

The Jewish Museum in Prague Opens the World of Art to People with Dementia. Unique Sensory Concerts Break Down Barriers in Culture

Prague, 12 February 2026 – The Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP) is proving that culture can be accessible to everyone. After nearly two years of successfully organizing sensory concerts for children with special needs, it is expanding its program to include concerts designed for people living with dementia. The opening concert will take place on Monday, 16 March at 5 p.m. in the Maisel Synagogue. In cooperation with the Czech Alzheimer Society (ČALS), the JMP is thus becoming the first institution of its kind in the Czech Republic to offer a cultural experience tailored specifically to this audience.

The new series of concerts for people with dementia is inspired by similar, proven initiatives abroad. In the United Kingdom, for example, the organization *Music in Hospitals & Care* has long focused on such programs. Their positive impact is confirmed by the Alzheimer's Society UK, which notes that music activates memory and emotions—even in situations where regular communication fails. Music helps reduce restlessness and anxiety and can stimulate unresponsive or apathetic patients to move or sing along to lyrics stored in their memory. This process not only brings joy but also provides caregivers with valuable insights into the identity of the person affected by the disease.

"Members of our support group for people in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, which has been meeting under the name *Toulky paměti a duši* for more than 15 years, have long been looking for another shared activity in a safe environment. We therefore very much welcomed the offer from the Jewish Museum, which perfectly meets the needs of our clients," says **ČALS director Martina Mátlová**. Sensory concerts differ from traditional musical performances in several ways. Attendees are free to move around and express themselves however they wish, without worrying about disturbing others. Comfortable seating, bean bags and quiet rest areas are available. Lighting is kept low to create a safe and calm atmosphere. At the JMP, the events take place in the Maisel Synagogue, which offers step-free access and the possibility to easily adjust the interior.

The impulse to create these concerts at the JMP stemmed from a desire to fill a gap in the offerings of Czech cultural institutions. People with special needs and their families often encounter stress and other barriers at regular events, which prevent them from enjoying the experience fully. The JMP therefore decided to follow international examples and become the first institution in the Czech Republic to provide a space where these visitors can feel welcome. "The idea of organizing sensory concerts arose from visits to foreign museums as part of the Erasmus+ program, where we were inspired by similar concerts for people with special needs. Based on our experience with sensory concerts for families with children with diverse needs, we decided to reach out also to people with dementia, a group often overlooked by the public. In this way, we can enrich culturally not only the

person with dementia, but also their caregiver," adds **Zuzana Pavlovská, Head of the Department for Education and Culture at the JMP.**

The JMP has been organizing sensory concerts since 2024 and has already held six events. Performers in the Maisel Synagogue have included the Pavel Bořkovec Quartet, the Krása Quartet and the Hlas Kontrabas Duo. Through these concerts, the JMP actively contributes to destigmatizing people with special needs and dementia and demonstrates that they, too, have the right to a full cultural life.

Jewish Museum in Prague

For 120 years, the Jewish Museum in Prague has been caring for the cultural heritage of the Jewish communities of the Czech lands. Founded in 1906, the museum administers one of the largest collections of Judaica in the world—comprising more than 44,000 collection objects, 135,000 books, hundreds of thousands of photographs, and the extensive archives of Jewish religious communities in Bohemia and Moravia. In cooperation with the Jewish Community of Prague, it oversees eight significant monuments of the Prague Jewish Town and regularly organizes cultural and educational programs. More information available [HERE](#).

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