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7 July 2011

Dear Rektor, Vážený pane profesore

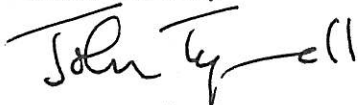
I wrote to you by email straight after my return to Britain, expressing my thanks for the wonderful ceremony you gave me on 15 April. It was my intention to write again by letter (which seemed more appropriate). I do so now, having just received a CD with a splendid pictorial record of the occasion together with a DVD. I am so glad to have all this. Although I don't think my memory of the occasion will fade, it is nice when I boast to my friends about it all, to give them some idea of what it all looked and indeed sounded like. The DVD is especially nice in showing some of the rehearsals beforehand; the CD in capturing some of the wellwishers who spoke to me afterwards.

I am so grateful to you, as Rektor of JAMU, for honouring me in this way. It means a great deal to me to have recognition from Janáček's home city, and indeed home institution since JAMU is the continuation and culmination of Janáček's Organ School. 15 April 2011 will remain in my memory as one of the best days of life.

Thank you not only for honouring in this way but for the amazing care and preparation that went into it all. I loved the fact that there were representatives from other Czech academic institutions and all in their most distinctive gowns – this is beautifully captured in the DVD as they make their way off the podium at the end of the ceremony. And it was, of course, utterly appropriate that so much music would accompany and punctuate the ceremony. As I wrote earlier, it was an extraordinary moment hearing Janáček's Sinfonietta fanfares as we walked to the podium and knowing that they were being played for me, and for me alone. I felt much honoured, much humbled, and much moved.

Please convey to your colleagues my thanks for this great honour, and for the beautiful ceremony that marked it.

Yours sincerely



John Tyrrell

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