

Carnival Overture, Op. 92
Antonín Dvořák (1841 – 1904)

This is the middle work from a trilogy of three overtures representing the themes “Nature, Life, and Love.” The first is “In Nature’s Realm,” Op. 91, and the last is “Othello,” Op. 93. They resulted from the influence upon Dvořák of two masters of program music – Liszt and Wagner. The three are connected by common themes, but the treatment of these themes is, of course, different in the three overtures, and each work can stand alone. “Carnival” depicts Dvořák’s recollections of Czechoslovakian and Bohemian dances and village fairs. The opening and closing sections, glorious bursts of energy and vivacity, are balanced by the pastoral central section where chirping woodwinds imitate woodland sounds and strings murmur gentle recollections of whispering breezes and shady forests.

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