



HLASKONTRABAS OKTET (CZ)

Four voices · Four double basses · One distinctive sound world

A mesmerizing dialogue between human voice and acoustic double bass, expanded into a globally unique octet formation.



PROJECT ORIGIN STORY

HlaskontraBAS Oktet evolved from the intimate duo of **Ridina Ahmedová** (vocals) and **Petr Tichý** (double bass), whose groundbreaking 2016 album *HlaskontraBAS* redefined the possibilities of just two acoustic instruments – female voice and double bass. Nominated for the prestigious **Anděl Music Awards 2016**, the project quickly gained cult status for its hypnotic blend of jazz, contemporary classical, and folk-inspired soundscapes.

The octet formation emerged as a natural evolution to amplify this intimate dialogue for larger stages. In **2024**, the ensemble released *Kaleidoscapes* on **Animal Music** label – a "Nordic-inspired" album featuring compositions by international heavyweights like **Mats Eilertsen (NO)**, **Ragga Gröndal (IS)**, and **Adam Ben Ezra (IL)**. This expansion transforms the duo's minimalism into a powerful, visually striking octet of **four female voices and four double basses**.

The result is an immersive, sound-painting experience that captivates festivals and concert halls worldwide.

"Words cannot sufficiently describe this beautiful music; it must be experienced... An immensely uplifting experience." – [Jazzport.cz](https://www.jazzport.cz)

WHY PROGRAM HLASKONTRABAS OKTET?

- **Globally unique instrumentation:** No other ensemble combines 4 voices + 4 double basses in original repertoire.
- **High-impact, low-tech:** Acoustic focus with minimal setup – ideal for concert halls, jazz festivals, and experimental series.
- **Broad appeal:** Balances sophisticated contemporary composition with melodic accessibility for specialist and mainstream audiences.
- **Visual drama:** Striking stage presence perfect for showcases and filmed events.
- **Proven success:** National award winner with international media recognition.

Formats: 60–75 min concerts (EN/CZ introductions available). Scalable for venues 200–2000 capacity.

REPERTOIRE & ALBUM HIGHLIGHTS

Album: *Kaleidoscapes* (April 2024, Animal Music)

Composers: Beata Hlavenková (CZ), Petr Wajsar (CZ), Ragga Gröndal (IS), Pétur Ben (IS), Mats Eilertsen (NO), Adam Ben Ezra (IL).

Genre intersection: Modern jazz · Melodic contemporary classical · World music · Cinematic soundscapes.

Ranked among top 10 European jazz albums 2024 by SKjazz magazine.

AWARDS & INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Award/Media	Achievement
Czech Radio Critics' Poll	Winner: "Czech Jazz Harvest 2024"
Anděl Music Awards	Nominated 2024 & 2016

Award/Media	Achievement
Songlines Magazine (UK)	Featured: "Černým lesem" on <i>Czech Music from the Heart of Europe</i> sampler
SKjazz Magazine	<i>Kaleidoscapes</i> – Top 10 European Jazz Albums 2024
International Press	Reviews: <i>Jazzwise</i> , <i>fRoots</i>
Czech Press	<i>Lidové noviny</i> , <i>UNI</i> , <i>Fullmoon</i> , <i>HIS Voice</i> , <i>Jazzport</i>
Ministry of Culture CZ	Supported project (2021)

Audience acclaim: "An absolutely incredible experience... I don't need to go to any other concert for the rest of my life." (Social media)

ENSEMBLE LINE-UP

VOCALS

Ridina Ahmedová (*founder*) · Alice Bauer (*Skety, Original Prague Syncopated Orchestra*) · Mirka Novak (*Kristina Barta*) · Markéta Zdeňková (*MarZ*)

DOUBLE BASS

Petr Tichý (*founder*) · Ondřej Štajnochr (*Collegium 1704, Musica Florea, Emil Viklický Trio*) · Ondřej Komárek (*Forman Brothers Theatre, Free Balkan Quintet*) · Tomáš Liška (*Invisible World, Druhá tráva*)

FOUNDERS' PROFILES

RIDINA AHMEDOVÁ (Vocals/Composer)

A cornerstone of the Czech music scene for over two decades. Ridina's career spans jazz, contemporary vocal art, and multimedia projects:

- **Solo milestones:** *Hlasokraj* (Next Wave Award 2006), *Hlasem* (2006 CD).

- **Collaborations:** Floex project with Tomáš Dvořák (*Pocustone*), theatre/film scores.
- **Awards:** Multiple Czech Radio prizes for audio documentaries.
- www.ridina.cz

PETR TICHÝ (Double Bass/Composer)

Versatile bassist bridging jazz, classical, and folk traditions:

- **Education:** Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory, HAMU Jazz Department.
- **Key ensembles:** Romanovská-Tichý-Hrubý Trio, NTS Trio (w/ Michal Nejtek), Alvik, Bran Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic collaborations.
- **Accompaniments:** Pavol Hammel, Milli Janatková, Sylvie Krobová.
- www.tichykontrabas.cz

Together, their 2016 duo album sparked a movement that grew into today's octet phenomenon.

MEDIA KIT (Essential Links)

Type	Link
Showcase Video	Watch (3 min)
Music Video: "Following the Wind" (Beata Hlavenková)	Watch
Music Video: "Funkle" (Mats Eilertsen)	Watch
Live Concert Extract	Watch
Full Album/Streaming	Animal Music
Social	Spotify · Facebook · Instagram

TECHNICAL RIDER (Summary)

- **Acoustic-first project:** Standard PA/mics sufficient; no electronics/click required.
- **Setup:** 8 chairs, 8 music stands, vocal mics (4), DI boxes (4 double basses).
- **Full rider:** Available on request.
- **Load-in:** 45 min | Stage time: 75 min | Load-out: 30 min.


Venue suitability: Intimate halls to mid-size festivals (200–2000 capacity).

BOOKING CONTACT

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Booking & Management

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 www.hlaskontrabas.cz/oktet/classical-next-2026/

Available for 2026/27 season – Showcase ready for Classical:NEXT 2026

Prepared for Classical:NEXT 2026 Showcase. For full press kit or custom programming, contact booking directly.