



Press Release

Prague, 10 September 2008

**MUSICUS PICTUS – 30 October: an event comprising a concert and the launch
of Petr Nikl's *Orbis pictus or...* publication at the Archa Theatre**

On the occasion of the release of the *Orbis pictus or...* book, CD and DVD, an official launch for the publication will be held at 8pm in Prague's Archa Theatre on 30 October. This MUSICUS PICTUS event will also comprise a concert by artists who participated in the ORBIS PICTUS exhibition.

Orbis pictus or... is being published by the WALD Press for the *European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009*, which was announced by the European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth Ján Figel'. The importance of the exhibition for 2009 was also confirmed by the Czech Republic's Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs Alexandr Vondra, who made ORBIS PICTUS an official accompanying event to be presented within the framework of the Czech Republic's presidency of the Council of the European Union. The exhibition will be presented in Prague and Brussels during the Czech presidency in the first half of 2009 under the auspices of Commissioner Ján Figel' and Prague City Mayor Pavel Bém.

Petr Nikl's *Orbis pictus or...* is another important undertaking implemented by the international PAMPAEDIA project (www.orbis-pictus.com), which has been inspired by the work of J. A. Comenius and conceived as a travelling exhibition entitled *ORBIS PICTUS or the Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination* as well as a new exhibition called *Labyrinth of Light*, which will have its world premiere in Prague in May 2009 within the framework of the Czech presidency.

Since the *ORBIS PICTUS or the Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination* exhibition was set up in 2006, the authors of the PAMPAEDIA project – Jiří and Radana Wald in cooperation with Petr Nikl – have propagated the message of J. A. Comenius as well contemporary art by the artists involved in the ORBIS PICTUS exhibition in various countries around the world. The publication *Orbis pictus or...* offers a record of the ORBIS PICTUS exhibition's travels around Europe from its world premiere in Paris to its presentation in many Czech towns and cities as well as its Italian premiere in Florence. The publication also includes Nikl's earlier games projects, which he has been working on since 2000. For the first time in its history, the ORBIS PICTUS exhibition will transfer to North America in October 2008, when it will be presented in the Canadian city of Vancouver in the prestigious Science World facility (www.scienceworld.ca) at the TELUS World of Science. In April 2009, the exhibition will then be presented in Brussels at the Czech Centre and the European Commission's Madou Tower building within the framework of the Czech Republic's aforementioned presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Since 2000, around 1.9 million people in the Czech Republic and abroad have visited Petr Nikl's exhibition. It is an extensive international project, which shall continue until 2023 with the support of Czech institutions and government representatives as well private foreign and local bodies. Without their assistance, the exhibition would not have been able to embark on such a significant journey, which crosses boundaries and strives to connect the cultures of various countries around the globe. The PAMPAEDIA project is a new, completely open partnership for more successful international presentations.

Information about the publication:

Petr Nikl

Orbis pictus or ... includes the book *Orbis pictus or...*, the DVD *Orbis pictus or...* and the CD *Musicus pictus*.

A picture atlas of instruments and playthings covers the development of interactive projects – play related exhibitions conceived by Petr Nikl since 2000 with the participation of a diverse range of artists. It is complemented by selected texts from J. A. Comenius from his book *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart*. This book offers a visual record of the *ORBIS PICTUS or Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination* exhibition at the Czech Centre in Paris (2006), the Czech Museum of Music in Prague (2007), The Brno House of Arts (2007), Rotunda of the Floral Garden in Kroměříž (2007), the Church of St. Wenceslas in Opava (2007) and the Michal Mine in Ostrava (2008). It also contains a record of the previous Garden of Fantasy and Music exhibition at the Czech Pavilion at EXPO 2005 in the Japanese city of Aichi and the Nest of Games exhibition at Prague's Rudolfinum Gallery.

The publication is accompanied by an *Orbis pictus or...* DVD, which offers documentary-style coverage of all the aforementioned exhibitions, and an hour-long *Musicus pictus* CD, which contains 18 compositions by authors and artists who took part in ORBIS PICTUS, namely Milan Cais, Michael Delia, Luboš Fidler, Martin Janíček, Jiří Konvrzek, Jaroslav Kořán, Petr Nikl, Ondřej Smejkal and other Czech musicians.

Orbis pictus or... is on sale as an English version of the Czech publication *Orbis pictus aneb...*
The CD and DVD are not sold separately.

The *Orbis pictus or...* publication, CD and DVD costs 499 CZK.

The *Orbis pictus or...* publication, CD and DVD will be sold for the special price of 450 CZK on 30 October in the Archa Theatre.

Published by WALD Press, Ltd., Španělská 10, 120 00 Prague 2, in 2008 as part of the PAMPAEDIA project for the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009.

Advance sales for the launch of the publication and the accompanying concert: Archa Theatre, Na Poříčí 26, Prague 1, tel.: +420 221 716 333, pokladna@archatheatre.cz

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Official website for the project: www.orbis-pictus.com

Official website of the Archa Theatre: www.archatheatre.cz