



Music and the Nature: Input of the Czech Composers

Vaclav Nemeč (1) and Lidmila Nemcova (2)

1) Vice-president and Secretary of the Smetana Society, Prague, Czech Republic; lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz; 2) President, Society for Ethics in Economics, Prague, Czech Republic

Extraordinary occasions for art of any kind - music, creative graphic and plastic arts, literature (classic, modern incl. science fiction), theatre, cinema, etc. - exist to harmonise individual personal interests with those of the humanity well-being and of the Nature and also to cultivate individual spirituality and the appropriate values. Arts can be applied as irreplaceable means for making any human being better, for improving his sense for solidarity and for increasing his ethical sensibility. An interest for the art should be cultivated already since the childhood. - How much of inspiration for numerous composers all over the world has been given by the Nature, how much of inspiration for people who by listening to such a music are increasing nobility of their behaviour as well as their friendly approach to the Nature. - Many classical music works have been written with a strong inspiration by the Nature itself from the past until today. The actual Year of the Czech Music gives the possibility to present the most famous Czech composers inspired by the Nature (selected examples only):

Bedřich Smetana (1824 – 1884): At the sea shore – a concert etude for piano inspired by his stay in Göteborg (Sweden); Vltava (Moldau) – a symphonic poem from the cycle “My country” inspired by the river crossing Bohemia from the South to Prague; From the Bohemian woods and meadows – another symphonic poem from the same cycle.

Antonín Dvořák (1841 – 1904): V přírodě (In the Nature) – a work for orchestra

Leoš Janáček (1854 – 1928): Příhody lišky Bystroušky (The Cunning Little Vixen) - an opera situated mostly in a forest.

Josef Bohuslav Foerster (1859-1951): Velké širé rodné lány (Big large native fields) – a choir for men singers inspired by the nature in the region where the composer as a boy from Prague was visiting his grand-father.

Vítězslav Novák (1870 – 1949): In Tatra mountains – a symphonic poem expressing the author's passion for the famous Slovak mountains.

Josef Suk (1874 – 1935): Pohádka léta (A Summer's Tale) - a work for orchestra remembering a relax and consolation in beauties of the Nature.

Bohuslav Martinů (1890 – 1959): Otvírání studánek (The Opening of the Springs) - cantata for soli, female chorus and instrumental accompaniment remembering old local customs of purifying water in the wells when spring comes.