

## **SUMMARY**

### **Jan Novák (1921-1984): Chapters from His Creative Years**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

This work has set a goal to cover and summarize current results of research into existing sources and to complete them with yet unstudied data related to the personality and work of Jan Novák. In the light of new sources and materials, it aims at putting forward a more plastic view on the story of composer's life; at characterizing fundamental features of this type of composer; and it points out a range of crucial issues for further research in this field. The main part of this work therefore comprises of a biographical study based i.a. on yet unpublished sources from personal archives of Jan Novák's family and on interviews with family members and friends recorded by the author.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

I have mostly used the method of oral history in order to verify and complete the missing information concerning the life and work of the composer. The testimony of living family members and other composer's contemporaries represents the major source of information for certain periods of time, and provides a solid basis which, being compared with available correspondence and further sources, made it possible to complete, verify and amend existing data of composer's life.

#### **RESULTS:**

Testimony of composer's contemporaries was most helpful to shed some light on particular events in composer's life and their context. Some statements were also considered in describing Jan Novák as a type of composer, outlining major features of his personality and musical language. The chapter on composer's attitude towards Latin stresses the importance of the classical language for his work and explains Novák's unique approach to setting it to music. Individual chapters outline main spheres of problems for further study and assessment of the composer and his work in the context of Central European music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **KEY WORDS:**

Jan Novák, Nová Říše, Latin, exile, oral history, biography, type of composer, setting text to music