

## SUMMARIES

### WEAVING TOGETHER ARTS AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT: THE MYTH OF BEDŘICH SMETANA, THE "NATIONAL COMPOSER"

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Bedřich Smetana (1824–1884) has always been looked upon as the “national composer” of the Czechs and the “founder of Czech music”. But his place in the collective memory of his people is the result of the national movement having consistently claimed Smetana and his work to be theirs. Smetana was deliberately made a symbol for Czech culture not being inferior to that of the established “Western” nations, and some of his works came to belong among the things held most dearly by the whole nation. It is true that Smetana played a leading part in fostering Czech musical life in Prague, and it is he to whom the development of the national musical art owes important impulses. However, it should not be overlooked that what he was striving at was, first and foremost, to succeed in artistic as well as in financial terms. In this respect, Smetana fits completely into the picture of the petty bourgeois with a certain education, whom Miroslav Hroch and Jiří Kořalka described as the champions of the Czech national movement.