

Josef Marek

author's text

Cyrano de Bergerac

In the summer of 2010, young, talented actor Ondřej Novák brought me the famous monologue from *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand (in a translation by Jaroslav Vrchlický) with a request that I write a melodrama. By presenting my interpretation of this work, I planned to follow up last year's victory with another success at this year's 13th International Festival of Concert Melodrama, organised by the Fibich Society in Prague. I accepted this daunting assignment and took it as a challenge. I would probably not have considered this wonderful text – a true stage concerto for any actor – if it had been up to me alone. Frankly speaking, I didn't want to disappoint him, and so began my creative torment. Finding a new angle on an extremely well-known text is extremely difficult, and thus I conceived *Cyrano* more in a comic, rather than tragicomic, frame of mind. This is also why I ventured to quote a few bars from Act 2 of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*, from Vašek's introductory aria. So our *Cyrano* stutters as well. Our endeavours seem to have paid off, and Ondřej entered this gruelling contest amid tough competition and defended last year's victory.

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