Dvorak - Piano Trio No.4 'Dumky' • String Quartet No.12 'American'

Piano Trio No.4 'Dumky', Op.90 *1. Lento Maestoso 2. Andante 3. Andante Moderato (Quasi Tempo Di Marcia) 4. Allegro 5. Lento Maestoso* Emanuel Ax – piano Young Uck Kim – violin Yo-Yo Ma – cello String Quartet No.12 In F Major, Op.96 'American'
6. Allegro Ma Non Troppo 7. Lento 8. Molto Vivace 9. Vivace Ma Non Troppo
Travnicek Quartet

The Piano Trio No. 4 in E Minor (also called Dumky trio from the subtitle Dumky) is a piece by Antonín Dvořák for piano, violin and cello. It is among the composer's most well-known works. At the same time it is a prominent example for a piece of chamber music deviating strongly from the sonata form. Dvořák completed the trio on February 12, 1891. It premiered in Prague on April 11, 1891, with violinist Ferdinand Lachner, cellist Hanuš Wihan, and Dvořák himself on piano.[1] The same evening, Prague's Charles University awarded the composer an honorary doctorate. The work was so well received that Dvořák performed it on his forty-concert farewell tour throughout Moravia and Bohemia, just before he left for the United States to head the National Conservatory of Music of America in New York City. The trio was published while Dvořák was in America and was proofread by his friend Johannes Brahms

Dvořák composed the String Quartet No.12 in 1893 during a summer vacation from his teaching post in New York. He spent his vacation in the town of Spillville, Iowa, which was home to a Czech immigrant community. He composed the quartet shortly after the New World Symphony, sketching the manuscript in three days and completing it in three weeks. "As for my new

Symphony, the F major String Quartet and the Quintet (composed here in Spillville) – I should never have written these works 'just so' if I hadn't seen America," wrote Dvořák in a letter in 1893. In his description of the New World symphony, Dvořák was more specific: "As to my opinion, I think that the influence of this country (it means the folk songs that are Negro, Indian, Irish, etc.) is to be seen, and that this [the symphony] and all other works written in America differ very much from my earlier works, as much in colour as in character...".

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