Series          | <b>The Music for Sirens</b>   |
| Key staff:               | <b>Renata Raková, Anna Sysová (Clarinets), Tomáš Mika (Electric guitar)<br/>Šimon Veselý (Percussions)</b>          |
| Length:                  | <b>10 min</b>   |
| Original language:       | <b>None</b>   |
| First broadcast by:      | <b>Czech Radio Vltava</b>   |
| Date of first broadcast: | <b>1 May 2019, 11:56</b>  |
| Competing for:           | <b>Best European Radio Music Programme of the Year</b>  |