"Slavonic Dance No. 7"

Antonin Dvorak

Antonin Dvorak
Born: September 8, 1841
Died: May 1, 1904

Antonin Dvorak was born in a village just north of Prague. At the time, this region was called Bohemia and was part of the Austrian Empire. He was the oldest of nine children. His father was a butcher, and he wanted Antonin to become a butcher, too. Fortunately, an uncle noticed Antonin's musical talent, and paid for him to take organ lessons.

Dvorak found a job as a church organist, but what he really wanted to do was compose. So, he entered his compositions in a government-sponsored contest and won! The prize money allowed Dvorak to leave his church job, and made him well-known as a composer.

In spite of the fact that he never took composition lessons, Dvorak taught composition at the Prague Conservatory. He also taught in New York City for a few years. The last of Dvorak's nine symphonies was written in the United States, and is nicknamed "From the New World."

Dvorak was famous throughout Europe, but was happiest at his country home in Bohemia. It was during his lifetime that regions fought for political independence from the Austrian Empire. Composers started wanting musical independence, too. When they began using folk tunes and dance rhythms from their native countries in their music, and wrote about local legends, history, and landscapes, musical nationalism was born.

Dvorak grew up with a strong Czech identity and that came out in his music. His *Slavonic Dances* were so popular that he wrote two sets. The "Slavonic Dance No. 7" is from his first set. All the *Slavonic Dances* were originally written for piano four hands, but Dvorak later arranged them for full orchestra.

Eastern Europe Today

1. Circle the Czech Republic.

_____

2. Put a box around Austria.

_____

3. What country is to the west of the Czech Republic.

_____

4. What city is the capital of the Czech Republic?

_____

WGUC sincerely thanks
The Charles H. Dater Foundation
for its sustaining support since the
inception of
Classics for Kids®.

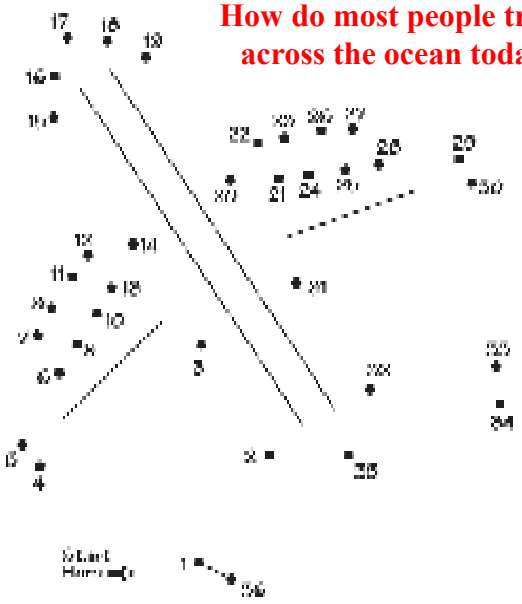
"Slavonic Dance No. 7 in c minor" Listening Map

You can hear two themes in this first section. The first is slower and deliberate; the second is faster. Can you hear its triangle? The first theme then repeats.

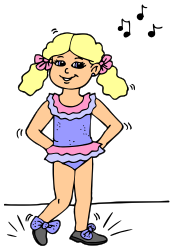
The middle section grows out of the faster theme from the first section. The dance slows a bit, then the trumpets take over and play this dance music again.

The final section returns to the opening music - slow and deliberate. Next it switches to the faster theme then builds to a dynamic ending, moving from theme to theme, using music from the middle section of the piece as well.

How do most people travel across the ocean today?



Match the Dance



Hula

German

Country Line

Ballet

Tap

Rock n Roll

Here's your chance to create your own piece of art for a piece from ***"Slovanic Dance No. 7."***

Draw a picture, or write your own story, if you wish, on blank 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Send us your art and we may post it on our *Classics for Kids* website for you to share with others.

Our address is:
Classics for Kids
c/o WGUC
1223 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45214

Or E-mail us at **cfk@cinradio.org.**