

## SIGNIFICANT PERFORMANCES OF SMETANA'S MÁ VLAST

- 1901 • First performance of the complete cycle under the orchestra's first Chief Conductor Ludvík Vítěslav Čelanský in a brewery in Smíchov
- 1924 • 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Smetana's birth celebrated with a performance of the complete cycle with the Czech Philharmonic and Orchestra of the Prague Conservatory under Chief Conductor Václav Talich in March
- 1925 • For its first live broadcast in May, Václav Talich conducts the orchestra in the complete cycle from the Smetana Hall in Prague's Municipal House
- 1929 • The orchestra make its first ever recording playing Má vlast under Václav Talich for His Master's Voice
- 1939 • Three months following the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, the orchestra's performance of Má vlast together with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra under Václav Talich at Prague's National theatre is broadcast live to France and Norway, and preserved in the archives of the Norwegian Radio in Oslo
- 1941 • Chief Conductor Václav Talich programmes Má vlast together with Beethoven's Egmont for performances in Berlin and Dresden on instruction by Joseph Goebbels
- 1945 • Music critic Zdenek Nemeč is murdered on 8 February by the Gestapo for writing about the Czech Philharmonic's performance of Má vlast 6 days before under Karel Boleslav Jirák about which he said: "The triumphant march of the Knights of Blaník heard during some of the nation's most difficult moments brought salvation and rescued the nation from the shackles of darkness and bondage. Thus, Smetana's work fulfilled its purpose during the First World War and continues to do so today"  
• Chief Conductor Rafael Kubelík conducts the complete cycle as a 'concert of thanks' on 21 June for the newly liberated Czechoslovakia
- 1948 • Rafael Kubelík chooses to conduct Má vlast for his final performance with the Czech Philharmonic before exiling himself from Czechoslovakia in a concert the participants of the All-Sokol Gathering

- 1949 • Má vlast opens the first Prague Spring International Music Festival with the Czech Philharmonic conducted by Václav Neumann
- 1954 • Following six years of political repression, Václav Talich is allowed to conduct again in Prague. He leads the Czech Philharmonic in Má vlast for the opening of the Prague International Spring Festival
- 1967 • The complete cycle is performed at the Montreal EXPO by the Czech Philharmonic under Chief Conductor Karel Ančerl
- 1968 • Chief Conductor Karel Ančerl conducts Má vlast for the opening of the Prague International Spring Festival. He emigrates to Toronto 3 months later following the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August
- 1984 • Lovro von Matačić becomes the first non-Czech conductor to lead the orchestra in Má vlast for the opening of the Prague Spring International Music Festival
- 1986 • Wolfgang Sawallisch conducts the Czech Philharmonic in Má vlast for the opening of the Prague Spring International Music Festival
- 1990 • Rafael Kubelík returns to Czechoslovakia after 42 years in exile and conducts the orchestra in the complete cycle for the opening concert of the Prague Spring International Music Festival
  - Rafael Kubelík chooses to conduct the Czech, Brno and Slovak Philharmonics in Má vlast to mark Czechoslovakia's first free elections in a "concert of mutual understanding" in Prague's Old-Town Square
- 1991 • Rafael Kubelík conducts the Czech Philharmonic in Má vlast for his final concert, in Osaka, Japan
- 2014 • Jiří Bělohlávek conducts Má vlast for his last opening concert of the Prague International Spring Music Festival
- 2018 • Decca Classics release of Jiří Bělohlávek and the Czech Philharmonic's performance of Má vlast to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Czechoslovak independence
- 2019 • Chief Conductor & Music Director Semyon Bychkov conducts his first Má vlast in Prague for the opening concert of the 124<sup>th</sup> season. Bychkov and the Czech Philharmonic go onto perform the full cycle twice in Tokyo as part of their autumn tour to East Asia

- 2020
- The Czech Philharmonic, with Semyon Bychkov, launch the annual concert series commemorating the Velvet Revolution of 1989 on 17 November with *Má vlast* in Prague. Due to lockdown restrictions, no audience was present, but the performance was broadcast live on ČT art to over 200,000 homes – a new record in the history of Czech TV’s art channel – and streamed live internationally via social media
- 2022
- The Czech Philharmonic with Semyon Bychkov embark on their first major international tour since the beginning of the pandemic starting with a 3-day residency at Vienna’s Musikerein featuring *Má vlast* followed by performances in Berlin, Hamburg, Essen and London. The performances of *Má vlast* are dedicated to the people of Ukraine and preceded by performances of the Ukrainian national anthem as a display of solidarity in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- 2024
- For the launch of the Year of Czech Music 2024, the Czech Philharmonic and Semyon Bychkov release a new recording of *Má vlast* on PENTATONE which goes onto win the 2025 BBC Music Magazine Orchestral Award
  - For the culmination of the Year of Czech Music 2024, the Czech Philharmonic, with Semyon Bychkov, present a 3-day residency on the invitation of New York’s Carnegie Hall. Their programme on the first night includes three poems from *Má vlast* which is also streamed and reaches an audience of 6.9 million worldwide
- 2025
- The Czech Philharmonic and Semyon Bychkov open the 80<sup>th</sup> edition of the Prague Spring International Music Festival with *Má vlast*. The performance is attended by the Czech Republic’s President Petr Pavel
  - The Czech Philharmonic and Semyon Bychkov perform *Má vlast* as part of their East Asia tour at the start of the 130<sup>th</sup> season performing in Taiwan, Japan and South Korea
- 2026
- The Czech Philharmonic and Semyon Bychkov perform *Vltava* from *Má vlast* on the occasion of the orchestra’s 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at the Rudolfinum in Prague