

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis deals with the topic of setting the poems of Josef Václav Sládek to music. The main source of the analyzed data is a bibliographic list of compositions, which was compiled after my own research in the databases and catalogues of the National Library of Czech Republic, the Municipal Library in Prague and Czech Museum of Music, as well as in specialised literature. The first chapter briefly summarizes the general principles of setting poetry to music and then it focuses on particular aspects of Sládek's poetics, which encourage composers to set his poems to music. The first chapter also outlines Sládek's poetics in different poetry collections. The second chapter gives a detailed analysis of the compiled bibliographic list of compositions in terms of the frequency in which particular poems have been set to music, the number of works composed by different authors, vocal and instrumental cast, and also time contexts. The third, and the most comprehensive chapter, is divided in accordance with the proposed semantically significant thematic areas of Sládek's poetic work – love poetry, poetry for children, peasantism and folk echo poetry and militant patriotism. In the subchapters, Sládek's work is at first viewed through a literary prism, then the author attempts a musical analysis and interpretation with the emphasis on understanding the connection between the meaning of word and music. The conclusion summarizes and links the findings.

KEYWORDS

czech musical vocal works, set poetry to music, poems by J. V. Sládek, bibliographic list of pieces, J. B. Foerster, Vítězslav Novák