

## *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*

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**Zápisník zmizelého** (The Diary of One Who Disappeared)

Song cycle for tenor, alto, three female voices, and piano

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

Poems by Ozeš Kalda, originally published under the name, "From the pen of a self-taught man,"

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### MOVEMENTS/SECTIONS

22 (21 songs, 1 intermezzo)

Potkal jsem mladou cigánku (One day I met a young gypsy girl)

Ta černá cigánka (That dark-skinned gypsy girl)

Svatojánské mušky (The glow-worms are dancing)

Už mladé vlaštůvky (The young swallows)

Těžko sa mi oře (Ploughing is heavy work)

Hajsi, vy siví volci (Hey, you grey oxen)

Ztratil jsem kolíček (Now I've lost the little pin)

Nehled'te, volečci, tesklivo k úvratím (Don't look so sadly after me)

Vítaj, Janíčku (Welcome, Janíček)

Bože, dálný, nesmrtelný (God in heaven, eternal one)

Táhne vůňa k lesu (The sweet smell of ripening wheat)

Tmavá olšinka, chladná studánka (The shady elder-grove)

Klavír solo (Piano solo)

Slnéčko sa zdvihá (The sun climbs high)

Moji siví volci (My grey oxen)

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Co jsem to udělal? (What have I done?)

Co komu súzeno (What has been ordained)

Nedbám já včil o nic (Nothing matters to me)

Letí straka letí (The magpie flies away)

Mám já panenku (I have a true love)

Můj drahý tatíčku (My dear father)

Sbohem, rodný kraju (Farewell, my native countryside)

### **ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS**

**I**

*Potkal sem mladou cigánku,  
nesla sa jako laň,  
přes prsa černé lelíky  
a oči bez dna zhláň.  
Pohledla po mně zhlboka,  
pak vznesla sa přes peň  
a tak mi v hlavě ostala  
přes ce-lučký, celučký deň.*

One day I met a Gypsy girl,  
lithe as a deer was she,  
black hair lay on her shoulders,  
her eyes were deep as the sea.  
With searching eyes she looked at me  
then swift as a bird flew,  
but left me yearning after her

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for all that day, all that day through.

### **II**

*Ta černá cigánka  
kolem sa posmětá,  
proč sa tady drží, proč sa tady drží,  
proč nejde do světa? Proč nejde, proč  
nejde do světa?  
Byl bych snad veselší,  
gdyby odjít chtěla;  
šel bych sa pomodlit  
hnedkaj do kostela.*

That blackeyed Gypsy has haunted me all the day.  
Why does she not leave me, why does she not  
leave me?  
Leave me and go her way -  
why won't she leave me and go her way?  
If she would let me be  
she would end this worry,  
then to the church with my prayers I would hurry.

### **III**

*Svatojanské mušky tančija po hrázi,  
gdosi sa v podvečer podle ní prochází.  
Nečekaj, nevyjdu, nedám já sa zlákat,  
mosela by po téj má maměnka poster.  
Měsíček zachodí, už nic vidět není,  
stojí gdosi, stojí, v našem záhumení.  
Dvoje světélka záříja do noci.  
Pane Bože, pane Bože nedaj! Stoj mi,  
stoj mi ku pomoci!*

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Through the twilight glowworms dance across the meadow  
but the dusk falls and across the field a footstep goes.

Do not wait, I will not yield to this temptation -  
that would bring mother's heart endless tribulation.

Now the moon sets through the world thick dark creating,  
by the corner of the stable someone's waiting.

There are two bright eyes glittering there at me.

Oh, my savior, oh my blessed savior,  
hear my prayer and come and save me.

### **IV**

*Už mladé vlaštůvky ve hnízdě vrnoží,  
ležal sem celú noc jako na trnoží.*

*Už sa aj svítání na nebi patrní,  
ležal sem celú noc jako nahý v trní.*

Already swallows are twittering overhead,  
but I've lain all the night sleepless upon my bed.  
Now in the sky there's a light, it's the flush of dawn,  
and I've lain all the night as on a bed of thorn.

### **V**

*Těžko sa mi oře, vyspal sem sa málo,  
a když sem odespal: o ní sa mi zdálo.  
Oní sa mi zdálo.*

Plowing is weary work, without sleep to ease me,  
for when I fell asleep, still in dreams  
she'd tease me.

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### **VI**

*Hajsi !, vy sivi volci,  
bedlivo orajte,  
nic vy se k olšině  
nic neohledajte!  
Ode vrděj země  
pluh mi odskakuje,  
strakatý fěrtúšek  
listím pobleskuje.  
Gdo tam na mne čeká  
nech rači zkamení  
moja chorá hlava  
v jednom je plameni.  
Gdo tam na mne čeká,  
nech rači zkamení.*

Hey, there my tawny oxen,  
careful how you pull the plow,  
don't look towards the elders,  
follow the furrow now,  
where the ground is hard,  
the plow springs back and lurches  
still I can see that bright kerchief  
through the branches.  
Who's there waiting for me?  
Oh that she would turn to stone!  
My poor head is throbbing,  
and like a fire has grown.  
Who's there waiting for me?  
Oh that she were turned to stone!

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*Ztratil sem kolíček,  
ztratil sem od nápravy,  
postojte, volečci, postojte,  
nový to vyspraví.  
Půjdu si pro něho  
rovnú já do seče.  
Co komu súzeno,  
tomu neuteče!*

Why has my plow broken?  
I think the wooden shaft's gone.  
Now oxen wait for me, wait for me,  
I'll make another one.  
Over there I'll cut one  
from that fine elder tree.  
Who can escape his fate?  
For what must be, must be.

### **VIII**

*Nehleďte, volečci,  
tesklivo k úvratím,  
nebojte sa o mne,  
šak sa vám neztratím!  
Stojí Černá Zefka  
v olšině na kraju  
temné její oči  
jiskrú ligotajú.  
Nebojte sa o mne,  
aj gdyž k ní přikročím,  
dokážu zdorovat  
uhrančlivým očím.*

Don't look, my oxen,  
so sad at my change of heart,

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No need to fear that  
because of this we must part.  
Black-haired Zeffka's waiting there  
by the elder tree,  
where like glowing coals of fire  
her black eyes watch me.  
If I should go near her,  
think not that she'd harm me.  
I'll show you, I'll be safe.  
Her eyes will not charm me.

### **IX**

*"Vítaj, Janičku,  
vítaj tady v read!  
Jaká šťastná trefa, šťastná trefa,  
ťá sem cestú nese?  
Vítaj, Janičku!  
Co tak tady stojíš?  
Bez krve, bez hnutí,  
či snad sa mne bojíš? "  
"" Nemám já sa věru,  
nemám sa koho bát,  
přišel sem si enom  
nákolníček uťat, nákolníček uťat. "  
"Neřež můj Janičku,  
neřež nákolníčku!  
Rači si poslechni  
cigánskou pěsničku! "  
Ruky Sepjala,  
smutno zpívala,  
truchlá pěsnička  
srdcem hýbala.*

Welcome my handsome one,

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I am here to greet you.  
Why this stroke of fortune?  
What kind twist of fate has let me meet you?  
Once more welcome, Jan.  
Won't you then come near me?  
Standing there pale and still,  
is it that you fear me?  
I've no cause to fear you,  
why should I be afraid?  
I've come here and I must now  
get a new shaft made.  
Do not be so head-strong.  
Leave your work, sit and hear,  
I'll sing a Gypsy song.  
Folding then her hands,  
softly sang so sad a strain  
that the mournful song  
filled his heart with pain.

**X**

*Bože dálný, nesmrtelný,  
proč's cigánu život dal?  
By bez cíle blúdil světem,  
Štván byl jenom dál a dál?  
"Rozmilý Janičku,  
čuješ skřivánky?  
Prisedni si přeca  
podlevá cigánky! "  
Truchlá pěsnička  
srdcem hýbala.  
Bože mocný, milosrdný!  
Než v pustém světě zahynu,  
daj mi poznat, daj mi cítit,  
daj mi cítit, daj mi cítit.*

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*Smutná písnička  
srdcem hýbala.  
"Pořád tady enom  
jak solný slp stojíš,  
všecko mi připadá,  
že sa ty mne bojíš.  
Prisedni si blížej,  
ne tak zpozdaleka,  
či ťa moja barva  
přeca enom leká?  
Nejsu já tak černá  
jak sa ti uzdává,  
gde nemože slnce,  
jinší je postava! "  
Košulku na prsoch  
krapečku shrnula,  
košulku na prsoch  
krapečku shrnula,  
Jemu sa všecka krev  
do hlavy vhrnula.*

God all-powerful, God eternal,  
why create the Gypsy race?  
Endless wand'ring, never resting,  
hunted on from place to place.  
Why are you silent, Jan?  
Is it the lark you hear?  
That the mournful song  
filled his heart with pain.  
Come and sit beside me,  
surely you have no fear.  
God all-powerful, God redeemer,  
ere I perish in the wilderness,  
grant me knowledge of desiring,

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grant me knowledge of desiring.  
That her mournful song  
filled his heart with pain.  
Why are you so silent?  
Won't you then come near me?  
Being so close to me  
seems to make you fear me.  
Come and sit beside me  
do not think I tease you.  
Maybe it's my color?  
Does my skin displease you?  
Don't think all my body  
is so brown and sunburnt,  
come and look more closely,  
here my skin is snow-white.  
Then did she slowly  
open her white bodice,  
and showed to him her white breasts  
so pure, so modest  
and all his hot young blood  
rushed to his face and burned.

### **XI**

*Táhne vůňu k lesu  
z rozkvetlé pohanky -  
"Chceš, Janku, vidět,  
jak spíja cigánky?  
Chceš vědět,  
jak spíja cigánky? "  
Halúzku zlomila,  
kameň odhodila.  
"Tož už mám ustlané"  
v smíchu prohodila.  
"Zem je mi za polštář,*

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*next to sa přikrývám  
a rosú schladlé ruce  
v klíně si zahřívám. "*  
*V jedné sukénce  
na zemi ležala  
a moja poctivost  
pláčem usedala, pláčem usedala.*

From the rip'ning cornfield,  
oh what sweet odours creep?  
Will you let me show you how  
Gypsy people sleep?  
Shall I show you the way  
the Gypsies sleep?  
She brushed some twigs away,  
threw some pebbles after,  
'Behold my bed' she said,  
then she shook with laughter. '  
'Earth is my pillow  
and heaven my covering,  
I warm my fingers in my lap  
when they're shivering. '  
In her tattered skirt,  
there on the ground she lies,  
and for my virtue's sake  
tears spring to my sad eyes.

### **XII**

*Tmavá olšinka,  
chladná studénka,  
černá cigánka,  
bílé kolénka:  
na to štvero, co živ budu,*

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*nigdy já už nezabudu.*

Forest's shady height,  
Water cold and bright,  
eyes as black as night,  
bare thighs snowy white,  
these four things, till death relieve me,  
will, I swear it, never leave me.

### **XIII**

*Piano solo*

### **XIV**

*Slunéčko sa zvihá,  
tín sa krátí.  
Oh! Čeho sem pozbyl,  
oh, čeho sem pozbyl,  
gdo, gdo, gdo mi to navrátí?  
Gdo mi to navrátí?  
Sunlight on the meadow.  
Dawn has come then.  
Oh what I have lost now  
Oh what I have lost now  
who can give back again?  
Who can give back again?*

### **XV**

*Moji siví volci,  
co na mne hledíte?  
Es-li vy to na mne,  
esli vy povíte!  
Nebudu já biča  
na vás šanovat,  
budete to potem  
budete banovat.*

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*Nejhorší vřak booth,  
vrátřa sa k polednu,  
jak já jen maměnce  
do očí pohlednu!*

Now my tawny oxen,  
why do you stare at me?  
If you should betray me,  
sadly you'll fare with me.  
Just give my secrets up  
and I'll punish you.  
Just dare betray me,  
my beating will finish you.  
But now before me  
by far the worst ordeal lies -  
how can I go back home?  
How face my mother's eyes?

### **XVI**

*Co sem to udělal?  
Jaká to vzpomněnka!  
Gdyž bych já měl pravit  
cigánce: maměnka.  
Cigánce maměnka,  
cigánu tatíček,  
rači bych si uřal  
od ruky malíček!  
Vyleřěl skřivánek  
vyleřěl z ořeřší,  
moje truchlé srdce  
nigdo nepotěřší.*

What has come over me?

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What is it I have done?  
Must I now learn to love  
Gypsies who call me son?  
Father a Gypsy lout?  
Mother a Gypsy slut?  
Better that a finger  
from my own hand were cut.  
There's a lark above me,  
offering me gladness,  
but my heart is heavy,  
who can ease my sadness?

### **XVII**

*Co komu súzeno,  
tomu neuteče.  
Spěchám já včil často  
na večer do seče.  
Co tam chodím dělat? .....  
Sbírám tam jahody.  
Lísteček odhrňa,  
užiješ lahody.*

Who can escape his fate,  
for what must be, must be.  
Ev'ry night I hurry  
to that same elder tree.  
Ask me where I'm going!  
Ask me where I'm going!  
Gathering strawberries under the shady trees  
searching for mysteries.

### **XVIII**

*Nedbám já včil o nic,  
než aby večer byl,*

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*abych já si s Zeffkú  
celú noc pobyl.  
Povšeckým kohútom  
hlavy bychzutínal,  
to aby žádný z nich  
svítání nevolal.  
Gdyby chtěla noc  
na věky trvati,  
abych já na věky  
mohl milovati.*

Nothing matters now until  
ev'ning shadows fall,  
soon I'll be with Zeffka,  
I hear her call.  
Gladly I'd wring the neck  
of ev'ry cock that crows;  
then there'd be no one  
to tell us it's time we rose.  
Oh that night were endless  
without a dawn,  
then from each other's arms  
we would never be torn.

### **XIX**

*Letí straka, letí,  
křídla chlopotá,  
ztratila sa sestře  
košulenka z plota.  
Gdo jí ju ukradl,  
oj, gdyby věděla,  
věckrát by se mnú  
řečnovat nechtěla.  
Oh, bože, rozbože,*

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*jak sem sa proměnil,  
jak sem své myšlenky  
ve svém srdci změnil.  
Co sem sa modlival,  
už sa hlava zbyla,  
jak gdyby sa pískem  
zhlybeň zařútila!*

See that thieving magpie  
suddenly fly away!  
Did it steal the skirt  
my sister washed on Monday?  
If she should ever  
know it was no magpie's beak,  
she would disown me,  
no more to me she'd speak.  
Oh my Lord God  
what a change has come over me.  
In my desperation,  
what strange fancies stir me.  
And pray'rs confuse my mind  
- these I can't unravel.  
All is like a stream that's sluggish,  
clogged with gravel.

**XX**

*Mám já panenku  
ale po, po, po kolenka,  
už sa jí zdvihá  
režná ko, ko, košulenka.*

Now she bears my child,  
see how bright, bright, bright her eyes are!  
As her skirt flies up,

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see how white, white, white her thighs are!

### **XXI**

*Můj drahý tatíčku,  
jak vy sa mýlíte,  
že sa já ožením,  
kterú mi zvolíte.  
Každý, gdo pochybil,*

*nech trpí za vinu:  
svojemu osudu  
rovněž nevyminu!*

Father, how wrong you were  
not to respect my pride,  
choosing the girl that you  
wanted to be my bride.  
He who has sinned must be punished,  
so life taught me.  
So too must I accept  
what my fate has brought me.

### **XXII**

*Sbohem, rodný kraju,  
sbohem, má dědino!  
Navždy sa rozlúčit,  
zbývá mi jedino.  
Sbohem, můj tatíčku,  
ai vy, maměnko,  
sbohem, má sestřičko,  
mých očí poměnko!  
Ruce vám obtúlám,  
žádám odpuštění,  
už per mne návratu*

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*Žádnú cestú není!*

*Chci všechno podniknúť,*

*co osud poručí.*

*Zefka na mne čeká,*

*se synem v ná-ručí!*

Then farewell, dearest land,  
then farewell from my heart,  
all that's left for me now  
is to say we must part.

So goodbye, father dear,  
and to you, mother dear,  
and goodbye, sister sweet,  
you with your eyes so clear,  
See my hands raised to you,  
please forgive ev'rything.

There can be no return  
from the life I'm beginning.

No escape can there be,  
fate's bidding must be done.

Zeffka waits for me there,  
in her arms, my own son.