

# **The second life of Antonín Dvořák.**

## **The reception of life and work of the composer during 1938–1954**

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### **Abstract**

Antonín Dvořák is one of the most famous Czech composers in the world, whose compositions are a regular part of the repertoire of Czech and international ensembles. The dissertation focuses on the so-called second life of the composer in the years 1938–1954. During the time of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, a number of large-scale musical festivals were held, in which Dvořák's work played an irreplaceable role. We can see the peak in 1941, when the entire protectorate celebrated the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth. Even after 1945, the intensity of "Dvořák" events did not decrease, in 1954 an international Dvořák conference was held in Prague, the composer was named a personality of world culture by the World Peace Council, and a critical edition of his output was initiated. The life and work of Antonín Dvořák was also used for propaganda purposes. During the time of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, we find two main approaches – the so-called passive resistance trend, highlighting the height and worldliness of Czech culture through its leading representative, Antonín Dvořák. In opposition stood the interpretation of occupation propaganda, which highlighted the composer's relationship to Germany and German friends and collaborators. After the February coup of 1948 in Czechoslovakia, the narrative became unified in favour of the interpretation of the communist party – critics found aspects of realism, progress and humanism in Dvořák's work, in their texts they dealt with the issue of the relationship between so-called absolute and program music in the context of Dvořák's work or with Dvořák's relationship to Bedřich Smetana. Despite the intricacy of the source situation, the work also pays attention to the topic of censorship, especially during the protectorate period, when there were several censorship interventions in opera librettos.

The work is primarily based on source research, based on a wide source base and critical analysis of contemporary periodical and non-periodical press.