

Antonín Dvořák (September 8, 1841 – May 1, 1904)

Antonín Dvořák was a renowned Czech composer and one of the most significant figures in late Romantic music. Born in Nelahozeves, near Prague, Dvořák was the son of a butcher and an innkeeper. Despite his humble beginnings, he developed a profound interest in music, studying at the Prague Conservatory.

Dvořák's early works were influenced by Czech folk music, which he incorporated into his compositions, contributing to the development of a distinctive national style. His notable works include the *Symphony No. 9 (From the New World)* (1893), which reflects his experience and impressions of American folk music during his time in the United States. Other major works include the *Cello Concerto in B minor* (1894) and *Slavonic Dances* (1887), which capture the essence of Bohemian folk traditions.

During his time in the United States (1892-1895), Dvořák served as the director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York, where he encouraged American composers to explore indigenous musical themes. His impact on American music was substantial, influencing the works of composers such as William Grant Still and Aaron Copland.

Dvořák returned to Europe after his American tenure, continuing to compose and teach until his death in 1904. His legacy endures through his vibrant orchestral and chamber music, which remain staples of the classical repertoire.