

Composer Profile: Antonín Dvořák

1 Antonín Leopold Dvořák was a Czech composer, one of the first to achieve worldwide recognition.

2 Antonin Dvorak was born on the 8 September 1841

3 Antonin Dvorak died on the 1 May 1904



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4 Dvorak recognized a rich tradition sitting under his nose, one to which most American composers seemed blind. He weaved American roots music into his vast symphonic canvas. And, inspired by negro spirituals, he created a bitter melody that would become his own.

5 Dvořák displayed his musical gifts at an early age, being an apt violin student from age six. The first public performances of his works were in Prague in 1872 and, with special success, in 1873, when he was aged 31

Notable pieces:

- Symphony No. 9, 'New World Symphony'
- Slavonic Dances
- Rusalka
- String Quartet No.12 'American'
- Cello Concerto



Aside from his work, Dvořák was also known and praised for his passion for music and his commitment to his homeland, which is why he regularly infused the Czech sound in his symphonies.



Antonin Dvořák

Dvořák frequently employed rhythms and other aspects of the folk music of Moravia and his native Bohemia. Dvořák's own style has been described as "the fullest recreation of a national idiom with that of the symphonic tradition, absorbing folk influences and finding effective ways of using them".



Dvorak was a Romantic composer during the 19th Century

Composers noticed Dvořák during the Austrian State Stipend for composers, of which Brahms was a judge. Brahms took Dvořák under his wing and gave him a career boost by using his personal publisher to release Dvořák's Slavonic Dances for Piano in 1878. It was this move that helped him become famous.



Dvořák Loved Trains: The composer was known to spend hours at the Franz Josef railway station in Prague, watching trains.



According to close sources, Dvořák suffered from Agoraphobia, which is a psychological fear of open spaces. As such, he was often afraid of going outside on his own. His phobia was so great that he missed his debut performance of his New World Symphony but was somehow convinced to attend the next one.



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