

## Montgomery Philharmonic 2013 - 2014 Concert Season – A Confluence of Culture An Evening of Serenades – June 1, 2014

Mozart | Dvorak | Hoffmann | van Otterloo

### Antonin Dvořák (1841–1904) – *Serenade in D minor for Winds, Cello and Double Bass, Opus 44* (1878)

Moderato quasi marcia

Minuetto

Andante con moto

Allegro molto

Like so much of Dvořák's music, the *D Minor Serenade* was strongly influenced by the folk idioms of his native Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic). Like the serenades of the 18th and 19th centuries, he writes for the masses, yet in this serenade, he stretches the audience, imploring them to listen by tying up several earlier themes in the final movement. Dvořák composed this serenade in just 2 weeks early in 1878 and it was premiered by the Prague Orchestra in November 1878 under his baton, as part of an all-Dvořák program.

The work opens with a pompous march that conjures up a comic image. The bombastic use of the lower instruments (bassoons, cello, and bass) contributes to this image, yet the oboe continually tries to maintain some dignity. The second movement, Minuetto, features two Czech dances and is also known as *sousedská*, a laid-back, bucolic “neighbor’s dance.” The trio of the Minuetto is written in double time, marked *furiant*. The third movement, Andante con moto, is a set of variations that is more intense and gloomier than the other, sunnier, movements. The final movement, Allegro molto, begins with a polka-like theme and then recaps some of the themes from the other movements. The movement finishes with a series of fanfares that propel it to a lighthearted close.

The *Serenade* was well received and continues to be loved by both players and audiences.

### About Antonin Leopold Dvořák

Antonín Leopold Dvořák was a Czech composer. Following the nationalist example of Bedřich Smetana, Dvořák frequently employed features of the folk music of Moravia and his native Bohemia. In addition to composing, Dvořák was also a very fine music administrator. From 1892 to 1895, he was the director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York City. During this time, Dvořák also spent time learning about American music. He wrote a series of newspaper articles supporting the concepts of Native American music and African-American music as the basis for what would later be known as American music. His most famous compositions while living in the United States were Symphony No. 9 – “To the New World”, two string quartets, the B minor Cello Concerto, and a sonatina for violin and piano. Dvořák also did some conducting while in the United States. In addition to conducting the school orchestra at concerts during the school year, as part of his administrative responsibilities, he conducted the 8th Symphony at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

- **Born:** September 8, 1841, Nelahozeves, Czech Republic
- **Died:** May 1, 1904, Prague, Czech Republic
- **Nationality:** Czech
- **Compositions:** 9 Symphonies, 5 Symphonic poems, 4 major choral works including a mass, concerti for violin, cello, and piano, 40 chamber works, several operas, 3 song cycles, 2 sets of Slavonic Dances
- **Spouse:** Anna Čermáková (m. 1873–1904)
- **Children:** Otakar Dvořák, Josefa Dvořáková, Otilie Dvořáková, Růžena Dvořáková, Antonín Dvořák

**Instrumentation** – 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 3 horns, cello, and double bass



### Artifacts –

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiq4Aia15Og>

[http://imslp.org/wiki/Serenade\\_for\\_Wind\\_Instruments,\\_Op.44\\_\(Dvořák,\\_Anton%C3%ADn\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/Serenade_for_Wind_Instruments,_Op.44_(Dvořák,_Anton%C3%ADn))

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dvorak\\_Antonin\\_rodina\\_USA.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dvorak_Antonin_rodina_USA.jpg)

<http://archives.nyphil.org/index.php/artifact/2378e2cf-37a6-45e0-b349-2a5c58c12d92/fullview#page/1/mode/1up>


1. Dvořák: Serenades In e Major & D Minor, Tchaikovsky: Andante Cantabile / Czech Chamber Orchestra, Vlach - Czech Chamber Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Wind Ensemble & Josef Vlach
2. Dvořák: Serenades In e Major & D Minor, Tchaikovsky: Andante Cantabile / Czech Chamber Orchestra, Vlach - Czech Chamber Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Wind Ensemble & Josef Vlach
3. Mozart: Serenade No. 10, "Gran Partita" - Dvorak: Serenade in D minor, Op. 44 - Swedish Serenade Ensemble
4. Dvořák: Symphony No. 6, Serenade Op. 44 - Václav Smetáček, Czech Philharmonic Wind Ensemble & Prague Symphony Orchestra

1. Dvorak Serenade for Winds
2. Serenade No. 1, Op. 22 & Serenade No. 2, Op. 44 (Dover Music Scores)