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Czech musician David Pomahač and Norwegian composer Ane Bjerkan have arrived at the Broumov monastery for their April residency.

Broumov – At the start of April, two musicians commenced a month-long residency at the Broumov monastery: Czech singer and composer David Pomahač and Norwegian composer and singer Ane Bjerkan. The residency is part of the Hortus Musicalis Broumov 2024 project, financed by the European Union, the National Recovery Plan, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, and the Hradec Králové Region. Norway's NOPA organization is a partner of the residency.

The project, created by the Broumov Educational and Cultural Centre, focuses on intensifying musical collaboration between the Czech Republic and Norway. In the inspirational environment of the monastery, David Pomahač and Ane Bjerkan will focus on composing and working with local musicians and pupils of the Broumov Elementary Art School.

Ane Bjerkan (*1988) is a Norwegian composer and singer from the Inderøy peninsula north of Trondheim. Her music is suffused with an extensive interest in sound and its layers, which together create a deep universe of alternative pop music. Formerly Ane produced music with the group Østfrost and the Dëshane trio (CZ/NO). In 2023 she was part of the MĀNIN experimental trio, worked with Mari Lesterberg for the University of Oslo as part of the "Upycled Music" project, and wrote lyrics for Camilla Hole's "Streets in the Sky" project for the OJKOS jazz orchestra.

"During the 2024-25 season I am planning to perform at a concert in České Budějovice in cooperation with the South Bohemian Philharmonic. I would like to take advantage of my residency in Broumov to complete and record a demo of compositions for this concert, and I will also be working with the choir of the local elementary art school," said Ane Bjerkan.

David Pomahač (*1974) is a singer, composer, multi-instrumentalist, and the founder of the Kieslowski urban folk duo. He has left his mark in bands such as Bez peří and Houpací koně, and in recent years has also accompanied singer-songwriter Ima Teva. At the start of 2020 he stepped out of the shadow of Kieslowski and launched his solo career with the album *Do tmy je daleko* [Darkness is Far], produced by Tomáš Havlen (Post-hudba). In 2022 he put out an album entitled *Neviditelný* [Invisible], created together with producer and sound designer Martin Hůla (Bonus, Martin Tvrdý), thematically inspired by the novels of H. G. Wells

Aside from his own music career, David Pomahač is the author of the "Coffee with David Pomahač" podcast, in which he interviews Czech and international personalities from the cultural scene, broadcasts twice a week on Radio 1 and appears in the "ArtCafé" programme on Czech Radio Vltava.

"I would like to devote my time in Broumov to writing and conceiving my next solo album, which I'm planning to put out in 2025, as well as completing and preparing another two songs, duets that will

follow in the footsteps of my work with Bára Zmeková and Vladivojna La Chia. One of the songs is written for Maria Putterová and for the other song I still have to pick a female vocalist, which could be influenced by what encounters and cooperation result from my stay in Broumov," said David Pomahač.

Both residents will present themselves to the public in Broumov during the final performance, which will take place on the last weekend of April.



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