

sense of exuberance and optimism pervading the entire composition.

"Tábor" is the title of the fifth symphonic poem this piece is named after the town of Tábor, located in the Czech Republic, and it holds historical significance in Czech history.

The symphonic poem "Tábor" reflects a specific event in Czech history known as the Hussite Wars, which took place in the 15th century. The Hussites were followers of the religious reformer Jan Hus, and they fought against various forces, including the Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire, for religious and political freedom.

Tábor itself was a stronghold of the Hussites during this period. Smetana's composition captures the spirit of this era, with music that conveys a sense of defiance, struggle, and determination. The piece is marked by powerful and dramatic themes, representing the Hussite movement's fervor and resilience.



Music From

**SMETANA'S**

**MÁ VLAST**

Vltava (Moldau)

Šárka

From Bohemia's Woods And Fields

Tábor

**KUBELIK**

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

"Vltava" specifically focuses on the Moldau River (Vltava in Czech), which is a prominent river in the Czech Republic. The piece captures the essence of the river's journey from its source in the Bohemian Forest, through the Czech countryside, past the bustling city of Prague, and eventually merging with the Elbe River.

Smetana's composition skillfully depicts various scenes along the river's course, including the peaceful flow of the water, the majestic forests and meadows it passes through, the lively folk dances of the Czech people, and the grandeur of Prague. The piece is rich in melody and orchestration, making it a beloved and iconic part of Czech classical music repertoire.

The symphonic poem "Šárka" by Smetana depicts scenes from this mythological tale. The story goes that Šárka, a beautiful but cunning warrior, lured a group of Czech warriors led by Ctirad to her hidden encampment by pretending to be a damsel in distress. Once the warriors were inebriated and vulnerable, Šárka signaled her fellow Maidens' War participants, and they emerged from hiding to attack and defeat the unsus-

pecting men.

Smetana's musical interpretation of the Šárka legend captures the drama, tension, and eventual battle in a vivid and powerful orchestral composition. It's known for its dynamic shifts, from the seductive and deceptive motifs representing Šárka's allure to the intense and martial passages depicting the conflict that ensues. The piece is a testament to Smetana's skill in translating narrative and emotion into music, adding to the rich tapestry of Czech classical compositions.

From Bohemia's Woods And Fields celebrates the natural beauty of the Bohemian countryside, portraying scenes of lush forests, rolling fields, and pastoral landscapes. It reflects the composer's deep love and connection to the land of Bohemia, capturing the essence of its rural charm and tranquility.

Smetana's music in "From Bohemia's Woods and Fields" is characterized by lively and bucolic melodies, evoking images of dancing peasants, chirping birds, and flowing streams. The orchestration is colorful and vibrant, with a

# Smetana music from Má Vlast

Rafael Kubelik Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

1 Vltava (Moldau) 11:20

2 Šárka 9:20

3 From Bohemia's Woods And Fields 12:20

4 Tábor 13:06

Producer: Erik Smith Engineer: James Brown

Recorded 3-7 Apr 1958 at Sofiensaal, Vienna



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