

# Week 11

Exoticism and Nationalism in Dvořák

# Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88, 1889

- Premiered in Prague, soon conducted by Dvořák in Frankfurt and Cambridge
- National vs. Universal (Czech vs. Germanic)
- National vs. Exotic

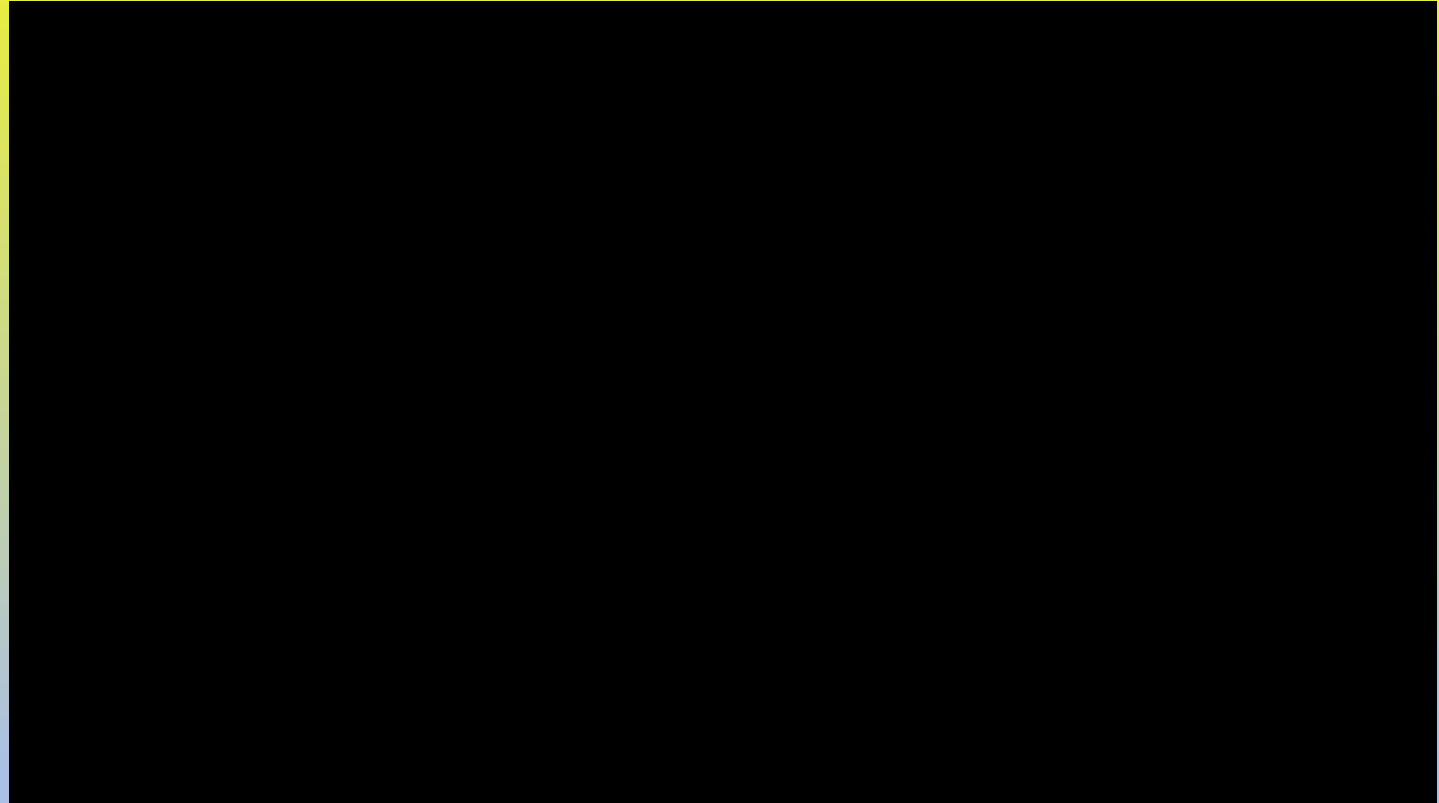
# Exotic vs. National vs. Universal in Symphony 8

## MVT 1

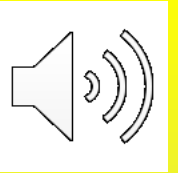
- Slow Intro: modal—Gm vs. GM, flat seventh
- Primary Theme: pentatonic (pastoral or exotic) + also symphonic development (Germanic=universal)—0:40
- S1 (or T) Theme: march-like (Bm)=heroic (Beethoven)—2:30
- S2 Theme: heroic in BM—3:05
- Beginning of Development: sounds like the repeat of EXPO—3:58
- P1: developed—4:38
- S1: becomes more pastoral/folksy/exotic in F-sharpM—5:30
- Fugato (Beethoven + Brahms)—5:50
- RECAP: pentatonic theme but in development—7:20

## MVT 2

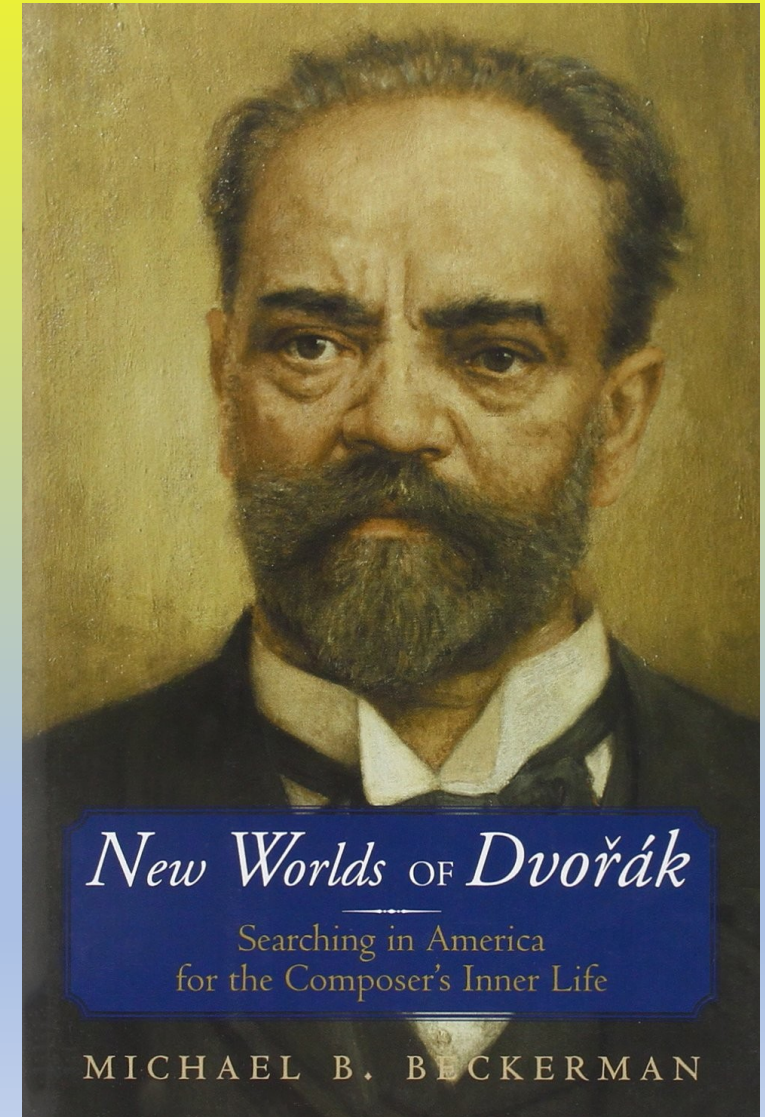
- Modal Beethoven (*Eroica*)



# Michael Beckerman: New Worlds of Dvořák



- National “Essence” of Music (Czechness)=CONSTRUCT, ILLUSION
- Based on stereotypical techniques signaling Otherness + composer’s unique style + extra-musical references
- Two-Tiered Reception: for Czechs=“their” music; for everyone else=exotic expression from far away Eastern Europe
- Dvořák was planning to write an opera based on Longfellow’s *Song of Hiawatha*—used themes from the opera in the symphony (potentially programmatic)
- MVT 3: the dance of Pau-Puk-Keewis



# Symphony No. 9 in E Minor, Op. 95 ("From the New World")

- Finished in May 1893, premiered in December 1893
- Summer 1893 in Spillville, IA
- "From the New World" —scribbled into the score in the last minute
- After premiere, DV suggested a connection to Longfellow's *Song of Hiawatha*





# Symphony No. 9 in E Minor, Op. 95

Universal vs. Exotic/National (Czech vs. American)

## MVT 1:

Slow Intro: Haydn + Brahms—foreshadowing P

P Theme (Em): syncopations—2:00

S1 (or T) Theme (Gm): “Indian” Theme—drones, ostinatos, flat sevenths—3:05

S2 Theme (GM): “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”—spiritual—pentatonic—4:20

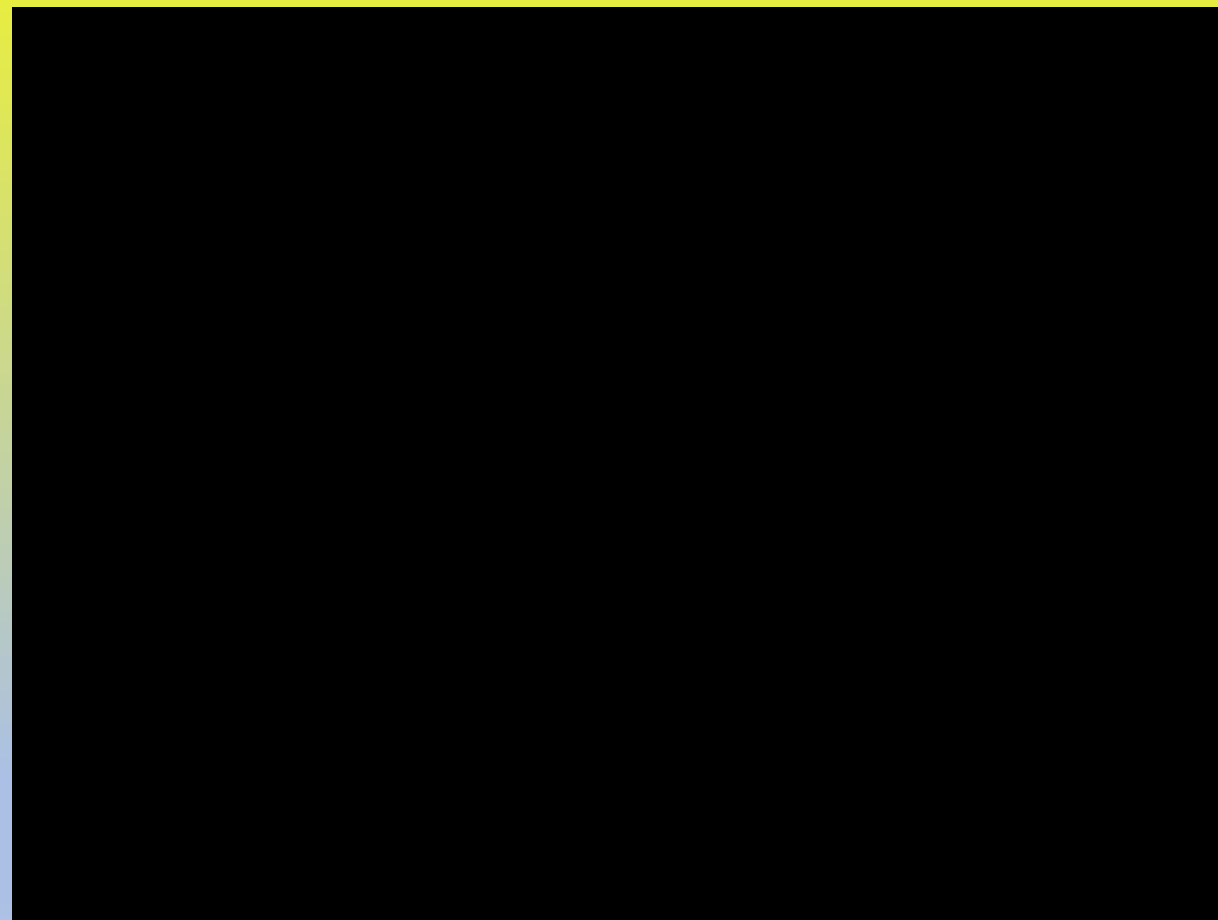
## MVT 2

Chorale motto (Em)—Lisztian—universal (10:00)

English horn (D-flatM)—spiritual, pentatonic—exotic/national

Middle section: funeral march, C-sharpm (Beethoven or the funeral of Minehaha?)—15:20

End of Middle Section: bird calls + climax with reminiscences of MVT 1 (Beethoven or Wagner or Minehaha?)—19:00



# String Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 97 ("American")

- Written in Spillville, summer 1893
- Opening of MVT 1: call and response
- P: pentatonic—0:50
- S: "Indian"—1:40
  
- MVT 3:
- One of the opening themes, supposedly recomposing of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"—American patriotic song—15:12

