

## Jan Vičar

### **IMPRINTS**

# Essays on Czech Music and Aesthetics

"Important new material, profound questions, significant repertoire! Jan Vičar provides them all in this stimulating volume, elegant in its style and far reaching in its scope. It will be of interest to all scholars interested in Czech topics, and, more broadly, to anyone engaged with the most fundamental and fascinating questions in our field."

Michael Beckerman

"There are few opportunities to read Czech scholars writing about Czech music. Here, in clear and fluent English, is one of the most active Czech musicologists of our day. Jan Vičar's writing on Janáček is especially valuable in that it presents a comprehensive picture of up-to-date Czech thought, attitudes and theories about two of Janáček's most individual and puzzling pieces, The Diary of One Who Disappeared and Taras Bulba."

John Tyrrell

#### On the Book

The fifth book of Czech musicologist and composer Jan Vičar consists of essays on the music of Leoš Janáček, contemporary Czech composers, Czech music in the U. S. and during the Second World War, the role of European classical music in today's world, music aesthetics and criticism, general aesthetics and the theory of art, as well as an interview with George Crumb. It is divided into the following chapters:

- Music Against the War
- Echoes of Czech Music in America
- 'Unknown' Czech Music after 1945
- The Film Music of Václav Trojan
- Leoš Janáček's Diary of One Who Disappeared
- Leoš Janáček's Taras Bulba
- Contemplations on Zdeněk Fibich's Poem
- The Subject, Methods, and Significance of Aesthetics
- Essay on Music Criticism
- European Classical Music in Today's World
- Poetry of Life: Interview with George Crumb
- Fanfare for Palacký University

### On the Author

Prof. PhDr. Jan Vičar, CSc. (born on 5 May 1949 in Olomouc) studied music education and Czech in Olomouc, and composition in Brno and Prague. He was editor-in-chief of the leading Czech music journal Hudební rozbledy [Music Review] from 1986 to 1989, and head of the Department of Musicology of Palacký University in Olomouc (1990–1998; 2000-2003). As a Fulbright/CIES scholar-in-residence, he lectured in 1998-1999 at eight U. S. universities, including St. Cloud State University, the University of Iowa, Florida State University, Wake Forest University, American University, and the University of New Mexico. He was a member of the Steering Committee of the European Science Foundation Humanities Program Musical Life in Europe, 1600-1900. He has published four books in the Czech Republic: Accordion (Prague, 1981), Václav Trojan (Prague, 1989), Music Criticism and the Popularization of Music (Prague, 1997), Musical Aesthetics (co-author R. Dykast, Prague, 1998), and a number of articles on 20th century Czech music. He is a prolific composer whose compositions are performed and recorded by Czech soloists and orchestras. He is a professor at the Faculty of Music of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, and at the Department of Musicology of Palacký University in Olomouc.