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8.573672

Playing Time
63:58

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Bedřich Smetana's *Festive Symphony* was composed in 1854 when hopes for Emperor Franz Joseph becoming King of Bohemia were high. The splendid sounds of Smetana's only formal symphony pre-echo later masterpieces such as *Má Vlast*, but his use of the Austrian Imperial anthem became unacceptable in the subsequent spirit of Czech nationalism, resulting in the work's neglect. With its sparkling overture and lively rural dances, *The Bartered Bride* secured Smetana's international reputation and, as the only Czech opera of its day to enter the standard repertoire, it became a beacon for the nation's 19th century musical renaissance.



Deutschlandfunk Kultur

Bedřich
SMETANA
 (1824–1884)

rsb

RUNDFUNK-
 SINFONIEORCHESTER
 BERLIN

Festive Symphony in E major, Op. 6

42:55

- 1 I. Allegro vivace
- 2 II. Largo maestoso
- 3 III. Scherzo: Allegro vivo
- 4 IV. Finale: Allegro non troppo ma energico

11:00

10:36

8:47

12:20

Prodaná nevěsta (The Bartered Bride) (excerpts)

20:55

- 5 Overture
- 6 Act I: Finale: Polka
- 7 Act II: Furiant
- 8 Act III: Dance of the Comedians

7:06

5:01

2:05

6:33

Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra
 (Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin)

ein Ensemble der



Darrell Ang

A co-production with Deutschlandradio Kultur

Recorded: 2–5 February 2016 at the Großer Sendesaal, Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany

Producer and editor: Hein Laabs • Engineer: Ekkehard Stoffregen

Assistant engineer: Julius Middendorff • Booklet notes: Keith Anderson

Cover: *Lithograph of Franz Joseph I* (c. 1855) by Adolf Dauthage (1825–1883)