

# Bedřich Smetana

(Bed-rik Smet-ah-nah)

1824 – 1884



- Bedřich Smetana, was born in Litomyšl, a town east of Prague.
- Bedřich was introduced to music by his father and at the age of six, gave his first public performance.
- Smetana studied violin and piano under different masters and began to write folk music and dance tunes by the age of eight.
- In 1844, he joined the Prague Music Institute, headed by Josef Proksch, to learn music while supporting himself by teaching piano to the children of Count Leopold von Thun.
- From 1856 to 1861, Bedřich Smetana traveled between Gothenburg and Prague; teaching, composing and performing at concerts at both places.
- In 1874, Smetana began to go deaf.
- In spite of his deafness, he continued to work, writing many of his most well-known and popular works.
- Bedřich Smetana is best remembered for his opera, "The Bartered Bride", and his symphonic work, "Má vlast".
- Smetana is known as the Father of Czech music.



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