

The Piano Works of Josef Bohuslav Foerster

(The Lyrical Piano Pieces of the Turn of the Century)

ABSTRACT:

The presented thesis deals with the piano works of Josef Bohuslav Foerster – in detail, it is concerned with his lyrical piano pieces from the turn of the century. After mapping out the relevant Foerster-related literature and sources, it approaches the issue of lyrical piano piece as a music genre, and gives a relatively detailed outline of its development in the 19th century. This becomes a background against which, at some points, the nature of the analyzed pieces is to be shown. In the analysis of the piano cycle “Snění” (“Dreamings”, 1898), the motivic and thematic processes are the main object, the analysis of the cycle “Růže vzpomínek” (“Roses of Memories”, 1902) is dominated by the aspect of harmony and also takes into consideration the context of the various piano genres employed. From the cycle “A jabloně kvetly” (“And the Apple trees blossom”, 1905), only the first piece (“Dream”) is closely observed. Finally, an attempt is made to discuss the piano works in question in broader musical-historical and musical-historiographical contexts.