## LEOŠ JANÁČEK:

# THE JOURNEY TO CONTEMPORARY PRODUCTIONS

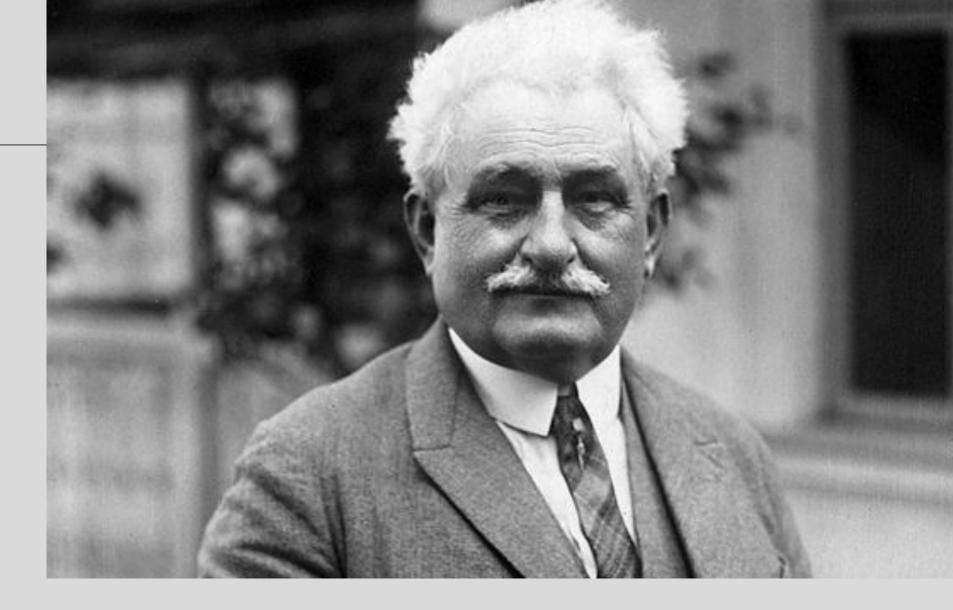
NELA BENHARTOVÁ

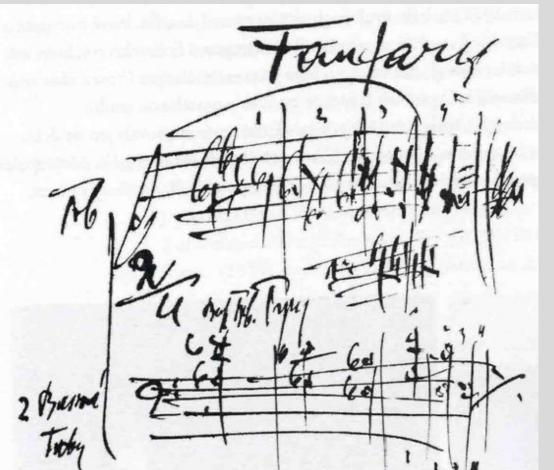
## WHO WAS LEOŠ JANÁČEK?

Czech composer (1854–1928), a key figure in 20th-century music.

Known for his operas, deeply influenced by **Moravian folklore** and **Czech literature**.

His works remain timeless and are frequently staged in modern opera houses worldwide.





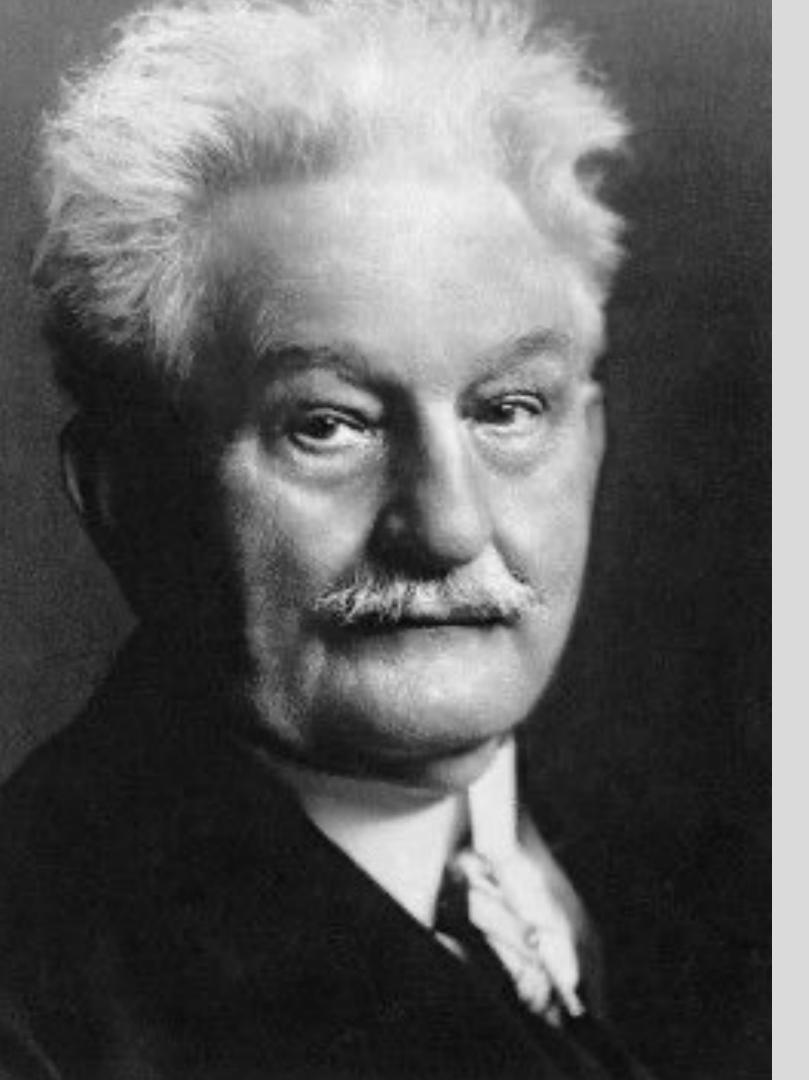


#### **Key musical innovations:**

- Folklore-inspired melodies: Janáček integrated Moravian folk music into his operas.
- <u>Speech melody theory:</u> Developed music based on the rhythm and intonation of spoken language.
- Rhythmic and harmonic experiments: Use of irregular meters and tonal ambiguity in operas like Jenůfa and Káťa Kabanová.

## JANÁČEKAS AMUSICAL INNOVATOR





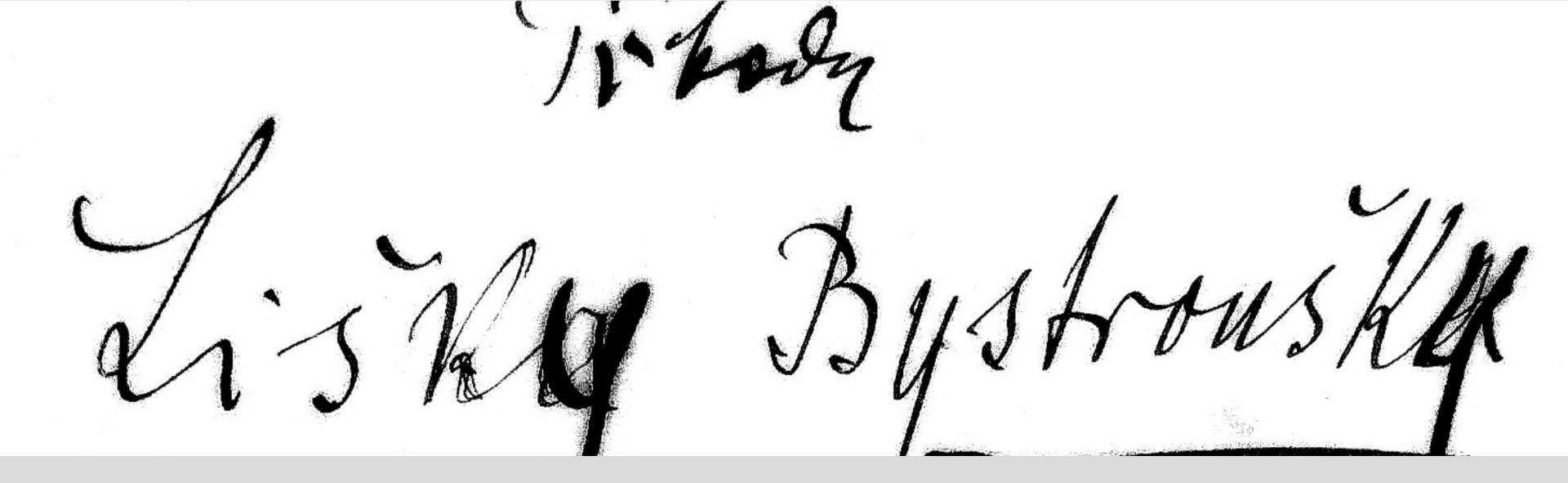
## EARLY RECEPTION AND LEGACY

#### How were Janáček's works received in his time?

- <u>First productions</u> met with mixed reactions. Jenufa premiered in 1904 and gained success slowly.
- <u>International acclaim</u> followed later, especially after his death, in opera houses across Europe.

#### **Building a tradition:**

 Conductors like <u>Sir Charles Mackerras</u> helped bring Janáček's work to global prominence, making it a staple of the opera repertoire.



- first performance: November 6, 1924, National Theatre Brno
- opera in three acts
- libretto Janáček himself adapted from a novella by Rudolf Těsnohlídek
- opera tells the truth about human nature in connection with nature
- in this opera, Janáček expressed his lifelong philosophy about the endless cycle of life
- an original work that connects the world of animals and people
- the opera responds to Janáček's obsession and love of life
- opera is based on natural sounds
- a very orchestral opera a musical expression of the forest

#### **VOICE IMITATION:**

- oboe rooster
- clarinet hen
- ocarina owl





minimalism, femininity, fairy tale for adults, environmentalism













## THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN

NATIONAL THEATRE BRNO

life cycle, children's view, toys, children's home Dagmar

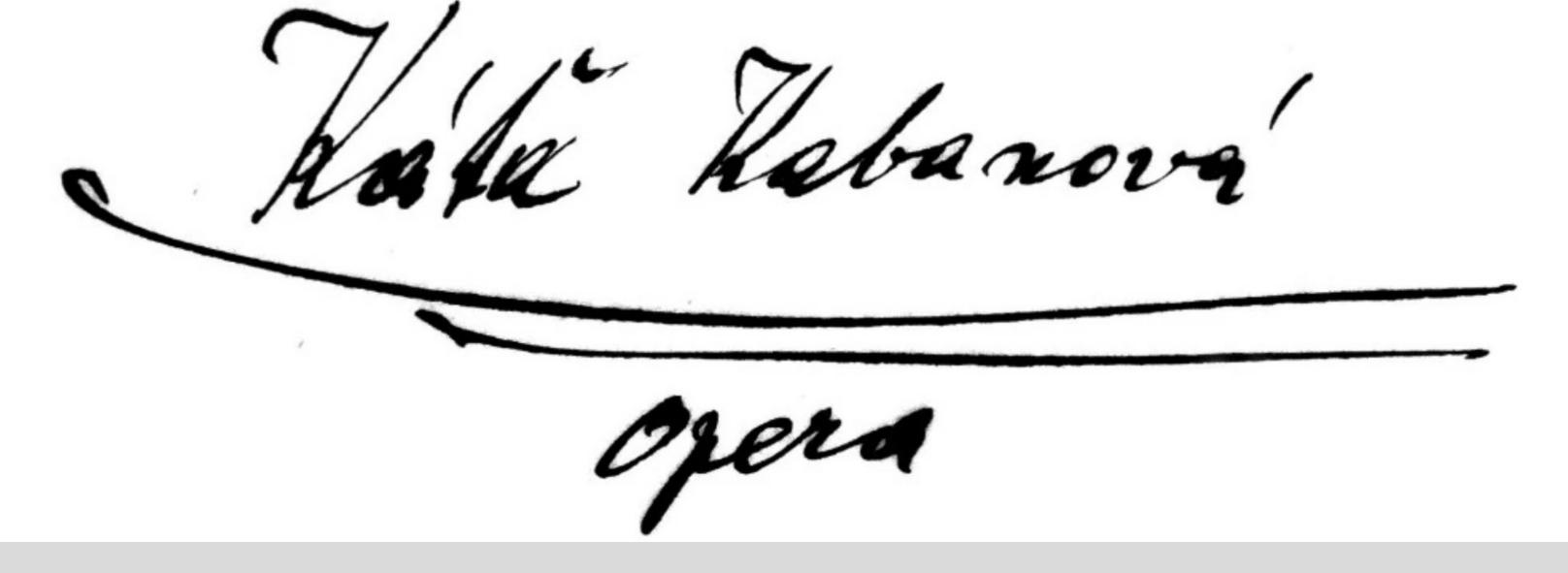




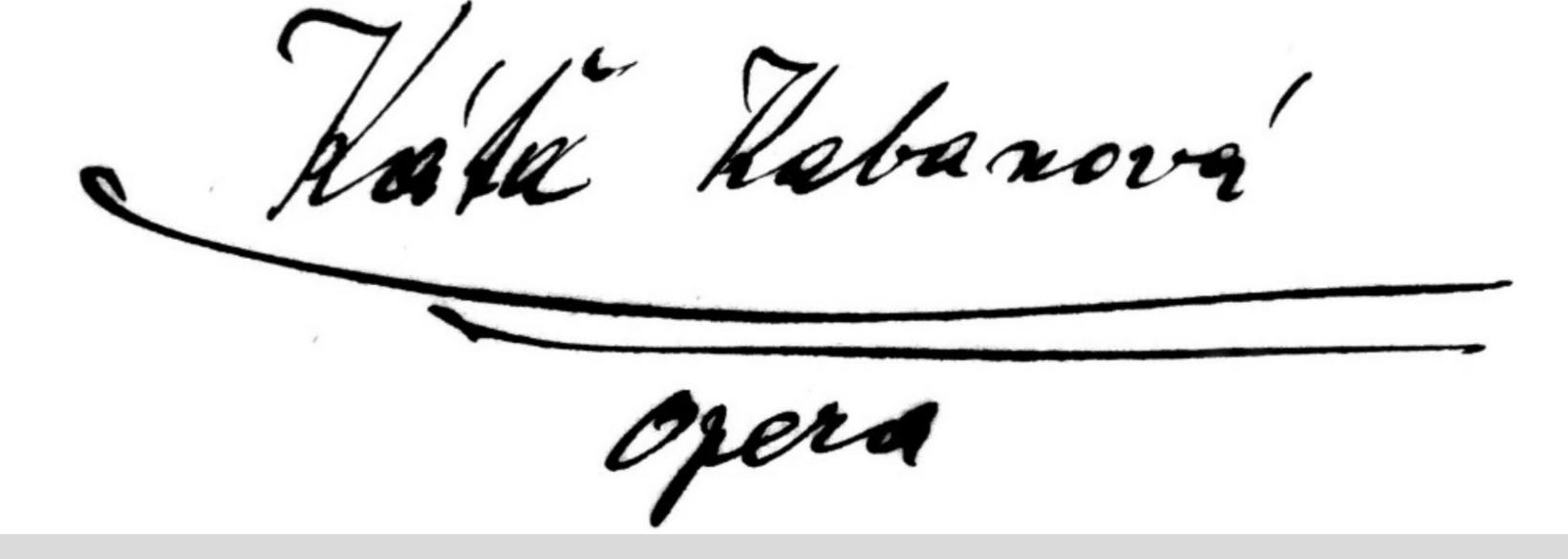








- first performance: November 23, 1921, National Theatre Brno
- opera in three acts
- avant-garde opera
- the world was waiting for this opera Janáček composed it already as a well-known composer
- based on the play The Storm by Alexander Nikolayevich Ostrovsky
- the most lyrical opera he wrote
- In Berlin, this opera was probably the greatest success of Janáček's lifetime



#### Main motifs:

<u>Storm</u> - there is a storm everywhere, lightning and thunder that narrow the main character Káťa, as a manifestation of otherworldly and natural forces that want to punish her for her sinful love for Boris

<u>The Volga</u> - an important symbol that again relates to the main character - reflects her emotions and is a certain attraction of a way out of her situation





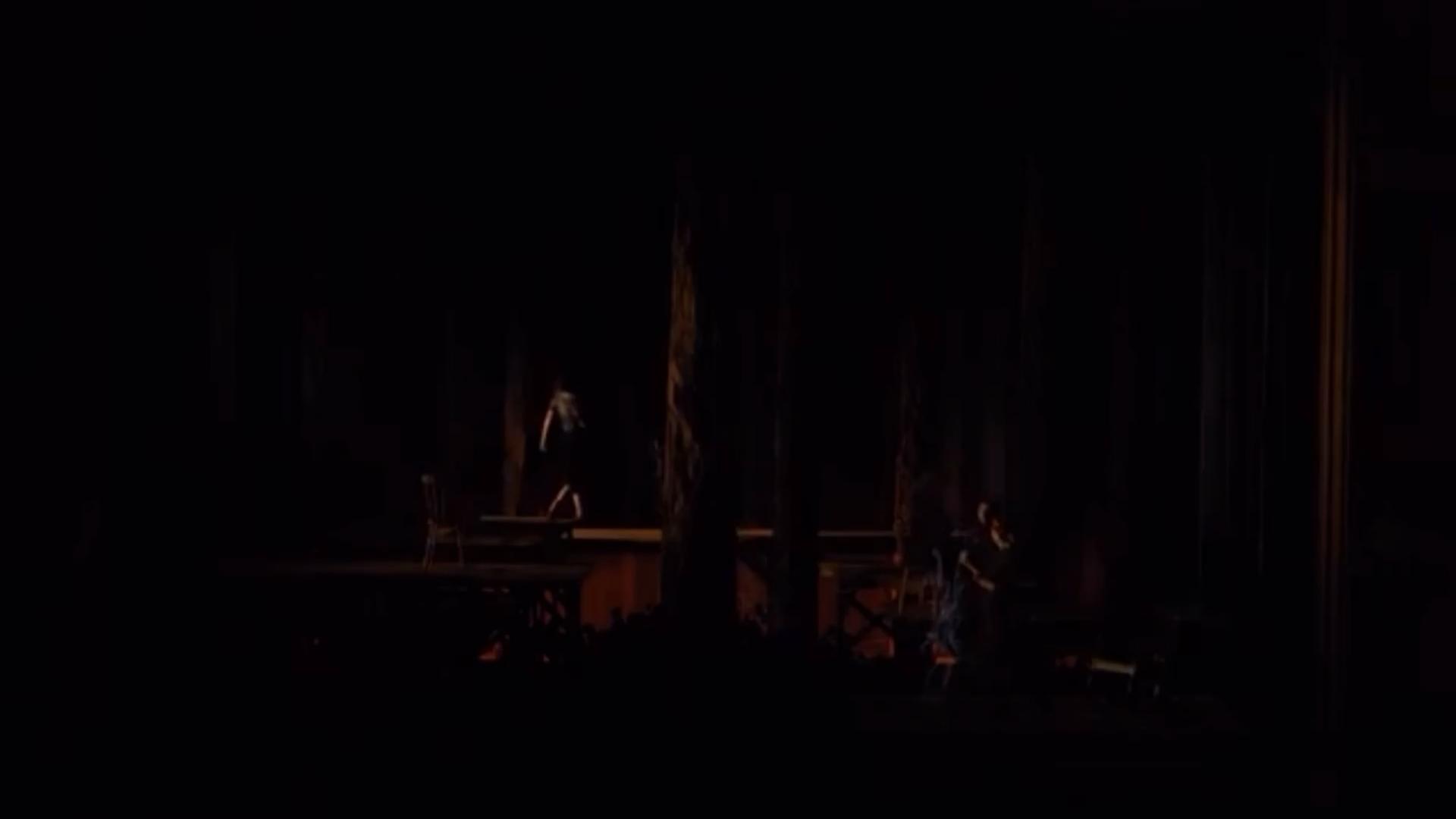
## KÁŤA KABANOVÁ THEATRO SÃO PEDRO













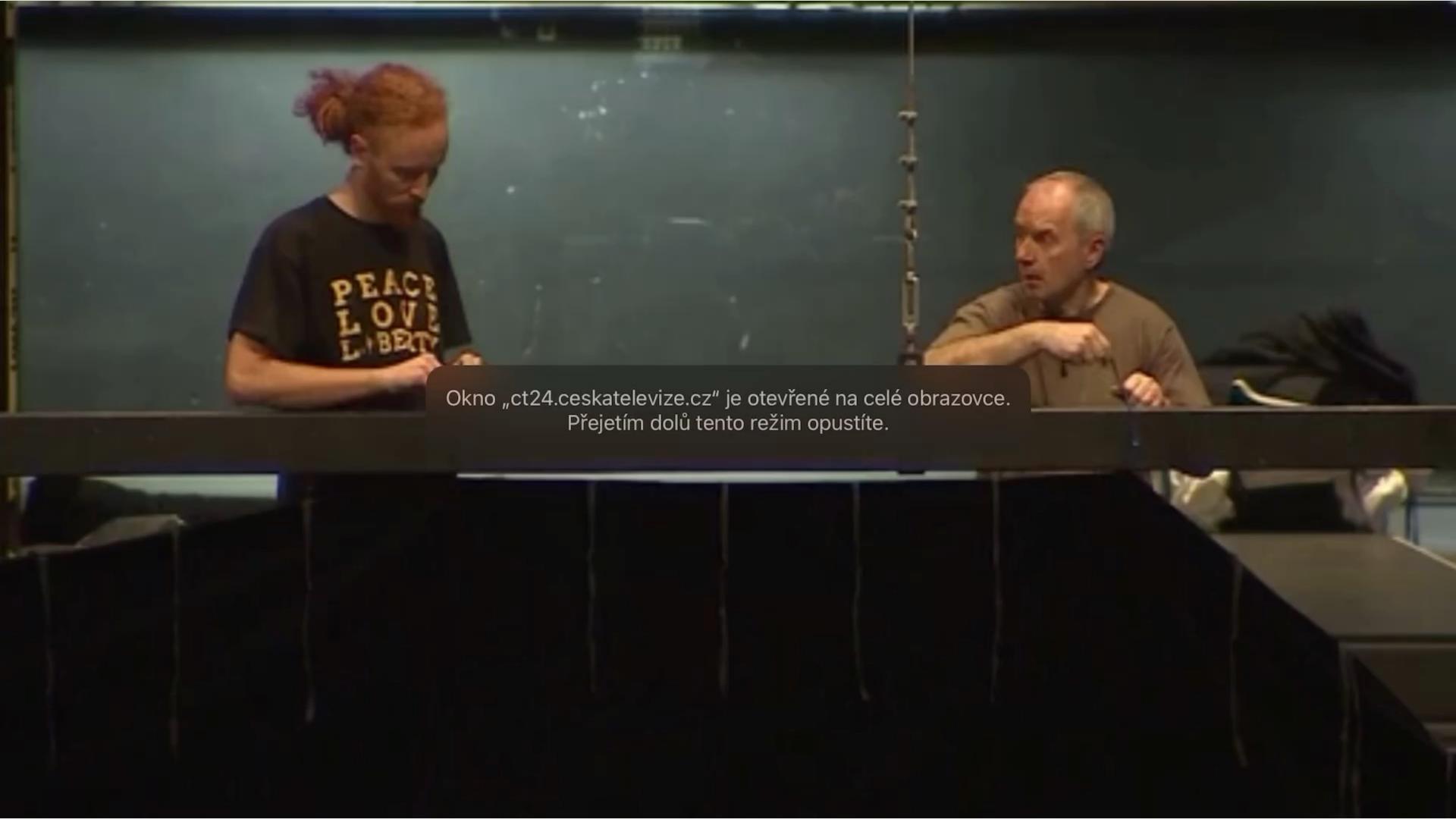










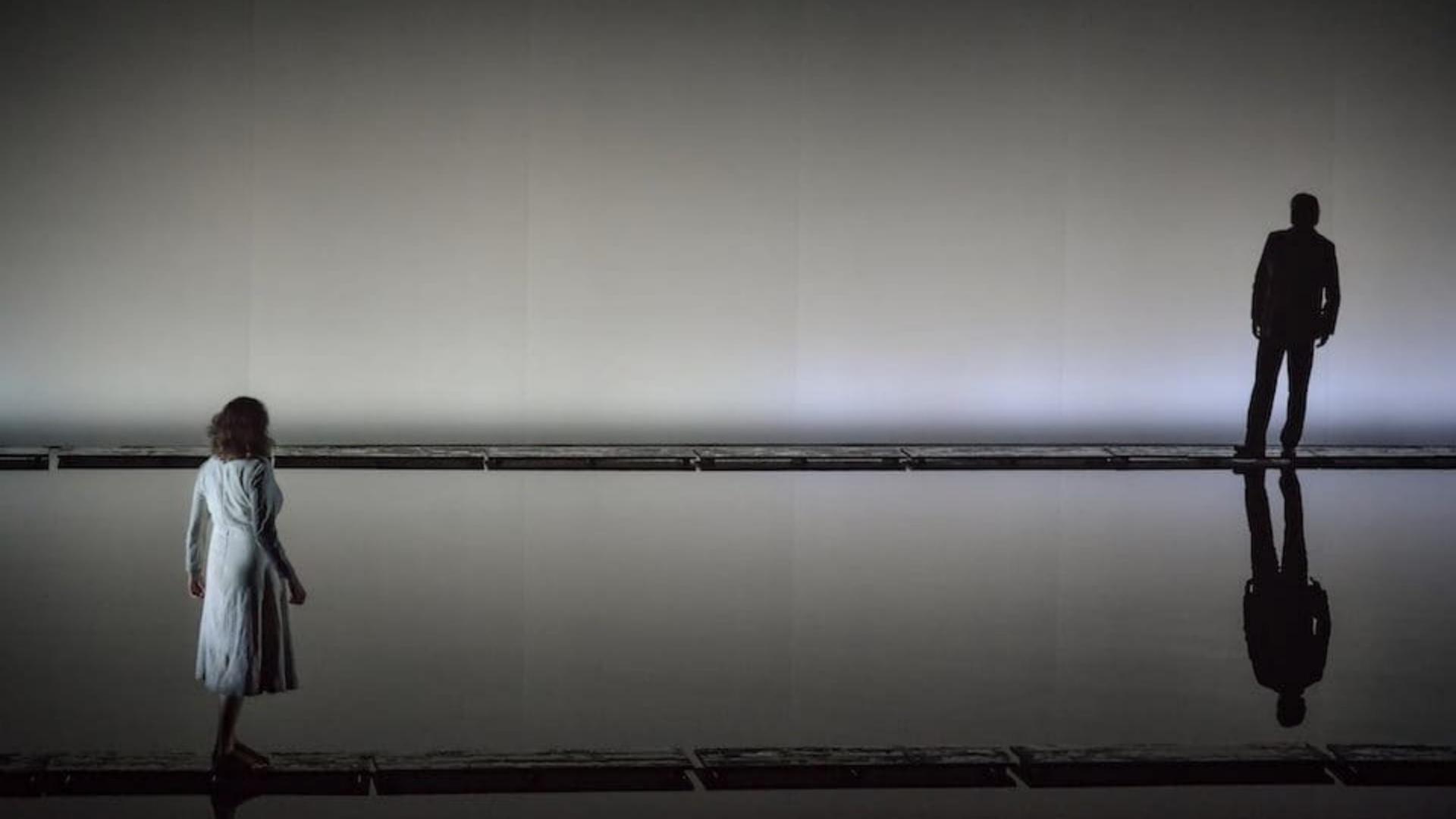
























### RELEVANCE TODAY

#### Why is Janáček's music still relevant?

- His <u>emotional depth</u> and innovative use of music make his operas powerful for modern audiences.
- Continually reinterpreted by directors and conductors to reflect contemporary themes and aesthetics.

#### **Future possibilities:**

- Challenges and opportunities for staging Janáček in the digital age.
- How might new technologies and trends shape the future of his works?

#### Psychological and social themes:

• Janáček's works explore social issues, personal freedom, and fate, which continue to resonate in today's productions.

### CONCLUSION

- Janáček's operas continue to captivate audiences, combining rich emotional landscapes with modern staging techniques.
- His works are proof of the enduring power of **music and storytelling**, connecting past and present through innovative productions.
- Final thought: How will directors continue to reinterpret Janáček for future generations?

#### RESOURCES

https://operaplus.cz/treba-umrit-aneb-carsenova-mistrnakata-kabanova-v-brne/

https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/11243222522-leos-janacek-velky-pribeh-20-stoleti/

https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/14374239337-janacek-brno/

https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/11276527071-mista-kudy-chodil-janacek/

http://www.mestohudby.cz/publicistika/rozhovory/robert-carsenopera-je-absolutne-nejsilnejsi-forma-ziveho-divadla

http://www.napevkymluvy.cz/cz/index2.php

https://www.casopisharmonie.cz/svet-opery/nezna-i-jedovata-brnenska-bystrouska-ma-oporu-v-orchestristi/

https://www.ndbrno.cz/opera/prihody-lisky-bystrousky/

https://snd.sk/inscenacia/4079/prihody-lisky-bystrousky

SVÍTILOVÁ, Kristýna. \textit{Káťa Kabanová v inscenaci Roberta Carsena}. Online. Bakalářská práce. Brno: Masarykova univerzita, Filozofická fakulta. 2017. Dostupné z: https://theses.cz/id/2k3eoy/.

BROD, Max. Život plný bojů. Praha: Mladá fronta, 1966, s. 246.

CÁSTKOVÁ, Petricie a Jiří ZAHRÁDKA. Káťa Kabanová: Leoš Janáček. Brno: Národní divadlo Brno, 2016.

https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/11243222522-leosjanacek-velky-pribeh-20-stoleti/

http://2016.janacek-brno.cz/program/leos-janacek-kata-kabanova-premiera.html

https://www.leosjanacek.eu/

https://mzv.gov.cz/saopaulo/cz/kultura\_krajane\_a\_skolstvi/kultura/v\_brazilske\_premiere\_se\_predstavila.html

https://www.stream.cz/live-rozhovory/pavel-cernoch-ad-katakabanova-v-covent-garden-64038591#dop\_ab\_variant=&dop\_source\_zone\_name=&dop\_req\_id=

## THANKYOU