



 **STRING ENSEMBLE PACK**

# *Themes from the Moldau*

*Bedrich Smetana*

*Violin 1*



## Themes from the Moldau

Bedrich Smetana

Arr. Phil Rooke © 2013

1 *mf* *f*

9 *mp* *f*

16 To Coda *mf*

23 *f* *p*

30 *ff*

37 *p* *ff*

44 *mf*

51 *f*

58 *ff*

Violin 1

65 

73 

81 

87 

93 

99 

105 

111 

117 

D.C. Al Coda (go back to beginning) 

Coda 

# About the Moldau and Bedrich Smetana

**“Bedrich Smetana** was born March 2, 1824 and died in Prague, May 12 1884. He became known as a composer of operas and symphonic poems and founder of the Czech national school of music. He was the first truly important Bohemian nationalist composer.

Smetana studied music under his father, an amateur violinist. He took up piano at a very early age under a professional teacher and performed in public at the age of six. He continued his studies and later became music teacher to the family of Leopold, Count von Thun.

Encouraged by Franz Liszt he opened a piano school in Prague in 1848 and the next year married the pianist Katerina Kolarova. In 1856 he wrote his first symphonic poems and in the same year was appointed conductor of the philharmonic society of Gothenburg (Sweden), where he remained until 1861. He then returned to Prague, where he played the leading part in the establishment of the national opera house.

The “Moldau” is a Symphonic Poem that Czechoslovakian composer, Bedrich Smetana wrote in 1874 after taking a trip down the river. “Moldau” is actually the German word for the main river (The Vltava in Czech) that flows through Bohemia now known as the Czech Republic.

“The Vltava is the main river flowing through Smetana’s native Bohemia or modern day Czechoslovakia. Smetana composed this movement as a part of his larger cycle of Symphonic Poems in 1874.

**Die Moldau, ‘The Moldau’** is the German name for the Vltava River. Smetana went on a cruise down the river and during his travels encountered many scenes on the river bank; included in this arrangement is the opening theme in 6/8 time to illustrate the flowing river. At the end of the piece, we return to this theme as the river broadens and opens out into the city of Prague.

Along the way, we encounter a horse-mounted hunting party on the bank of the river - illustrated by the C major arpeggio with dotted rhythm to mimic the call of the hunting horn, played in this arrangement by the 1st violin but was originally played by the French Horn in the Symphonic Work.

Then the piece shifts into 2/4 time as we witness a peasant wedding on the bank of the river illustrated musically by the wedding Polka dance.

**In this arrangement,** we move into a short bridge section to move back into 6/8 time and return to the main flowing “River” theme.

Scan this QR code to read and listen to the Violin 1 Part. Follow each note and then you can try playing along with your part.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet to listen to and read the score for all of the string parts. Find and follow your part in the score.

