

## Leos Janacek (1854-1928)

*The Wild Duck*, SATB, a cappella

This is an early work by Janacek described as a folk-song for chorus and was intended for student singers. It is such a rewarding piece for a small choir to tackle that the Czech text should not be a deterrent. An unusual feature is the low tessitura of the soprano line which reaches only to the C one octave above middle C.

Sheet music available free at cpdl.org, with link here:

<http://www3.cpdl.org/wiki/images/6/64/Jan-kac.pdf>

### Channel allocation

Channel	Part	Instrument
1	Soprano 1	Oboe
2	Soprano 2	Oboe
3	Alto 1	Cor anglais (English Horn)
4	Alto 2	Cor anglais (English Horn)
5	Tenor 1	Tenor Sax
6	Tenor 2	Tenor Sax
7	Bass 1	Clarinet
8	Bass 2	Clarinet
9	---	---
10	Tempo Track	---
11	---	---
12	---	---
13	---	---
14	---	---
15	Accompaniment (just for initial chord)	Piano
16	---	--

With a good midi player the user can bring up or down the level of each channel in order to emphasise a particular vocal line.

Note that the choral lines (channels 1-8) are shown in eight parts (S1, S2, A1, A2, T1, T2, B1, B2). In those passages where there is only a four-part split (SATB) there will be duplication with the same notes occurring in adjoining channels: A1=A2 etc. This should be kept in mind when adjusting the balance of the parts. (The soprano line never splits, so S1 is always the same as S2.)

Channel 10 is where the tempo markings are stored and is also where metronome clicks are located. The user should not have to make any changes to this channel.

### **Dynamics**

In the midi files all parts have the same constant dynamic level. This is because a singer using the files to learn a part will generally require that part to be emphasised, that is, to be louder than the others. This can be done with a good midi player. It would be difficult to achieve appropriate performance dynamic variations as well.

### **Tempi**

The midi file has a tempo close to that of most recordings of this piece, and includes possible internal tempo variations within the song.

### **Bar numbers**

The mid file incorporates bar numbers so if your midi player has a bar indicator you can easily find your way round the score to focus on particular passages.

### **Recommended recording**

Cappella Amsterdam, conductor Daniel Reuss (Harmonia Mundi)

<https://open.spotify.com/track/10yexBq9BfYgzeZhpCjE00?si=cRiGP-0nQkm-0F3Jt3Eceg>

spotify:track:10yexBq9BfYgzeZhpCjE00

Here is an article about the Cappella Amsterdam recording:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/deceptivecadence/2012/01/10/144976278/jan-ek-for-voices-the-choral-side-of-an-unusual-composer?t=1594745993338>

## Czech Text and English Translation

<b>Kačena divoká</b>	<b>The Wild Duck</b>
Kačena divoká letěla z vysoka, šohaj dobrý střelec, střelil ji do boka, levého pod pravú nožičku.	The wild duck flew on high, The young lad, a good marksman, shot her in the side, just under the right foot.
Ona zaplakala, sedňa na vodičku; hořko zaplakala, na Boha zvolala: Ach Bože, rozbože, už jsem dolétala.	Crying, she settled upon the water; she wept with grief and cried out to God: Oh God, dear God, I will no longer fly.
Ubohá kačica, už jsem dolétala, už jsem svá káčátka, už jsem dochovala.	I, poor duck, will never more fly, I will not raise my ducklings.
Moje drobné děti nedělajů škody; sednú na Dunaju, kalnú vodu pijú, tvrdý písek jed'á.	My little children, they do nothing to anyone; they sit on the Danube, they drink turbid water, they eat hard sand.
Vy drobná káčátka, polet'ťe vy za mnoú. Šak my poletíme k velkému Dunaju!	You little ducklings, fly with me. We will fly to the great Danube!

## **Guide to Pronunciation of the Czech Text**

Two aids to the Czech pronunciation are given here.

- A written phonetic guide.
- A set of recordings of the words spoken in the rhythm of each part. These are spoken by a non-Czech speaker (me) but will I hope be useful.

Remember too that careful listening to a good recording can be a great help. The singers of Cappella Amsterdam have very good diction.

### **Written Phonetic Guide**

The piece may conveniently be divided into the following sections.

Verse 1:	bars 1–18
Verse 2:	bars 19-34
Middle section:	bars 35–58
Verse 3:	bars 59–76
End section:	bars 77–93

The words of the soprano line are frequently different from those of the other parts. Therefore it is necessary to have separate pronunciation guides: one for the sopranos and one for the other parts (alto, tenor and bass)

## Written Phonetic Guide: Soprano

<b>Verse 1 (Bars 1-18)</b>	
Kačena divoká letěla z vysoka, šohaj dobrý střelec střelil ji do boka, do boka levého pod pravú nožičku.	Ka szhen a di vo ka le te las vy sok a Szo hai do bry stre leth, stre lil yi do bo ka do bo ka le ve ho, pod pra vu no zhi ku
<b>Verse 2 (Bars 19-34)</b>	
Ona zaplakala sedňa na vodičku; hořko zaplakala, na Boha zvolala: Ach Bože, Rozbože, už jsem dolétala.	O na za pla ka la sed nya na vo dish ku hor ko za pla ka la, na Bo haz vo la la Ach Bo zhe, Roz bo zhe, ush zhem do le ta la
<b>Middle Section (bars 35-58)</b>	
<i>8 bars ATB only, then</i> už jsem svá káčátka, už jsem dochovala	<i>8 bars ATB only, then</i> ush zhem sva ka zat ka, ush zhem do ko va la
↕ (repeat)	↕ (repeat)
<b>Verse 3 (bars 59-76)</b>	
Moje drobné děti nedělajů škody; sednú na Dunaju, kalnú vodu pijú kalnú vodu pijú, tvrdý písek jed'á.	Mo he drob ne de ti, ne de la yu sko di Sed nu na du na yu, kal nu vo du pi yu kal nu vo du pi yu, tur di pi sek ye da
<b>End Section (bars 77-93)</b>	
<i>13 bars ATB only, then</i> k velkému Dunaju!	<i>13 bars ATB only, then</i> kvel ke mu du na yu

### Written Phonetic Guide: Alto, Tenor, Bass

<b>Verse 1</b> (Bars 1-18)	
Kačena divoká letěla z vysoka, šohaj dobrý střelec střelil ji do boka,	Ka szhen a di vo ka le te las vy sok a Szo hai do bry stre leth, stre lil yi do bo ka
<b>Verse 2</b> (Bars 19-34)	
Ona zaplakala sedňa na vodičku; Ach Bože, rozbože, už jsem dolétala.	O na za pla ka la sed nya na vo dish ku Ach Bo zhe, roz bo zhe, ush zhem do le ta la
<b>Middle Section</b> (bars 35-58)	
Ubohá kačica, už jsem dolétala, už jsem svá káčátka, už jsem dochovala.	U bo ha ka si ka, ush zhem do le ta la ush zhem sva ka zat ka, ush zhem do ko va la
↕ (repeat)	↕ (repeat)
<b>Verse 3</b> (bars 59-76)	
Moje drobné děti nedělajů škody; kalnú vodu pijú, tvrdý písek jed'á.	Mo he drob ne de ti, ne de la yu sko di kal nu vo du pi yu, tur di pi sek ye da
<b>End Section</b> (bars 77-93)	
Vy drobná káčátka, poleťte vy za mnoú. Šak my poletíme k velkému Dunaju!	Vy drob na ka zat ka, po le te vy za mnu Zhak mi po le ti me, kvel ke mu du na yu

## Recordings Spoken In Rhythm

The recordings are organised in six mp3 files as follow.

	Bars	Soprano	Alto, Tenor, Bass
Verse 1	1-18	Words_V1-2_Sop.mp3	Words_V1-2_ATB.mp3
Verse 2	19-34		
Middle Section	35-58	Words_Mid_All.mp3	
Verse 3	59-76	Words_V3_Sop.mp3	Words_V3_ATB.mp3
End Section	77-93	Words_End_All.mp3	

The files for the middle and end sections are common to all voices. However the sopranos do not sing all the words in these sections.

In places where the different voice parts have the same words with different note lengths, the words are spoken in the rhythm of the highest part.