

Romanza in F Minor, Op. 11

Antonin Dvorak/James Niblock/Verdehr Trio

The *Romanza in F Minor*, a single-movement work for violin and orchestra, was later arranged for violin and piano. It originated as a reworking and expansion of the principal theme from the second movement of Dvorak's *String Quartet No. 5*. This became the main theme of the *Romanza* to which were added two new themes, resulting in a traditional sonata form. It was first performed with orchestra in 1877 and published in 1879 by Simrock.

Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) is considered perhaps the most distinguished Czech composer and was a major figure of nationalism, making much use of folk music combined with classical forms in his music. He spent time in the United States during the early 1890s and studied the music of the Native Americans and African Americans. He was inspired by the originality of indigenous American music and culture, as well as by the spirituals and singing of his African American students. These influences are found in his best-known works: *Symphony No. 9 (From the New World)* and his *Quartet in F (The American)* which were written in the United States. He also excelled in chamber music and his cello concerto is often considered the perfect gem of cello concerto. He became Director of the Prague Conservatory in 1901, a position he held until his death in 1904.