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National Music Museum Partners with National Czech and Slovak Museum

*Muzika! A Celebration of Czech and Slovak Music Opens Saturday*

VERMILLION, S.D. – More than four centuries of Czech and Slovak instruments from the collections of the National Music Museum in Vermillion will be on display in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for a six-month exhibition, *Muzika! A Celebration of Czech and Slovak Music*, presented by the National Czech and Slovak Museum beginning Saturday, April 17.

*Muzika!* is a journey through time that explores the history and development of this expressive art form as it examines the musicians, instruments, and composers that inspired generations. This dynamic exhibition features Gregorian chants of the 9th and 10th centuries, Czech and Slovak instruments from the 16th through 21st centuries, and Czech and Slovak music ranging from classical and folk recordings to rock and jazz. One example of the instruments on exhibit is a lute stored throughout the 19th century in the attic of a Bohemian castle perched high on a hillside overlooking the Jizera River valley, northeast of Prague, until the castle was confiscated after World War II. The lute, built by Thomas Edlinger in 1728, retains its original, fitted, leather-covered wooden case with iron hardware and reinforced with chased studs. Visitors will also see and hear unique instruments used in traditional Czech and Slovak ensembles and experiment with instruments to discover new sounds.

*Muzika!* draws upon the instrument collections of the National Music Museum in Vermillion, South Dakota, the diverse sheet and recorded music archives of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, and original manuscripts from the Czech Music Museum of the National Museum in Prague. A series of events are planned for the opening weekend and throughout the exhibition period. To see examples of the instruments included in the exhibition or for more information, visit the web site, [www.usd.edu/smm](http://www.usd.edu/smm).

*About the National Music Museum:* The National Music Museum and Center for Study of the History of Musical Instruments, located on the campus of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, is one of the great institutions of its kind in the world. Its renowned collections include more than 10,500 American, European, and non-Western instruments from virtually all cultures and historical periods. Visit [www.usd.edu/smm](http://www.usd.edu/smm).

*About the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library:* The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, founded in 1974, is the leading United State Institution preserving, interpreting, and collecting Czech and Slovak history and culture. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.