

Vítězslav Novák's Manuscripts

at the Music Department
of the National Library of the Czech Republic

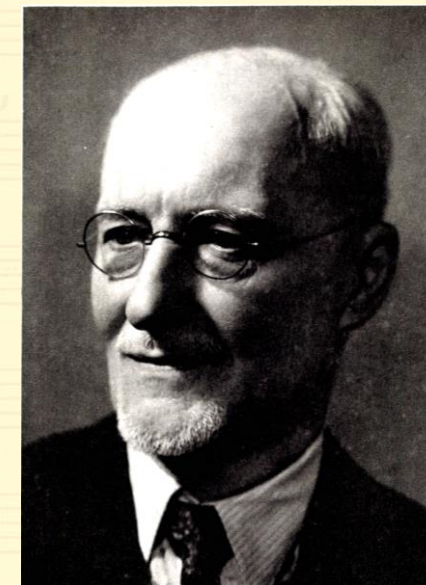
Ludmila Šmídová



Národní knihovna
České republiky
National Library
of the Czech Republic

Music Department at the National Library

- start of activity in 1923
- founder: the composer and filologist **Ladislav Vycpálek (1882-1969)**



Stored documents

- **printed music** from the 19th, 20th, 21st centuries (older documents only exceptionally), legal deposits
- **music manuscripts** (e.g. by J. Mysliveček, J. V. Voříšek, B. Smetana, K. Bendl, A. Dvořák, J. Suk, B. Martinů)
- other documents related to music (e.g. **letters by musicians**, concert programmes)
- so-called **Mozart Memorial**, the first Mozart collection in the world established in 1837 (e.g. manuscripts – historically significant copies, printed first editions, correspondence, librettos and other sources associated with Mozart's legacy)



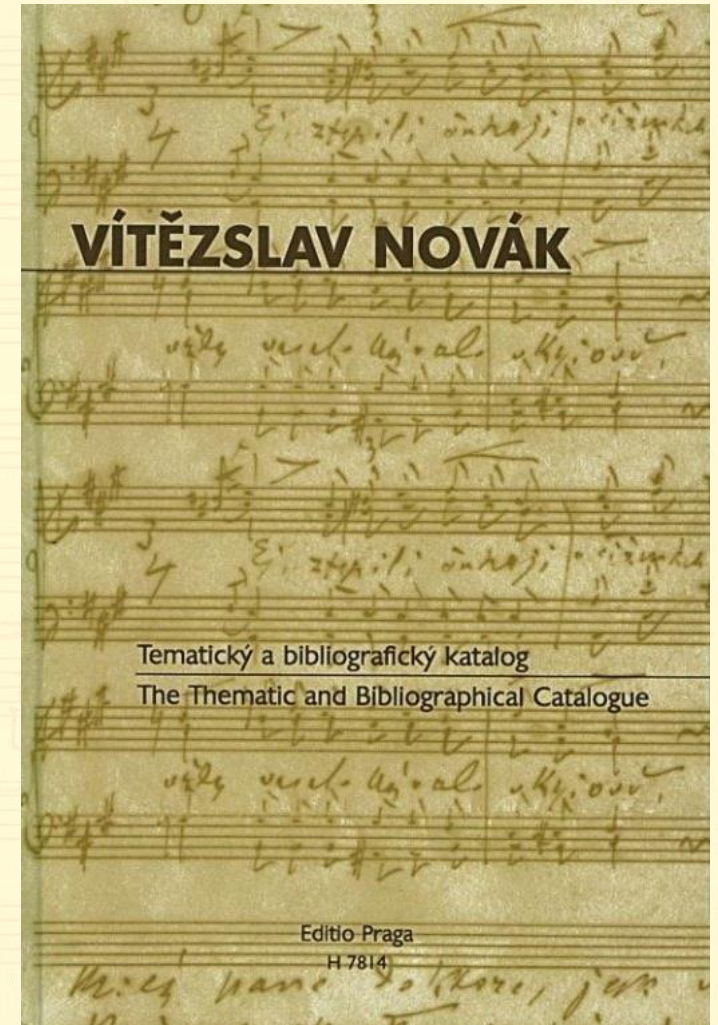


Vítězslav Novák (1870-1949)

- a pupil of Antonín Dvořák
- **renowned composer**
 - 162 opuses (according to Thematic Catalogue by M. Schnierer)
 - songs, piano pieces, choruses, chamber music, orchestral overtures, symphonic poems, symphonies, cantatas, operas, ballet pantomimes
 - inspiration from Moravian and Slovak folk music, wild nature; use of late romantic harmony, escalating counterpoint (“contrapuntal orgies”)
 - original publishers: e.g. N. Simrock, Universal Edition, Breitkopf & Härtel, F. A. Urbánek, M. Urbánek, Hudební matice, SHV

- **the most influential composition pedagogue** in his time in Czechia (private, 1909-39 acting at the Prague Conservatory)

- writer (about music, memories)
- passionate tourist



Novák and Vycpálek - I

1908-12 Vycpálek is Novák's private pupil in composition and the men become friends

1912 Vycpálek translates the lyrics of Vítězslav Novák's song collection "Eroticon", Op. 46



1911-9 Vycpálek writes a series of reflections and critiques on Novák's compositions

1923-4 Vycpálek acquires 6 Novák manuscripts for the collection of the newly independent Music department of the National Library



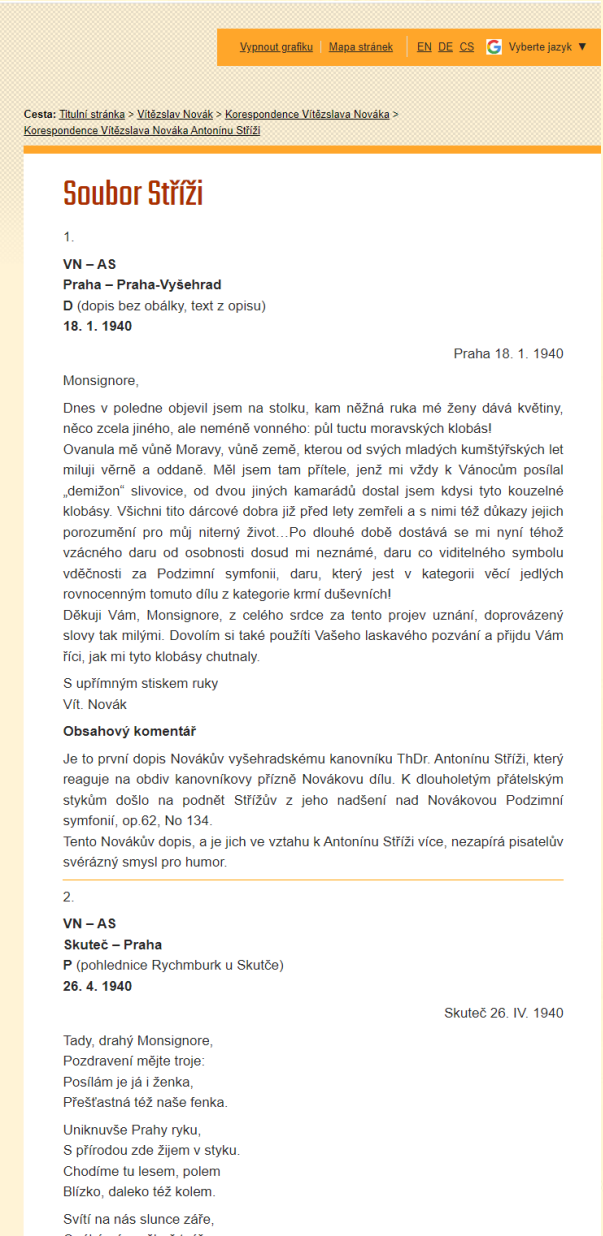
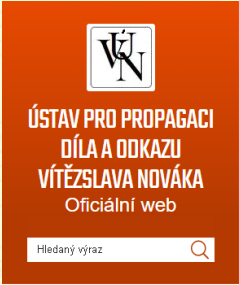
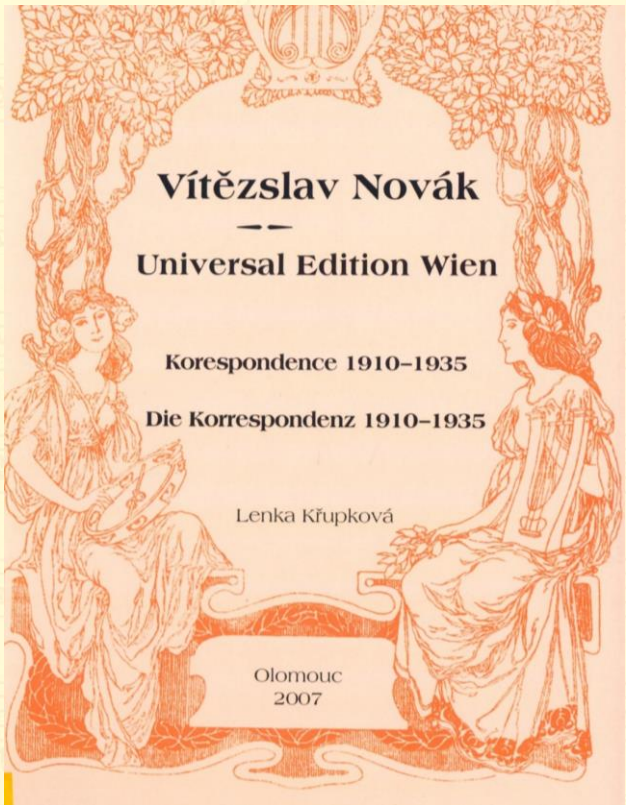
Novák and Vycpálek - II

- 1931 a split between friends occurs, caused by a public dispute between Novák and the head of the opera Otakar Ostrčil (Vycpálek sides with Ostrčil)
- 1935 Vycpálek acquires 2 Novák manuscripts from the estate of the former chairman of the Society for Chamber Music, V. Müller, for the Music department
- 1940 Vycpálek donates 7 pieces of correspondence (Novák to Vycpálek) from the years [1912]-1931 to the Music department



Correspondence of V. Novák

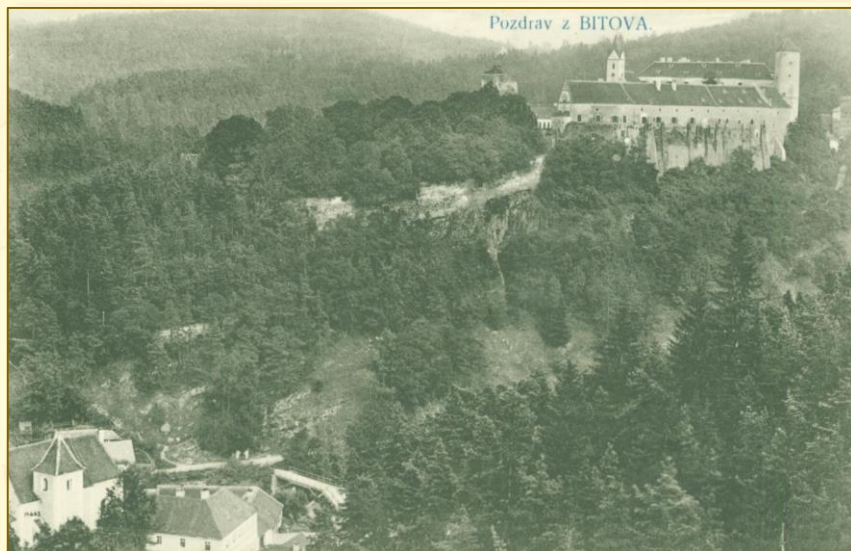
- register
- publishing



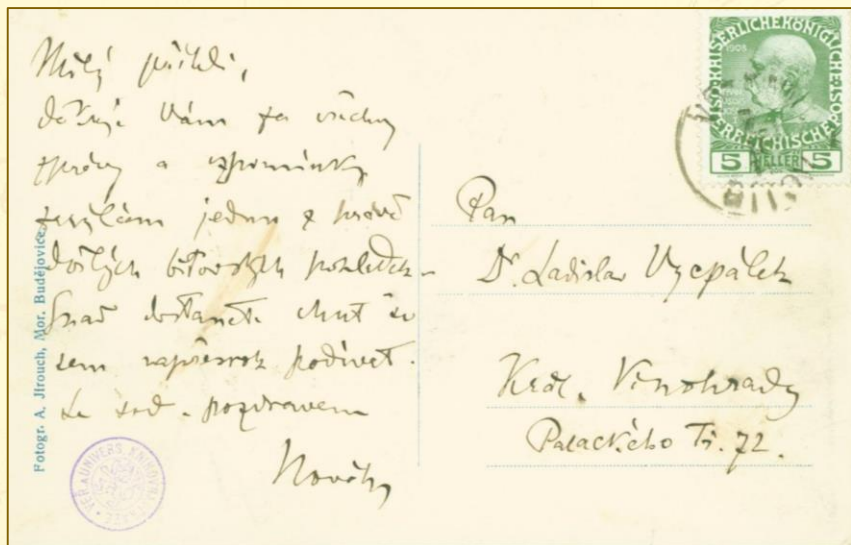
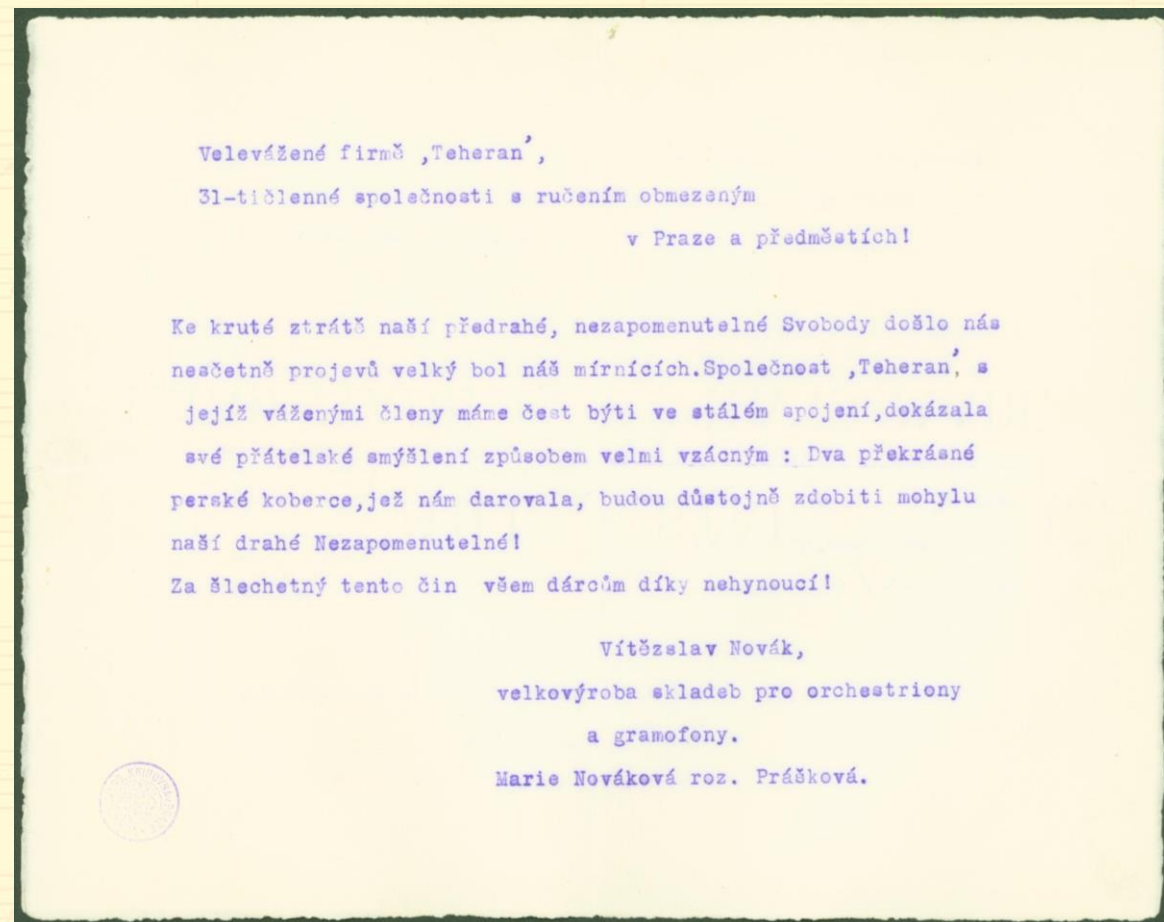
List of Novák's correspondence stored in the National Library CZ

Novák to Vycpálek	Prague to Prague	[1908-15]	Thanks for the Christmas greetings.	59 L 151
Novák to Vycpálek	Prague to Prague	[1908-12]	Suggests a meet in Hlavovka. He will be there with members of the club.	59 L 152
Novák to Vycpálek	Bítov to Prague	[1908-12]	Thanks for all the messages and memories and invites to visit.	59 L 153
Novák to Vycpálek	[Prague] to Prague	20. 9. 2012	Thanks to all donors for two beautiful Persian carpets.	59 L 154
Novák to Vycpálek	Bítov to Prague	[1914]	They had hoped to meet the Vycpáleks in Prague, but they were at their parents' summer apartment.	59 L 155
Novák to Vycpálek	Prague to Prague	2.10.1922	Thanks for the Cantata of the last things of man. He is glad that the work has been published and looks forward to seeing it performed.	59 L 156
Nováková Marie to Vycpálek	Prague to Prague	21.5. 1931	Years ago, Vítězslav Novák's friend dealt him a deep blow, causing him to become even more inaccessible than he was.	59 L 163
Novák to Josef Vincourek	Barcelona to Bratislava	[?. 2.1924]	Warm greetings from Barcelona.	59 L 151

Novák greets from Bítov [1908-11], shelfmark: 59 L 153



Novák thanks for the wedding gift, 1912, shelfmark: 59 L 154



v Praze, 22/5. 1931.

Pane doktore,

v těchto dnech uvěřili mému drahemu
Viktorovi přáteli dra, jeden věrný -
druhý bývalý. Příteli bývalému
mohu alespoň jistě říci, že kdyby
byl Novákem upřímný, že
snad nejvíce se všech milován -
druhému příteli říci to by se
líbilo, jistě nemohu a byl by
to zastoupil se svou oddaností.
Neváží se pověd, že Novák je člověk
bez srdce, krutý a bezohledný; -
já myslím, že bez srdce byl
to, kterému mu před tím zazlobili.

Dopis vzniklý za polemiky Ossicil - Novák.
Napsal jsem svůj veřejný dopis, že ne-
souhlasím, aby Novák veřejně polemisoval
ponežauz to není hodno jeho významu.



Letter from Novák's wife
to Vycpálek, 1931, shelfmark: 59 L 162

Compositions by V. Novák in manuscripts deposited in the Music Department of the National Library CZ

- 1893 ***Velebná noc*** (from *Songs for solo voice with piano accompaniment*), op. 4, no. 7, SchN 32
- 1896 ***Serenade*** 1, 2 (from the cycle *At Dusk*, four piano pieces), op. 13, no. 3, 4, SchN 47
- 1897 ***Quintet in a minor*** for piano, two violins, viola, violoncello, op. 12, SchN 49
- 1898 ***Maryša***, dramatic overture based on the drama of the same name by the Mrštík brothers for large orchestra, op. 18, SchN 57
- 1900 ***Sonata Eroica*** for piano, op. 24, SchN 68
- 1906 ***Toman and the Forest Fairy***, symphonic poem after the Czech legend for large orchestra, op. 40, SchN 89
- 1907 ***Lady Godiva***, overture to the tragedy of Jaroslav Vrchlický, op. 41, SchN 91
- 1907 ***Gavotte in D major*** for the intended opera *Jánošík*, SchN 92
- 1912 ***Eroticon***, six songs for voice and piano, op. 46, SchN 100
- 1923 ***Bouquet of folk songs for piano with underlying text***, SchN 118
- 1938 ***Quartet No. 3 in G major*** for two violins, viola and cello, op. 66, SchN 138
- 1941 ***St. Wenceslas Triptych for organ***, op. 70, SchN 143

Types of sources

continuous sketch:

- Serenade op. 13 no. 3,
- Maryša op. 18,
- Toman and the Forest Fairy op. 40,
- Gavotte in D major

short drafts:

- Quartet No. 3 in G major op. 66,
1. movement

autograph manuscript (fair copy of score):

- Velebná noc op. 4 no. 7,
- Serenade op. 13 no. 4,
- Lady Godiva op. 41,
- Bouquet of folk songs for piano with text

autograph manuscript with authorial revisions:

- St. Wenceslas Triptych for organ op. 70

autograph part for voice:

- Erotikon op. 46

manuscript copy with autograph inscriptions:

- Sonata Eroica for piano, op. 24

manuscript copy (score, parts):

- Quintet in a minor op. 12 (score),
- Quintet in a minor op. 12 (score and parts)

Lady Godiva, overture to Jaroslav Vrchlický's tragedy, op. 41

autograph score [1907?],
62 pages, without a title page,
written in ink, inscriptions in blue pencil, and pencil,
shelfmark: 59 R 108

Lady Godiva

Ferocce.

V. Ligeia

Flauto piccolo (Flauto III)

Flauto II

Oboi

Corno inglese

Clarinetti B

Clarinetto basso in B

Lady Godiva

Ferocce.

V. Ligeia

Flauto piccolo (Flauto III)

Flauto II

Oboi

Corno inglese

Clarinetti B

Clarinetto basso in B

Fagotti

Contrabbasso

Cornetti

Trombe

Tromboni

Tuba

Timpani

Prati

Tam-tam

Arpa

Violini I

Violini II

Viola

Violoncelli

Bassi

Vřačnicku přátel:
Moudrým a Dr. Antonín Střížov:
vinnová k vánočním 1942
K. H. H. H.

St. Wenceslas Triptych for organ, op. 70

autograph with revisions, [1941?],
16 pages,
written in ink, revisions pasted over, inscriptions in pencil,
dedication to Antonín Stříž on the title page (Christmas 1942 [1941/2]),
shelfmark: 59 R 2051



Bouquet of folk songs for piano with text, SchN 118

autograph (fair copy), 5 folios,
written in ink,
entries of the lecturer preparing the print 1950 Hudební Matice,
dedication to Mr. and Ms. Obenberger (Christmas 1949 [1948/9]),
shelfmark: 59 R 4982

Kytice slovenských písní.

Pro klavír upravil

Vítězslav Novák.

Ze Dary vody, vinice
slovenských písní kytice.

Manželům Obenbergerovým k Vánocům 1949
věnuje autor.

Handwritten musical score for "Bouquet of folk songs for piano with text, SchN 118" by Vítězslav Novák. The score is written on five folios, showing piano accompaniment and vocal lines with lyrics in Czech. The manuscript includes tempo markings such as "allegretto", "poco rit.", "a tempo", "ritardando molto", and "Andante cantando". It also features dynamic markings like "f", "p", "cresc.", and "pp". The score is dedicated to Mr. and Ms. Obenberger for Christmas 1949. The bottom of the page includes a copyright notice: "Copyright 1949 by Hudební matice Praha H.M. 1091".

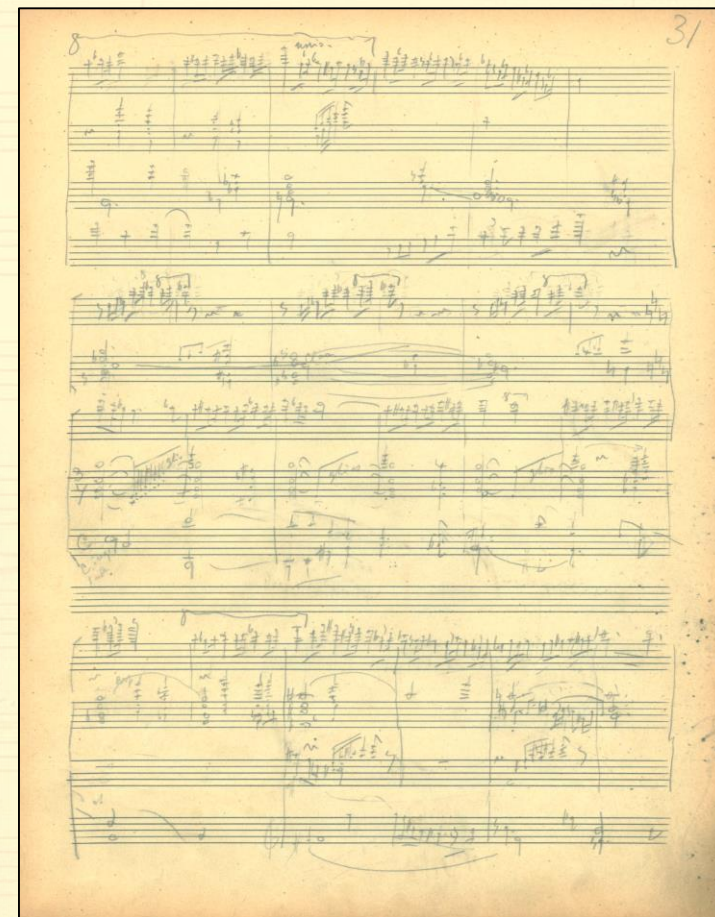
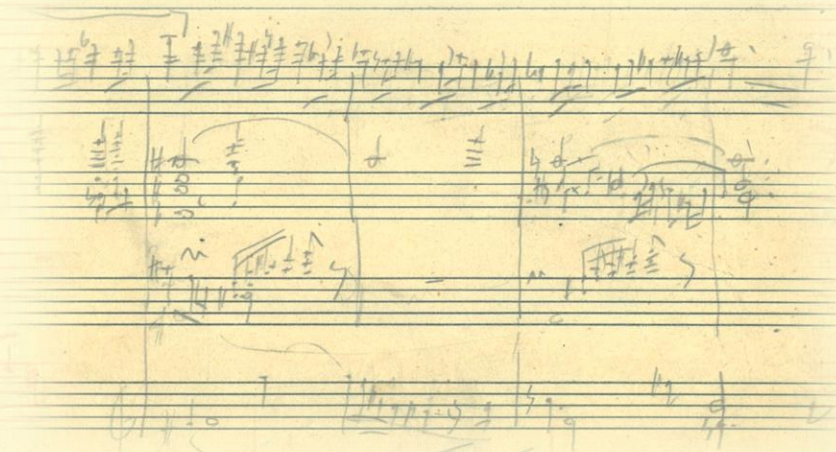
Maryša, dramatic overture, op. 18, SchN 57

continuous sketch [1898-1901?],
11 pages, written in ink,
shelfmark: 59 R 118



Toman and the Forest Fairy, symphonic poem, op. 40, SchN 89

continuous sketch [1904-6?],
49 + [3] pages, written in pencil,
shelfmark: 59 R 1938



Maryša, op. 18,

59 R 118

Skizza overture & Maryša.

1



Handwritten musical score for Maryša, op. 18, 59 R 118. The score is written on three staves, likely representing different instrumental parts. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second and third staves also begin with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The score is written in a cursive, handwritten style.

Quartet in G, op. 66, SchN 138, short drafts of the 1. movement [1938?], written in pencil, dedication to A. Stříž, shelfmark: 59 R 2085

The image shows two pages of handwritten musical notation for a quartet. The notation is in pencil on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The left page contains six systems of staves, each with multiple staves per system. The right page contains two systems of staves. The notation is dense and includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The right page also features a dedication in Czech and a signature.

Dedicated to the artist A. Stříž.
by the composer
M. B. Novák.

Sonata Eroica for piano, op. 24, SchN 68

manuscript copy [1900?],
39 pages,
written in ink,
autograph inscriptions,
shelfmark: 59 R 1031

59 R 1031.

"Samostatnost"
30/11 10 1/2 hod

č. 6.

Sonata
(Des-dur)
pro klavír.

Vítězslav Novák: Sonata eroica.

(Začíná se společně pro Horny a trubky.)

Opis. Všechna znaménka jsou autografem
Vítězslava Nováka.

(z pozůstatosti po Monsign. V. Müllerovi.)

Vítězslav Novák op. 41.

Vit. Novák Sonata eroica

1

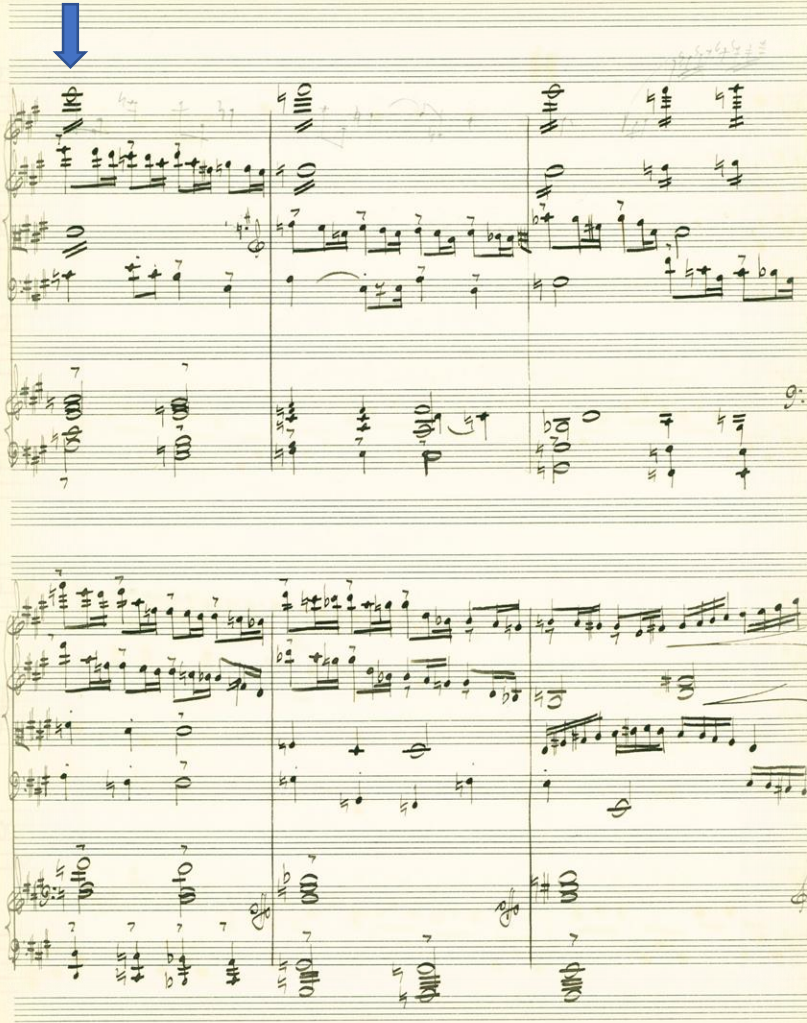
I

Allegro patetico.

pp non legato
ma marcato
Ped.
*
cre.
secondo poco a poco
f

Quintet in a minor for piano, two violins, viola, violoncello, op. 12, SchN 49

manuscript copy (score) [1897?],
49 folios,
written in ink,
inscriptions in pencil,
shelfmark: 59 R 1021



manuscript copy (score, parts) [1897?],
104 pages, 8, 8, 7, 7 folios,
written in ink,
shelfmark: 59 R 4010

This image shows a manuscript score and parts for the same quintet. It features two systems of staves. The top system has four staves (likely for two violins, viola, and violoncello) and a piano part at the bottom. The bottom system also has four staves for the strings and a piano part. The notation is in ink, with some pencil markings. A blue arrow points to the first measure of the top system. The word "pesante." is written in the piano part of the top system.

Unique autograph manuscripts of Vítězslav Novák in National Library

The only autograph source for a composition

- 1896 **Serenade** 1 (from the cycle *At Dusk*, four piano pieces), op. 13, no. 3, SchN 47, sketch
- 1896 **Serenade** 2 (from the cycle *At Dusk*, four piano pieces), op. 13, no. 4, SchN 47, autograph
- 1907 **Gavotte in D major** for the intended opera *Jánošík*, SchN 92, sketch
- 1923 **Bouquet of folk songs for piano with underlying text**, SchN 118, autograph

The only representative of a certain type of source for the composition

- 1907 **Lady Godiva**, overture to the tragedy of Jaroslav Vrchlický, op. 41, SchN 91, autograph score
- 1898 **Maryša**, dramatic overture based on the drama of the same name by the Mrštík brothers for large orchestra, op. 18, SchN 57, sketch
- 1906 **Toman and the Forest Fairy**, symphonic poem after the Czech legend for large orchestra, op. 40, SchN 89, sketch
- 1912 **Eroticon**, six songs for voice and piano, op. 46, SchN 100, autograph part of voice
- 1938 **Quartet No. 3 in G major** for two violins, viola and cello, op. 66, SchN 138, sketch

Vítězslav Novák's Manuscripts

at the Music Department
of the National Library of the Czech Republic

Ludmila Šmidová

Thank you for your attention.

ludmila.smidova@nkp.cz

