

## FAMOUS CZECH PEOPLE – FAMOUS CZECH MEN

There are many famous Czechs who became popular abroad, there are many Czech people who are popular in our country. Scientists and inventors [sájentysts] (vědci a vynálezci), historical personalities – kings and presidents, writers, playwrights, poets, composers, painters, singers, directors, actors and film stars, sportsmen etc.



### TOMÁŠ GARRIGUE MASARYK (1850 – 1937)

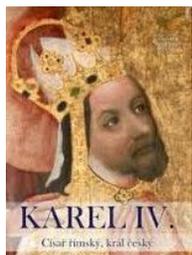
#### Basic info

TGM was **the first president of Czechoslovakia**. He is quite famous for his enlightened [enlaj-t@nt] view of the European world of his time (osvícený – moudrý/He was very calm and

clever). He used to wear a black hat, glasses and a well-kept (dobře udržovaný) white moustache [mustáš] and a beard [bird] vousy. Masaryk was an excellent rider, he was often seen on a horse. TGM left behind/ wrote **books on philosophy, politics, and history**.

#### TGM and the country

Under Masaryk's leadership (1918-1935) **Czechoslovakia became the 10th biggest industrial power in the world** (průmysl) and experienced cultural growth and wealth. He was a legendary president. He **fought for democracy and harmony**.



### CHARLES IV (1316 – 1378)

#### Basic info

**Charles IV** from the house of Luxembourg, **was the eleventh king of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor**. Charles IV was crowned King in 1347 when his father John the Blind died. Charles IV then inherited the Kingdom of Bohemia and the County of Luxembourg. Literate and fluent in five languages including Latin,

Czech, German, French and Italian, Charles IV left a strong legacy and influence behind him. **His reign** is called to be **the Golden Age of Bohemia**, he wanted the empire states to live in peace.

#### Charles IV & Prague

Charles IV made **Prague the Imperial Capital** and creating Charles University, Charles Bridge, New Town with Karlovo Namesti, a majority of Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral, Karlštejn and much more. He is considered to be the Czech Republic's Pater Patriae, or **father of the country**. Charles was married 4 times and had 12 children.



Holy Roman Empire (The Holy Roman Empire [impajr] (Svatá říše římská) included present-day Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, parts of eastern France, northern Italy, Slovenia, western Poland and the Czech and Slovak Republics.



### VÁCLAV HAVEL (1936 – 2011)

#### Basic info

Was loved by many people not only in our country. Vaclav Havel was a Czech **playwright** and former **dissident**= a man who strongly disagreed with the government, the communist regime and Russian occupation of our country, and the **president of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic**.

#### The Velvet revolution

In 1939 Germany invaded [invejdyd] Czechoslovakia, the 2nd world war started.

In 1948, after the war, the Communist Party and Russia took power over our country.

In 1989 the 'Velvet Revolution' ended the communist regime [režim] IN A PEACEFUL WAY. (mírovou cestou) 250.000 people came to the Wenceslas Square to protest against the government. Václav Havel was one of the leaders of the revolution, together they changed the régime. Havel **became the first president of the new democratic Czechoslovakia**.

In 1993 Czechoslovakia separated [sep@-rejtyd] into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Václav Havel became **the president of the Czech Republic**.

#### Charta 77

Vaclav Havel is perhaps though most famous for his major participation as the opposition leader and **co-author of Charter 77**, which led eventually to **his arrest during the Communist regime**. / (wrote Charta 77, signed it together with other people and was arrested) The document criticized the situation in the country, the communist regime and the government for violation of human rights (porušování lidských práv). After years of imprisonment, and **after the fall of Communism and the Velvet Revolution in 1989 Havel became the Czech president**. During his 13 years as president Havel witnessed/ went through the Velvet Divorce, which split Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia (Havel opposed this), the country's entrance into N.A.T.O. and the beginnings of negotiations for the Czech Republic's position in the E.U.

#### Havel abroad

Vaclav Havel is considered to be **one of the top intellectuals in the world and is admired and respected for his humanity and honesty**. Havel **wrote written over 20 plays** ( the Garden Party= Zahradní slavnost, the Audience= Audience, Leaving= Odcházení etc.) and various non-fiction works dealing with human rights, N.A.T.O.,

globalization, the relationship between Czechs and Germans and Europe in general.

### Vaclav Havel and travelling now

Vaclav Havel did a lot for Czech people, for students and for our country. We can travel freely, study and learn about all foreign countries. Students can study in France [fráns], England or the USA, they can learn languages directly in the countries where people speak the languages. They can buy and read English books, watch English, French, American or any other – Chinese, Japanese films in the original language, they can meet foreign people and speak English or any other language to them. **In the past, people were not allowed to travel to western countries, they only could visit Russia, study Russian language and first of all they couldn't freely say/ comment what they wanted to say** about the politics, the regime, or anything.



### MILOŠ FORMAN (1932 – 2018)

Milos Forman is a Czech-American film director famous for his academy awards won for best direction of the films *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (Přelet nad kukaččím hnízdem)*, winner of 5 Oscars

and *Amadeus*, winner of 8 Oscars; both films are listed among the best movies in the history of film. Forman received an academy nomination/ was nominated for an Oscar for the film *The People Vs Larry Flint* as well. Forman was born in Czechoslovakia and grew up with relatives after WWII as both of his parents died at Nazi concentration camps. He went on to study screenwriting and directed numerous comedies in Czechoslovakia until he was fired in Paris for being out of his country illegally in 1968. Forman then **moved to New York and eventually became a professor** of film and co-chair of the film division at Columbia University. Milos Forman became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1977. Two of his sons, twins Matěj and Petr live in the Czech Republic, Matěj works in the theatre, Petr is an actor.

### JAROMÍR JÁGR (1972- )

Jaromír Jágr, born in Kladno, has been the **highest scoring European in NHL history and 9th-best**, most popular in the high-scoring era of the 1980's. He won several **trophies, 2 Stanley Cups** and many awards, also **Olympic gold** together with Dominik Hašek in Nagano 1998. Jagr has played in the NHL with the Pittsburgh Penguins, Washington Capitals, New York Rangers, Philadelphia Flyers, Dallas Stars, Boston Bruins, New Jersey Devils, Florida Panthers, and the Calgary Flames, serving



as captain of the Penguins and the Rangers. After leaving the Rangers in 2008, he played three seasons in the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) with Avangard Omsk. Jágr **returned to his hometown** team of Kladno and incited "Jágrmania" as the **team Flames**, which he owns, **sold out every game with him** in uniform. Aged 46 (born in 1972) Jaromír Jágr's one of the oldest active icehockey players.

### TOMÁŠ SATORANSKÝ (1991 - )

Is among top 5 best **basketball players** in the world. He is 26 years old, 2,01m tall, weights 95kg and plays for Chicago Bulls in American NBA. He plays shooting guard(smečař), is double winner of Mattoni NBL All-Star Game in shooting(ve smečování)



Some of the world famous writers are: Jaroslav Seifert, Karel Čapek, Milan Kundera, Bohumil Hrabal, Josef Škvorecký, president Václav Havel

Some of the world-wide famous composers are: Leoš Janáček, Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana

Some of the most famous painters are: Alfons Mucha,

Some of the most famous singers are: Karel Gott, opera singer Magdalena Kožená, Dagmar Pecková,

Some of the most famous historical personalities are: Czech educator Jan Ámos Komenský, presidents Václav Havel, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, king Karel IV., Zdeněk a Jan Svěrák, Czech historian and politician František Palacký, president Edvard Beneš, Czech student Jan Palach who burnt himself to death in anti-Soviet protest. Etc.

Some of the world-wide famous sportsman are: ice-hockey players Dominik Hašek called Dominator who won several trophies in the USA and thanks to whom the Czech team won Olympic gold in Nagano in 1998, Jaromír Jágr, Tomáš Plekanec, tennis players Petra Kvitová, Martina Navrátilová who won 167 single titles, 177 double titles and 20 Wimbledon titles (1sst all-time), Ivan Lendl No1 player for 5 years, football players Pavel Nedvěd who was a midplayer in Lazio Rome and Juventus Turin club in Italy where he became the vicepresident in 2015, goal keeper Petr Čech, Tomáš Rosický, javelin thrower Jan Železný who won Olympic gold 3 times

Some of the most famous film makers are: director Miloš Forman, actor Karel Roden and many more, such as Karel Loprais 6 time winner of Dakar Rally

There have been just **2 people** in the history of our country who won the Nobel prize. **Professor Jaroslav Heyrovský** for chemistry (and **Jaroslav Seifert** for literature). Contact lenses are the invention of / were invented by the chemist **Otto Wichterle**. <3 Aji