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ADD

Bedřich
SMETANA
(1824–1884)

Playing
Time
75:22

Má Vlast

1	Vyšehrad (The High Castle)	14:09
2	Vltava (The Moldau)	11:56
3	Šárka	9:50
4	Z českých luhů a hájů (From Bohemia's Forests and Meadows)	12:27
5	Tábor	12:43
6	Blaník	14:18

Czech Philharmonic Orchestra
Václav Talich

Recorded 10th-12th and 21st June and 2nd-3rd July, 1954
in the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum, Prague

A superb conductor of Smetana's music, including the operas, Talich made three recordings of *Má Vlast*. This 1954 performance, taped in the fine acoustic of the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum, just yards from the River Vltava, is a magnificent realisation of Smetana's musical intentions. Talich's buoyant rhythm in the opening bars of *Vltava*, and the passionate phrasing he draws from the vibrant strings and the rustic woodwinds of the Czech Philharmonic, are just some of the outstanding features of this great recording. With its extraordinary technical control, uncanny rhythmic sense and subtle flexibility, Talich's reading builds inexorably, so that the final section made up of the thematically linked *Tábor* and *Blaník* comes as a fiery culmination.

Reissue Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Cover photo: Václav Talich, Prague 1939 (Private Collection)

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