

## Symphonic Suite from Jenufa

The Symphonic Suite from Jenufa, an opera whose music and libretto were created by Czech composer Leoš Janáček, is based on a drama from the Moravian rural environment written by Czech writer Gabriela Preissová. The Suite features typical Czech elements similar to those found in the Dvorak Violin Concerto including dances and dramatic moments so characteristic of the language of Janacek's specific rhythmic style.

The Suite is in the form of a single movement played without pause and presents gripping and important melodies and dances from the opera. Among others, this will include:

- Dance *Daleko, široko do těch Nových Zámků* (Far away there in the town of Nových Zámků)
- Aria *Tož umřel můj chlapčok radostný* (He died then, my darling baby boy)
- Dance *Všeci sa ženijsa* (They're all for marrying)
- Aria *Každý párek si musí svoje trápení přestát* (Love must always endeavour o'er misfortune to triumph)
- Dance *Ej mamko, mamko, maměnko moja!* (Hey mother, mother, little mother mine!)
- Last scene of the second act
- Final theme of the Opera

One of the most interesting elements in the composition is an "ostinato" theme played on the xylophone. This theme is introduced during the opening of the suite and is used in the whole piece as an "idée fixe" which connects the individual parts of the composition in a compact body. The instrumentation follows mostly the original instrumentation of Janacek, with a few exceptions.

- 1 Flauto piccolo
- 2 Flauti
- 2 Oboi
- 1 Corno inglese
- 2 Clarinetti in Bb
- 1 Clarinetto basso in Bb
- 2 Fagotti
  
- 4 Corni in F
- 2 Trombe in Bb
- 3 Tromboni
- Tuba
  
- Timpani

Percussion (Triangle; Piatti a due; Tam-Tam; Tamburo piccolo; Gran cassa; Campanelli; xylophone)

Harp

Strings

The suite has been arranged by Czech composer Tomáš ILLE for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Music Director Manfred Honeck.