

Regarded as the father of Czech music Bedřich Smetana was a pioneer in developing a national style that culminated in his popular symphonic cycle *Má vlast*. Composed after he had become deaf the *Czech Dances* are Smetana's last major piano works. Sparkling with distinctive character and inventiveness *Book 1* elevates the humble polka to the level Chopin achieved with his mazurkas, while *Book 2* was inspired by the old Moravian and Bohemian dances played to Smetana by his neighbour, a local amateur violinist. Coloured with Lisztian harmonic richness, the *Piano Sonata in G minor* combines Romantic expressiveness with puckish good humour.

Bedřich SMETANA (1824–1884)

Piano Sonata in G minor (1846) 30:06 Book 2 (1879) 43:02

1 I. Sostenuto – Allegro	11:15	9 No. 1. Furiant	5:29
2 II. Adagio	9:12	10 No. 2. Slepíčka ('Little Hen')	3:04
3 III. Scherzo: Vivace	4:02	11 No. 3. Oves ('Grain Dance')	5:35
4 IV. Finale: Molto vivace	5:37	12 No. 4. Medvěd ('Bear Dance')	3:33
České tance ('Czech Dances')		13 No. 5. Cibulíčka ('Little Onion')	5:19
Book 1 (1877) 13:17		14 No. 6. Dupák ('Stamping Dance')	3:25
5 No. 1. Polka in F sharp minor	3:30	15 No. 7. Hulán ('Lancer')	5:07
6 No. 2. Polka in A minor	2:36	16 No. 8. Obkročák ('Stepping Dance')	2:59
7 No. 3. Polka in F major	3:32	17 No. 9. Sousedská (‘Neighbour’s Dance’)	4:52
8 No. 4. Polka in B flat major	3:39	18 No. 10. Skočná	3:39

Bogang Hwang, Piano

Recorded: 5 [1]–[4], 6 [9]–[10], 7 [5]–[8] February 2024 at Zipper Hall, Colburn School, Los Angeles, USA

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