

Faculty of Fine Arts and Music University of Ostrava



**CREATIVE ACTIVITY AT THE FACULTY
OF FINE ARTS AND MUSIC**

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CREATIVE ACTIVITY AT THE FACULTY OF FINE ARTS AND MUSIC

Artistic activity is the primary type of creative activity at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. Nevertheless, the art is strongly linked to the science, society, and the broader part of cultural and creative sectors. The unique combination of music and fine arts within one faculty's frame has a society-wide benefit for the city and the Moravian-Silesian region.

[#ffam](#) [#finearts](#)
[#music](#) [#artisticresearch](#)
[#facultyoffinearts](#)

CREATIVE ACTIVITY AT THE FACULTY OF FINE ARTS AND MUSIC

„When an artist can paint a great picture or beautifully plays an instrument, he has won. But as a university, want to send mature students to the world. Since the beginning of the studies, it is mainly the practical side of the studies which is emphasized at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. While at other faculties the artistic activity is only a kind of supplement to the science, at our faculty, it is definitely a key content of teaching our students“, Mgr. Petr Maceček, Ph.D., Vice-Dean for International Affairs and Public Relations, describes the exceptional position of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music of the University of Ostrava.

„The creative activity of the faculty is a connection between student life and professional life. The vast majority of students are involved in professional institutions' activities within at least the Moravian-Silesian region already during their studies. Also, it is beneficial in the society-wide and cultural field. We are educating a new young generation here. Our region was rough and hard, and the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music helps it to gain a deeper understanding of art now“, adds Vice-Dean Maceček.

The Faculty of Fine Arts and Music's creative activity is strongly connected with the region's artistic and cultural life. Many teachers of the faculty's music part work as soloists in the opera ensemble of the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre (NDM) or in the Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava (JFO). This opens up a space for the students' involvement in

professional art activities. Within the Ostrava Opera Academy projects, the students perform alongside professional members of the opera ensemble and of the NDM orchestra. The Ostrava Orchestral Academy works similarly in the cooperation with the JFO. Each year, the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music orchestra joins its forces with the Janáček Conservatory in Ostrava orchestra within the Ostrava Youth Orchestra projects. Students and teachers also perform regularly at the St. Wenceslas Music Festival (SHF) concerts.

In the field of fine arts, FFAM UO key partners include the Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava (GVUO), the Plato Gallery, or the Michal Coalmine Gallery. Outside the Moravian-Silesian Region, let's mention at least the Brno House of Arts, the Moravian Gallery in Brno and the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art. The Faculty of Fine Arts and Music operates its own GAFU Gallery and takes patronage over the Kukačka and Malamut festivals.

The ongoing construction of a new FFAM building at Černá louka is of the crucial importance for the development and visibility of the FFAM UO creative activities. The building will include not only new concert and exhibition halls, but also a digital technology centre, opening up new possibilities for a cooperation with the application sphere.

Mgr. Martin Čurda, Ph.D., Vice-Dean for Research and Development, tells more about the creative activity of FFAM UO and the position of art in relation to science, society and creative economy.

What makes the creative activity of the FFAM unique?

It is unique, especially in the respect that our faculty combines two parts – music and fine art. In the context of Czech art universities, this duality is unique. Concerts, opera performances, recitals, exhibitions, performances, and art installations in public spaces are typical outputs of our creative activity.

Do you plan to expand further the creative activity at the faculty?

With the digital technologies development applied both in artistic creation and in the application sphere, new creative activity directions are open up. By using technologies for the animation, 3D modelling, and virtual reality, it is possible to create an artistic installation whose function will be solely aesthetic. Nevertheless, similar technologies are used, for example, in the

creation of computer games, which are the largest segment in the current creative economy. Thus, a space on the border between free art and the application sphere opens up for our students. We hope that in this field, we will be able to bridge the traditional discrepancy between artistic quality and commercial success. Besides, the students, in the frame of experimental free creation, can find new ways of using technologies that can be used retrospectively in the application sphere.

Where can an Ostrava inhabitant meet the results of FFAM's creative activities?

In addition to the concerts, opera performances, and exhibitions staged at the UO and in cooperating institutions (GVUO, Plato, NDM, JFO, SHF and others), I would also like to mention the Kukačka Festi-

val, whose name refers to the nesting parasitism of a common cuckoo. By placing art into a public space, the artists establish a specific type of communication with the general public, think about the identity of particular places, reveal meanings hidden under the veil of everydayness, and express themselves in a committed way on current sociocultural topics.

What are you most proud of?

Our faculty plays an essential role in the artistic and cultural life of the city and the region, which we consider our mission. However, at the same time, top artists, whose creative activity exceeds the regional and the national framework with its significance, work at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. So, I can say that our students receive world quality.

Do you also cooperate with other Czech or foreign teams?

This collaboration works a little bit differently in art than in science. Functional collaboration with curators, dramaturges,

managers of festivals and cultural institutions, etc. is of key importance for artists. In that sense, our faculty has a strong network of relations across the domestic art scene, but our artists routinely exhibit and perform abroad as well. Some types of collaboration depend on individual artists; others are institutionally assured. For example, the cooperation with the Silesian University in Katowice, with which we carry out a double degree study called Digital Graphics in a Virtual Environment, works very well. This cooperation is also reflected in creative activities; a few years ago, it had helped us win a large grant in the frame of the Creative Europe programme.

Last question at the end: is it even possible to do science in art?

The concept of „artistic research“ has been much discussed lately. It is a type of research that is closely linked to artistic practice. Art is not to be a subject of research here, but an instrument of research. The artistic research output is two

inseparable components: the artistic work or performance on the one hand and its critical reflection on the other one. Personally, I perceive this issue as a matter of translation from the language of art to the language of science (and back). As an artistic expression is often non-verbal, its verbal and conceptual reflections present a particularly tough nut to crack for the translation. This linguistic metaphor has deep roots. For example, Bach's music performer has a music notation (text) that explicitly states only a fraction of the information needed for the interpretation. From the notes, we cannot read whether to move the bow up or down, which tones to emphasize, what tempo to choose, how to work with dynamics... There is a whole scientific discipline that focuses on the interpretation of music in the sense of reading the notation. Then there is an artistic discipline that translates the resulting vision into sounding music. And all this meets in one person of the performer, who is, at the same time, the artist, scientist and expert interpreter of his kind.



SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

The support of creative activities of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music in the artistic field:

- Opera Studio and Ostrava Opera Academy
- GAFU - Gallery of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music
- Ostrava Youth Orchestra
- Series of concerts of the new chamber series
- Summer school of the chamber playing
- Lauby Gallery
- Malamut - the oldest international festival of performance and action art in the Czech Republic
- Kukačka - the festival of art in the public space
- ISSO Serigraphy Symposium
- Exhibitions of the bachelor's and master's theses of FFAM graduates
- Trikfilm - the film festival
- OstravaPhoto – the international photography festival - *one-off project*
- LAG – the festival of art and independent games - *one-off project*



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The art and music part of the Department of the Theory and History of Fine Arts deals with research activities at FFAM, especially in the following fields:

- Czech music culture of the 19th century
- Czech music emigration in Vienna
- Czech interwar avant-garde
- Music analysis and hermeneutics
- Historiography of artistic personalities
- Interwar musical theatre
- Medieval fine arts
- Art in the public space, serigraphy



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

”The art is international inherently. We are currently working on developing Czech-Chinese cooperation with the universities in the Hong Kong region at the Pearl River’s mouth. Regarding the European universities, from the position of our region, we have excellent contacts with a lot of Polish universities, where excellent experts teach, and, except them, our faculty also cooperates with the universities from Asia and America“, says Mgr. Petr Maceček, Ph.D., Vice-Dean for International Affairs and Public Relations.

Significant European partner universities of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music are:

- Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles
- Haute École des Arts du Rhin - Académie Supérieure de Musique de Strasbourg
- Pôle supérieur d’enseignement artistique Paris Boulogne-Billancourt
- NCAD National College of Art and Design, Dublin
- University of Music Carl Maria von Weber Dresden
- Hochschule für Musik Würzburg
- Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf
- Royal Academy of Art Hague
- University of West Attica, Athens
- University of Barcelona
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (University of South Wales)
- University of Chichester
- Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester
- University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
- Universita de Balearis Palma di Mallorca





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