

A black and white portrait of a woman, Jarmila Novotná, dressed in 18th-century fashion. She wears a dark, fur-lined hood or capelet over a light-colored dress with lace details. Her hair is styled in an updo, and she holds a large, light-colored flower in her right hand. The background is a plain, light color.

**JARMILA
NOVOTNÁ
FESTIVAL**



Jarmila Novotná Festival – 1st season

September 7 – 9, 2012, Liteň

THE ASSOCIATION OF CHATEAU LITEŇ

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THE ASSOCIATION OF CHATEAU LITEŇ IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN THE BEGINNING OF 2012 WITH THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

1. Commemorate the name and heritage of Jarmila Novotná in a decent and appropriate way. Create a new tradition of a music festival offering opportunities to young artists. In close cooperation with the Daubek family, further the artistic as well as moral heritage of Jarmila Novotná who is remembered among opera lovers around the globe but unfortunately almost forgotten in the Czech lands due to historical circumstances.
2. Pay due attention to the cultural life at the estate that has been always renowned for its artistic activities and which hosted leading representatives of Czech painting, sculpturing, literature and music (the Mánes brethren, sculptor Václav Myslбек, painters Max Pirner and František Ženíšek as well as writer Svatopluk Čech) who worked here.

3. Identify, preserve and make publicly available archive documents about Liteň; renew and make appropriate use of the cultural heritage it contains, and preserve this unique complex for future generations.

The Association of Chateau Liteň strives to open the estate to the public, and turn it into a gathering place for history and arts lovers.



THE ASSOCIATION OF CHATEAU LITEŇ



Chateau Liteň

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ

Jarmila Novotná (1907–1994) was among the brightest stars of the world's opera stage in the 20th century. Her career took her to opera houses around the world, but she became a resident of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where she spent a full 16 years. She sang a number of significant roles: Her Mařenka in *The Bartered Bride*, Violetta in *Traviata*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, the double role of Olympia-Antonia in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier* will never be forgotten.

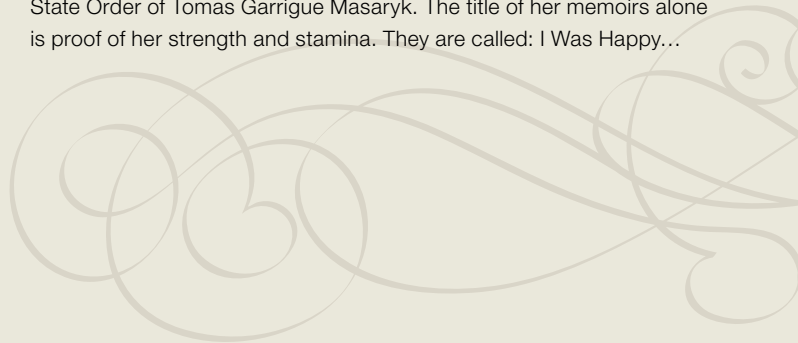
Always elegant, always attractive, Jarmila Novotná had many admirers and suitors. She conquered Hollywood with her charisma, and her professional, single-minded attitude won her the friendship of artists and politicians alike (T. G. Masaryk, Jan Masaryk, Edvard Beneš, several US presidents). Jarmila Novotná arrived in Liteň in 1931 through marriage to the estate lord's son Jiří Daubek.

The already cozy and cultivated environment became more so with her arrival. Chateau Liteň became a meeting place for artists and musicians. However, the idyll was not meant to last long. The Daubeks had to leave the country in the wake of the Fascists' rise to power.

Jarmila Novotná continued to support her country with her art from exile in the USA. She took part in a number of undertakings to promote Czechoslovakia, ended her concerts by singing the Czechoslovak anthem to standing audiences, recorded the Lidice Songs to Jan Masaryk's piano accompaniment, presided over the Czechoslovak Division of the US Red Cross...

After the war, in May 1946, she performed for the Red Cross at a concert in the National Theater in Prague, and continued in 1947 with the roles of Mařenka, Violetta, and for the last time as Tatiana on November 24, 1947. She had to leave the country again after the February 1948 putsch.

She never turned her back on her homeland, returning after the Velvet Revolution of 1989 to actively support the musical life of the country. The then President Václav Havel decorated her in 1991 with the Class 4 State Order of Tomas Garrigue Masaryk. The title of her memoirs alone is proof of her strength and stamina. They are called: *I Was Happy...*



JARMILA NOVOTNÁ



HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

One Tuesday at the beginning of 2011 I called Jiří Daubek in the US. I and my husband wanted to introduce ourselves as new owners of the place closely bound to the generations of his ancestors. The following Saturday we were already on the plane and in the evening the Daubeks welcomed us in the garden of their Pund Ridge house.

We discovered that George owns a remarkable collection of letters, programs and photographs from his mother Jarmila Novotná. We also found out that musical talent skipped a generation and showed up in George's daughter Tatiana, a native American, who still claims her Czech origins. We met the charming violinist a week later and together 'cooked up' a surprise for George's birthday: a festival in the name of his mother, Tatiana's grandmother.

Tatiana took great pleasure in orchestrating the dramaturgic part of the event. After our return to Prague, we realized we took up an almost impossible challenge: in less than 12 months to organize an event that must not end up as a failure in a place that for four decades served as a farm and school, with no large hall ... With not a single crown to start with, no other performers than Tatiana – and all this in three people.

We probed around in the musical community to find out what they thought about our idea. All of them were thrilled by the idea but, at the same time, warned us that starting a new festival in the time of

crisis is foolish. Naturally, we had to start by getting money to pay for performers, chairs, piano and dozens of other inevitable items. We contacted personalities, companies, state institutions with a plea for money, donations, services ...

We pondered upon the program the whole winter – the concept was to pay a tribute to Jarmila Novotná and the female vocal art in general. We wanted to continue supporting young talents as Jarmila did. We intended to introduce Tatiana and her world of baroque music. In short, we wanted to create an event that would bring life to the dilapidated and empty space of Liteň. To give life to a festival that will be the pride of the locals and a discussion topic for others.

In the spring of 2012 we could say that the artistic side of the festival was finished, and that the 'only' thing left was to clean, adjust and decorate the venue, get enough chairs, design and print promotional and information materials, sell tickets, alert the media, hire volunteers, invite everybody who could be interested, organize the entire event ...

And the result of all this is for you to see on the following pages.

Ivana Leidl

HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

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JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

The first season of the Jarmila Novotná Festival can be summarized by the following memorable facts:

- Members of the Daubek family, forced to leave 65 years ago, returned to the venue to actively participate in organizing the event
- The chateau and the Daubek family tomb were opened to the public for the first time in 20 years
- J. S. Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B minor BWV 1067 in the newly discovered original version for the oboe (a Grammy-nominated project by Gonzalo X. Ruiz, professor at Julliard School in New York) was premiered in the Czech Republic
- Chateau Liteň and the Festival became part of the Antonín Dvořák International Singer Competition in Karlovy Vary, through the performance at the Festival of Alžběta Vomáčková, laureate of the Jarmila Novotná Prize.

The historic legacy of the cultural patrons, the Daubek family, the life and art of the world-renown singer Jarmila Novotná, and the continuation of the diva's tradition in her grand-daughter, Tatiana Daubek – these are the pillars supporting the activities of the Association of Chateau Liteň. The first season of the Jarmila Novotná Festival was the Association's first major undertaking which was to confirm the interest of people in this type of cultural event. The strong interest among and enthusiastic feedback from experts and laymen alike have pleased the organizers and encouraged them to continue the effort.

The following pages present the coverage of the Festival so you can relive the unforgettable moments.



JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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Left to right: Dita Hradecká, Francesca, Jiří, Cathy and Tatiana Daubek, Gonzalo Ruiz, Antonia Daubek with husband, Ivana and Petr Leidl

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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WHITE PAWN

On the eve of the Festival opening, a chess figure statue, the last but one of the Karlštejn set, the world's biggest and heaviest chess set, was unveiled in Liteň. The white pawn for Liteň, a gift to Liteň from the Association of Chateau Liteň, was created by Vladimír Glaser, the author of the whole set. Liteň has thus become a field in the chess game uniting noteworthy places of the Karlštejn region.

There was live music by the Třehusk band, and the locals who attended the ceremony in great numbers, could meet Jiří Daubek and his family for the first time in years.



JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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*White pawn for Liteň.
Left to right: Cathy
and Jiří Daubek, Monika
Klimentová, Ivana
and Petr Leidl, elected
representative Miloslav
Kliment and mayor
Karel Kliment.*

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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THE TOMB

The official opening of the Festival took place in the morning in front of the Daubek family tomb, which was open to public for the first time in years. Canto Corso from Řevnice performed choir music and Liteň's fourth graders sang three folk songs. The Association's Chair Ivana Leidlová and the Festival's Artistic Director Dita Hradecká addressed the gathered audience, and priest Petr Bouška spoke solemnly. Jiří Daubek, whose ancestors lie buried in the tomb, invited everyone inside the precious interior and pay respects to the dead. Last but not least, the floor went to Tatiana Daubek, the youngest of the family, who attended the Festival as a performer; Tatiana is a top violin player.



*Jiří Daubek in front of the
Daubek family tomb, is
proud on his Czech origin.*

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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*The official opening
of the Festival.*

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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THE TOMB

Designed by architect Antonín Wihl, the interior of the monument is dominated by a marble statue of Joseph with baby Jesus by J. V. Myslbek. The walls are decorated with wall paintings and frescoes by Max Pirner. Both Pirner and Myslbek were members of a long line of artists invited to Liteň by Josef Šebastián Daubek to add to the atmosphere of the premises with their paintings and sculptures.

The tomb interior is dominated by Myslbek's statue of St. Joseph with baby Jesus, situated under an impressive wall painting by Max Pirner.



JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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Both Pirner and Myslbek were members of a long line of artists invited to Liteň.

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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THE BARTERED BRIDE

Saint Peter held a protective hand over the Festival: the beautiful summer weather contributed to the relaxed, optimistic atmosphere on both days.

At least six hundred people made use of the opportunity to visit the chateau premises on the Saturday afternoon. The afternoon was full of amusement activities and competitions in the park organized by Domeček Hořovice, and Petr Wajsar's all-male (!) troupe of actors performed an amusing version of the Bartered Bride. Mr. Wajsar's Mařenka will go down in history...



The main goal of Peter Wajsar's Bartered Bride was to make people laugh.

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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The Festival offered amusement to children.

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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THE GALA

Hundreds of people were interested to learn about the present-day state of Chateau Liteň as the premises had been closed to public for many long years. The past era left considerable marks on the originally baroque chateau, but things have been changing for the better. For now, info panels and photographs have been installed on the ground floor to document the history of the estate and the lives of the prominent members of the Daubek family. Much of the information describes the life and career of Jarmila Novotná, the renowned opera singer who married into the Daubek family in 1931.

The whole day was filmed by a crew from the national TV. Working under the baton of director Radovan Urban, the crew made a documentary about the Festival for the Terra musica show.

*Famous entertainers
Jiří Suchý and Jitka
Molavcová read
Jarmila Novotná's
correspondence with
several presidents.*



*The final rehearsal was
filmed by the national TV.*



JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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Off stage, Tatiana Daubek, Jarmila Novotná's granddaughter, is a modest, discreet young woman. On stage, she turns into a breathtaking artist.

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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THE GALA

The gala concerts on both days took place in the main hall of the chateau dominated by a life-size photograph of Jarmila Novotná, and both were a huge success. Tatiana Daubek, who inherited her grandmother's talents and charms, performed a virtuoso concerto by Vivaldi. Supported by the ensemble Musica Florea, Gonzalo Ruiz presented for the first time in Europe, his version of Bach's orchestral suite performed on the baroque oboe, for which he won a Grammy nomination. The audience applauded young singers Martina Sehylová, a student at the conservatory in Pesaro, Italy, and Alžběta Vomáčková. Musica Florea's esprit and energy were contagious.

The concert was attended by a number of important people first and foremost the Daubek family.

*TV host Marie Retková
remembered meeting
Jarmila Novotná.*



*Gonzalo X Ruiz with his
baroque oboe
during Bach's suite.*



JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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Left to right: Jiří Daubek, his wife Cathy, cousin Bromovský, daughters Francesca and Antonia with husband.

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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THE GALA

The hall of the chateau got some of its past glamor back thanks to the interesting lighting. Beautiful music by Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi could be heard through the open windows in the darkening garden. It was a magical evening, and everyone succumbed to it...

Jarmila Novotná's favorite folk song, Ach synku synku, was performed as the last encore. Hardly anyone remained unmoved. Emotions were visible in the face of Jiří Daubek, who reminded the audience of the Festival's mission and expressed his happiness about music returning to Liteň.



*Soloists. Violin player
Tatiana Daubek, soprano
Martina Sehylová (red dress)
and Alžběta Vomáčková.*

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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Jiří Daubek expresses his support and personal deployment for future festival seasons.

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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THE SOUNDS

On the final day of the Festival, the park resonated with the sound of a brass quartet. The full tones were a clear proof of the excellent acoustics of the sala terrena, one of the many cultural monuments on the premises. Provided that funds for a costly renovation are found, it will host many a musical production in the future.

A numerous audience gathered in Čechovna to listen to a performance by mezzo Alžběta Vomáčková, the laureate of the 2011 Jarmila Novotná Prize from the International Singer Competition in Karlovy Vary. Alžběta sang songs by Czech composers, and the audience agreed that Jarmila is back!

Alžběta was accompanied by Cypriot pianist Ourania Menelaou, who studied in Prague, Iowa, and now teaches at Goldsmith University in London. She also performed two solo pieces.

Alžběta Vomáčková is said to remind people of Jarmila Novotná with her voice and her charisma



Ourania Menelaou playing a sonata by Fišer

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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*Hopefully, sala terrena
will be renovated soon.*

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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PRESS CONFERENCE

Čechovna quickly turned from a concert hall to the venue of a press conference. Expert journalists from the Czech national radio, Harmonia, Hudební rozhledy, and regional dailies asked about the young singer Alžběta Vomáčková's next residency, future seasons' programs, and Tatiana and Jiří Daubek's feelings. Those were intense indeed...

Oboist Gonzalo Ruiz, a star on the old music scene in the U.S., gave a quick and funny summary of his years of research, the result of which – an original version of the well-known *Orchestral Suite No. 2* by Johann Sebastian Bach – he performed for the first time in Europe at the Festival.

As Gonzalo Ruiz discovered – and supported with watertight arguments – the *Suite*, which is traditionally performed on the solo flute, was originally written for the oboe. Gonzalo's recording was nominated for a Grammy Award in the U.S.



Press conference

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – 1ST SEASON

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*Afternoon program and
press conference were held
in Čechovna.*

PRESS CLIPPINGS:

“There is no reason to ask if there are too many festivals in our country. This one has managed to find a purpose. This time, it had an almost touching atmosphere we remember from the early 90’s when Jarmila Novotná visited the Czech Republic a few times. Her story is worth reminding of; it contains much history and a big commitment.”

Jindřich Bálek, Harmonie 9/2012

“Beginning a new music festival with the assistance mainly from the Association of Chateau liteň is a commendable and logical way to claim allegiance to the precious artist and patriot’s legacy. Permeated with history, the intimate yet charming ambiance of the chateau and the adjacent park was the best possible setting for the festival.”

Pavel Horník, Hudební rozhledy 9/2012

FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE

“Thank you, thank you, thank you! What a beautiful night! Jitka sent me a mail saying the same thing just a while ago. The very thought that we might be allowed to stage our own performance in the environment which is a living proof of your noble efforts to save Liteň, makes us proud. Thank you once more. Kind regards from two comedians, Suchý + Molavcová“

Jiří Suchý, Jitka Molavcová (Czech famous actors)

“I have known Jarmila Novotná’s name since childhood thanks to my mother, a big opera fan. I attended the National Theatre’s preparatory classes and saw performances featuring Židek, Haken and others... I have kept this passion; as an adult athlete travelling abroad, I used to buy records which could not be had in our country. I am happy to see Jarmila Novotná, her art and her patriotism, remembered, The Festival was a unique experience, and I was happy by seeing how many people arrived for the first season. I arrived for the morning ceremony and the Daubek family tomb was stunning. The program was well thought through and dynamic. I enjoyed the afternoon watching the excellent version of the Bartered Bride, but the gala concert in the evening was a highlight. Jarmila’s granddaughter Tatiana is a great performer, and Alžběta Vomáčková’s singing took my and others’ breath away. She has charisma on top of the beautiful voice, and that’s something you can’t learn!

I will keep my fingers crossed for the organizers, wishing that the Festival’s renown and audience keep growing. I for one, will definitely attend in the future.”

Věra Čáslavská (7 times olympic champion in gymnastics)

FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE

“I never had the luck to meet Jarmila Novotná while she was alive. I learnt about her only after 1994 while working on a book about Jan Masaryk. This gave a chance to obtain more than just a casual knowledge of her relations to the various members of the Thomas Garrigue Masaryk’s family. I was surprised at their depth and variance. The Lidice Songs, recorded by Jarmila Novotná with Jan Masaryk at the piano during the war, remain perhaps the best known result of the relationships. Few cultural achievements of our recent history has played such a crucial role in promoting the Czechoslovak cause abroad.

Jarmila Novotná is now coming back to Liteň, which she Loved so ardently. The homecoming is through young, quality performers of classical music. I’m sure she would have approved. Very few homecomings make one think what I felt on the second September weekend in Liteň – that some wrongdoing and mistakes of the past can perhaps be remedied. Perhaps Liteň will end up forever retaining what it all once began with: music. A chateau full of quality music.”

Pavel Kosatík, writer

“I wanted to thank you for the beautiful, emotional moments of music listening I – and surely others too – enjoyed during the Sunday evening concert in Liteň. I also wanted to commend I also the organizers of the Festival for inviting so exceptional performers and providing an almost mystical venue. Organizing such a festival, I am sure, requires a lot of effort and resources. Therefore, I keep my fingers crossed for you. May your goal of continuing the new tradition come true.”

Mgr. Ivan Kůs, Vice Mayor, Berouna

“Thank you once more for inviting me to the gala concert of the Jarmila Novotná Festival. What a pleasant evening – musically and otherwise. The closing remarks by Mr. Daubek made the evening unforgettable, and the final song was a beautiful, moving culmination. I really appreciate the work of the organizers; ensuring a smooth running of so nice a festival on premises which despite being beautiful have been sadly dilapidated is no small task. I enjoyed my stay at Liteň.”

Jindra Černá, Praha

MEDIA COVERAGE

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Media	Issue	Title
Newspaper/Magazine/Station National – prior to Festival		
Lidové noviny	June 23, '12	Panství Liteň čeká nový život
Mladá fronta Dnes	Sept. 6, '12	Festival uctí hvězdu Metropolitní v jejím rodišti
Čro 1 - Radiožurnál	Sept. 6, '12	Díta Hradecká hostem večerního radiožurnálu s Vladimírem Krocem
Expert		
Harmonie	Sept. '12	Liteňské návraty
Opera plus	Aug. 28, '12	Jarmila Novotná bude mít svůj festival
Opus Osm		Meet Ms. Novotna
Opus Osm		The Muse Returns to a Historic Estate
Čro 3 - Vltava	Sept. 6, '12	Festival Jarmily Novotné na zámku v Litni
Regional		
Dobřichovické kukátko	XXVIII/2012/2	Do Litně se vrátí hudba
Naše noviny	16/2012	Daubkovi se sjedou...
Naše noviny	17/2012	Hlavní hvězdou bude Tatiana Daubek
Naše noviny	18/2012	Na závěr zaznělo Ach synku synku

Media	Issue	Title
Regional		
Náš region	Sept. '12	Festival Jarmily Novotné
Náš region	Oct. 1, '12	Jarmila Novotná se usmívala z nebe
Internet		
Divadlo.cz		V Litni bude...
Akce.cz		Festival JN - pozvánka
Kam s dětmi		Festival JN - pozvánka
Do koncertu		Festival JN - pozvánka
Berounský region	Aug. 24, '12	Festival Jarmily Novotné v Litni
Reviews and reports		
Harmonie	October	Živé vzpomínky na Jarmilu Novotnou
Hudební rozhledy	October	Hudební festival Jarmily Novotné v Litni
Opera Plus	October	Reportáž z festivalu
Opus Osm	October	Interview s Gonzalem Ruizema Tatianou Daubek
ČT	Nov. 1, '12	Terra musica
Čro 3 - Vltava	Nov. 9, '12	Studio M – Rozhovor s Alžbětou Vomáčkovou

FESTIVAL GUESTS



*Ivana Leidlová and
Matthew Duras*



*Senator
J. Oberfalzer,
M. Mejstřík,
R. Janeček
and M. Frývaldský*



*Eliška Hašková
Coolidge, Helena
Leisztner and
Beáta Rajská with
husband*



*George Daubek
and Eva Drábová*

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – OUR VISION

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The first season was a result of several zealots' enthusiasm, who organized the Festival in a very short time, relying on nothing but their own resources and invention. However, it became immediately obvious that the idea of a festival like this had a lot of potential, domestically and abroad. For now, we had to turn down cooperation offered by the Metropolitan Opera in New York. It is mostly thanks to the incredibly strong story of a woman who earned a name for herself on the world scene and despite the blows of fate never turned her back on her country. Unlike in the Czech Republic, where Jarmila Novotná is mostly known to connoisseurs only, her name is recognized in the highest circles in places including New York, Vienna, Berlin, Salzburg, Milan, Tokyo, and Rio. We also managed to win Jarmila Novotná's descendants, especially her son Jiří (George) and granddaughter Tatiana Daubek, for the idea.

Thus, the Festival has a tremendous growth potential, which is only limited by availability of funding. We are, therefore, looking for both long-term partners to help us develop the idea of the Festival and one-time sponsors among individuals and corporations willing to help us through a financial or in-kind donation or through their services.



*Ivana Leidlová
with Tatiana Daubek,
Martina Sehylová
and Alžběta
Vomáčková.*



*Věra Čáslavská and Pavel
Kosatík with Marie Retková.
Michal Mejstřík (far right).*

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL – OUR VISION

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*Marie Retková
with Dita
Hradecká.*



*Jiří Daubek
congratulating
the young singer.*



*Listeners in
Čechovna.*



*Tatiana Daubek,
Jarmila Novotná's
granddaughter.*

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ FESTIVAL SPONSORS

The Association of Chateau Liteň would hereby like to express gratitude to the following sponsors without whom the Festival could not have happened.



René Holeček

Roman Valeš

Středočeský kraj

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Graphics: Petr Kotěšovec

Published by The Association of Chateau Liteň in 2012
www.zamekliten.cz



The Association of Chateau Liteň
Liteň 1, 267 27
www.zamekliten.cz