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David Jon Phillips

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Diary of a Runagate
by
David Jon Phillips
A culminating project report submitted to the faculty of Dominican University of California in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Humanities.
Dominican University of California
San Rafael, CA May 2018

This Culminating Project, presented under the direction of the candidate's thesis advisor and approved by the Chair of the Master's program, has been presented to and accepted by the Faculty of the School of Liberal Arts and Education in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Humanities. The content and research methodologies presented in this work represent the work of the candidate alone.

David Jon Phillips

May 2018

Candidate

Joan Baranow, Ph.D.

May 2018

Graduate Humanities Program Director

June Choi Oh, M.M.

May 2018

Thesis Advisor

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Abstract

Ztratil sem količek. The linchpin is lost, and our young hero's quest for a new one is highlighted by his faith, awareness of his natural surroundings, and an awakening desire to make sense of life and love. Set in Moravia during the early twentieth century's technological, political and cultural upheaval, the quest takes him away from his family and the tenant farm. Becoming a runagate is Jano's destiny; he leaves with the gypsy girl Zefka to begin a new life and family.

The translation finds unexpected discoveries in the poet's language. Following a dramaturgical thread, the *Self-taught Pen* of the poet Kalda is represented by repeating and developing a simple graphic image—beginning as a pen—which is manipulated and combined to form thorns, birds, a dagger, a cross and, of course, a linchpin. A linchpin museum artifact, in a three-dimensional facsimile, accompanies the print work. The facsimile was produced in California with the help of files made available by The British Museum's education and 3D photography departments.

The combined elements were presented as part of a public performance of Janáček's masterpiece of art song, *Zápisník zmizelého*, on March 12, 2018.

LEOŠ JANÁČEK 1854-1928



"I am finishing my life's work—although it is not in the shape that I would wish it to be." - Leoš Janáček 5 Oct. 1919

Team Zápisník!



Marian Marsh Professor of Applied Music

Nate Ben-Horin Pianist

Janice Gartin Wardrobe

Gabrielle Lochard, soprano Ana Miranda, mezzo-soprano Signa Love, alto

Special thanks to the Trustees of the British Museum! **About our Iron Age linchpin**: Artifact 1847.0208.77 from the

museum's permanent collection was reproduced in London by the museum's 3D photography staff—and delivered to me electronically as

state-of-the-art 3D image files. My multicolor facsimile uses **Sculpteo**'s advanced 3D systems.

The British Museum

Peeking at the *Diary*

In 1992 a group of undergraduate students at Dominican College gave a reading of Janáček's *Diary*—with only about 6 rehearsals! Robert Shulz was the faculty pianist, and I sang the tenor part. Since 1992 I have performed in many traditional operas: works by Mozart, Verdi and Wagner...Stravinsky, Hindemith and Britten. With its hybrid format—different from art song, certainly not an opera—*Diary* remains the mightiest challenge of my music life...**Let's do this!**

David (BA '01) lives in San Francisco, and in 2018 was granted e-Residency in Estonia. His fifth-great grandfather John Phillips was an immigrant to North America. 18th century court records indicate John was a civic leader before the American Revolution (despite being a pacifist). Tax and census records show the family owned land, but no slave.

Born and raised on the Southern edge of the North American High Plains, after finishing public school David was made Secretary to Maestro Nicola Rescigno. The Italian-American conductor and impresario is known for work in the *bel canto* repertoire and for regularly presenting the US debuts of important foreign-born artists. With the chorus of The Dallas Opera, David sang under Maestro Roberto Benaglio, also chorus master of La Scala, Milan and the Vienna State Opera.

He left Dallas in 1988 to attend Dominican College, studying voice with John Hudnall as an undergraduate music major. In 1991 he was awarded a special scholarship from The Bernard Osher Foundation (later the foundation endowed a permanent scholarship at Dominican). After 1992, he coached privately with Maestro Jiři Pokórny, chorus master of the Czech National Opera ('93), sang in Barcelona's Viñas Competition ('97) and was part of the auxiliary chorus of San Francisco Opera under Maestro Ian Robertson ('96-'00). In Marin, Sonoma and San Francisco community productions, he sang leading tenor roles—mostly in works of the 20th century.

David Jon Phillips

Professors Marian Marsh & Y. June Oh

Music 5503

12 March 2018

Diary of a Runagate

Mowing

There was never a sound beside the wood but one,
And that was my long scythe whispering to the ground.
What was it it whispered? I knew not well myself;
Perhaps it was something about the heat of the sun,
Something, perhaps, about the lack of sound—
And that was why it whispered and did not speak.
It was no dream of the gift of idle hours,
Or easy gold at the hand of fay or elf:
Anything more than the truth would have seemed too weak
To the earnest love that laid the swale in rows,
Not without feeble-pointed spikes of flowers
(Pale orchises), and scared a bright green snake.
The fact is the sweetest dream that labor knows.
My long scythe whispered and left the hay to make.

Robert Frost

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

Diary of a Runagate

Zápisník zmizelého, JW V/15 (1919)

After poems by Ozef Kalda, Z péra samoukova, "From a Self-taught Pen."

I. Andante $3/\sqrt[3]{2/\sqrt{3}}$. ($\sqrt[3]{5}$.=76) – Potkal jsem cigánku – I met a gypsy

Potkal jsem mladou cigánku, nesla sa jako laň, přes prsa černé lelíky a oči bez dna zhlaň. Pohledla po mně zhlboka, pak vznesla sa přes ¹peň a tak mi v hlavě ostala přes ce lučký, celučký deň. I met a young gypsy she moved like a doe Black braids over her breasts How deep her eyes. She stared me down, then leapt over a treefall. She's in my head the whole day.

II. Con moto 2/♪ (♪=83) – Ta černá cigánka – Dark gypsy

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 dark gypsy's lurking Why does she stay?

Why in the world don't you go?

I'd be happy if she left. Then I'd go pray in the church.

III. Andante 3/5 (J.=52) – Svatojanské mušky – Fireflies dance

Svatojanské mušky tančíja po hrázi, gdosi sa v podvečer podle ní prochází. Nečekaj, nevyjdu, nedám já sa zlákat, mosela by po téj má maměnka plakat.

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! Fireflies dance along the dam, in twilight someone rambles 'round. Don't wait; I'm not coming, I will not be tempted and cause my mother to weep.

The moon fades, all is darkness; someone's standing on our land.

Two eyes shine in the night Lord God, don't allow this, Stand by me and help me!

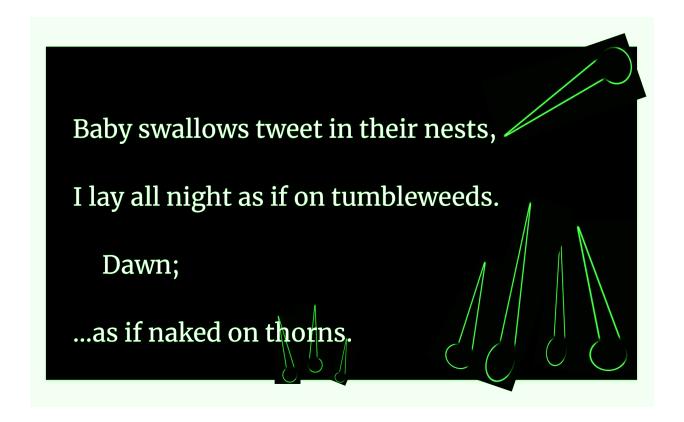
IV. Andante 2_{l} . (f.=76) – Už mladé vlaštúvky – Baby swallows

Už mladé vlaštúvky ve hnízdě vrnoží, ležal sem celú noc jako na ²trnoži.
Už sa aj svítání na nebi patrní, ležal sem celú noc jako nahý v trní.

Baby swallows tweet in their nests, I lay all night as if on tumbleweeds.

Dawn;

...as if naked on thorns.



V. Adagio 2/5 (5=44) – Těžko sa mi oře – Plowing

Těžko sa mi oře, vyspal sem sa málo, a gdyž sem odespal: o ní sa mi zdálo. Oní sa mi zdálo. It's hard plowing
I slept so badly
When I finally slept
she filled my dreams.

VI. Allegro 3₁, (J.=63) – Hajsi!, vy siví volci – Hey, you gray oxen

Hajsi!, vy siví volci, bedlivo orajte, nic vy se k ³olšině nic neohledajte!

Ode tvrdéj 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, you grey oxen, plow carefully, Don't look toward the alder trees;

don't look!

My plow recoils off the hard earth; A colored scarf glimmers in the leaves.

Who's stalking me should turn to

stone

My aching head is on fire.

Who's stalking me should turn to

stone.

VII. Con moto 3/5 (J.=63) – Ztratil sem kolíček – The linchpin is lost

Ztratil sem ⁴kolíček, ztratil sem

od nápravy,

postojte, volečci, postojte,

nový to vyspraví.

Půjdu si pro něho rovnú já do seče. Co komu súzeno, tomu neuteče! The linchpin is lost

off the axle,

Hold on, oxen, hold it;

I'll fix this.

I can get one by the clearing.

Destiny is inescapable.

The linchpin is lost off the axle,
Hold on, oxen, hold it;
I'll fix this.
I can get one by the clearing.

Destiny is inescapable.

VIII. Andante 3_{l} (J.=50) – Nebojte sa o mne – Don't worry about me

Nehleďte, volečci, tesklivo k ⁵úvratím,

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 stare, my oxen, sadly at the

turnrow,

Don't worry about me,

I won't go astray.

There's dark Zefka by the alder grove; in the dark her eyes are sparklers.

Don't worry about me,

even if I go near her,

I'll prove I can resist those wicked

eyes.

IX. — 2/3. (\$\frac{1}{2}\).=66) – Vítaj, Janíčku – Welcome, Ian

"Vítaj, Janíčku, vítaj tady v lese! Jaká šťastná trefa, šťastná trefa, ťa sem cestú nese? Vítaj, Janíčku! Co tak tady stojíš? Bez krve, bez hnutí, či snad sa

mne bojíš?"

bát,

"Nemám já sa věru, nemám sa koho

přišel sem si enom ⁴nákolníček uťat."

"Neřež můj Janíčku, neřež ⁴nákolníčku! Rači si poslechni cigánskú pěsničku!"

> Ruky sepjala, smutno zpívala, truchlá pěsnička srdcem hýbala.

"Welcome, Ian, welcome to the forest!

What stroke of luck

brings you 'round?

Welcome, Ian! Why the stance?

Ashen, motionless, perhaps you

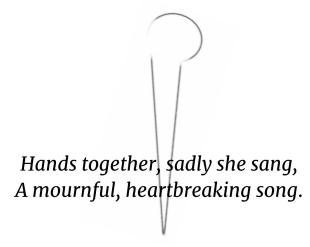
fear me?"

"I truly have nothing to fear.

I came only to fetch a linchpin."

"Don't cut, Ian, don't cut a linchpin! Come hear a gypsy song!"

> Hands together, sadly she sang, A mournful heartbreaking song.



X. Un poco più mosso 2/1 – Daj mi poznat – Let me know

"Bože dálný, nesmrtelný, proč's cigánu život dal? By bez cíle blúdil světem, štván byl jenom dál a dál?

"Rozmilý Janíčku, čuješ i skřivánky? Přisedni 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.

(Smutná pěsnička srdcem hýbala)

"Pořád tady enom jak solný slp stojíš, všecko mi připadá, že sa ty mne bojíš. Přisedni 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, jemu sa všecka krev do hlavy vhrnula.

"God, far off and immortal, Why did you give life to the gypsy, To aimlessly roam the world, Hunted and displaced.

"Earnest Ian, do you hear the skylark? Sit down here, close to your gypsy."

(A mournful song...moves the heart)

"God, mighty and merciful, Before I depart the desolate world, Let me know; give me some feeling!

(Such a sad song...moves the heart)

"You stand there like a pillar of salt,
…sure seems like you fear me.
Sit closer, not so far;
my color makes you skittish?
I'm not as black as you think…
where the sun don't shine there's a
difference."

She drops the shift from her breasts; the blood rushes to his head.

She drops the shift from her breasts; the blood rushes to his head.

Con moto 2/J (J=96) – Táhne vůňa k lesu – Aroma fills the forest XI.

Táhne vůňa k lesu z-rozkvetlé

pohanky-

Aroma fills the forest-flowering

buckwheat-

"Chceši, Janku, vidět,

jak spíja cigánky?"

"Wanna see, Ian,

how the gypsy sleeps?"

Halúzku zlomila, kameň odhodila.

"Tož už mám ustlané,"

v smíchu prohodila.

Broken twigs; place some stones.

"I've got this,"

she snickered.

"Zem je mi za polštář,

nebem sa přikrývám

a rosú schladlé ruce

v klíně si zahřívám."

"Soil is my pillow, heaven is a cover

In one last layer

If dew makes my hands cold

I warm them here in my lap."

V jednéj sukénce na zemi ležala

upon the land she's lain;

a moja poctivost pláčem usedala.

I wept as she used my innocence.

XII. $-2/\sqrt{J}=59$) – *Na to štvero* – These four things

Tmavá olšinka, chladná studénka, černá cigánka, bílé kolénka: na to štvero, co živ budu, nigdy já už nezabudu. Dark alders, cold spring water, Black gypsy, white knees These four things, as long as I live, Will not be forgotten.

XIII. Andante 2 / J (J=60) - (Piano solo)

XIV. Adagio 4/1 (J=92) – Slnéčko sa zvihá – Sunrise

Slnéčko sa zvihá, tín sa krátí. Oh! Čeho sem pozbyl, Gdo mi to navrátí? The sun rises, shadows shorten. Oh, what have I lost, Who can give it back?



(fr. JA MZM)

XV. Allegro 3/4 (4.=76) – Co na mne hledite – What are you looking at?

Moji siví volci, co na mne hledíte? My grey oxen, what are you

looking at?

Esli vy to na mne, esli vy povíte! Are you going to tell on me,

going to talk?

Nebudu já biča na vás šanovat, budete to potem budete banovat.

Nejhorší však bude, vráťa sa k polednu,

Nejhorsi vsak bude, vrata sa k polednu

jak já jen maměnce do očí pohlednu!

I won't spare the rod, You will regret it.

The worst will be when I go home

at noon and

can't look my mother in the eyes.

XVI. Adagio 7/J (J=112) - Co sem to udělal - What have I done?

Co sem to udělal?

Jaká to vzpomněnka! Gdyž bych já měl pravit

cigánce: maměnka.

Cigánce maměnka, cigánu tatíček,

rači bych si uťal

od ruky malíček!

A skylark flew,

What have I done?

Could I call a

The memory won't go away

gypsy mother...or a

gypsy father?

flew out of the nut tree

I'd rather chop a finger

off my hand!

My troubled heart

cannot shake this off.

Vyletěl skřivánek vyletěl z ořeší,

moje truchlé srdce nigdo nepotěší.

XVII. Recit. 2/1 (1=56) – Co komu súzeno – Whatever's fated

Co komu súzeno, tomu neuteče. Whatever's fated is inescapable.

Spěchám já včil často High tail it

na večer do ⁶seče. in the evening to the mow.

Co tam chodím dělať? What for?
Sbírám tam jahody. To gather strawberries.

Lísteček odhrňa, užiješ lahody. Set aside the leaves, enjoy a treat.

XVIII. L'istesso tempo 2/1 (J=56) – Nedbám já včil o nic – I don't care about nothing

Nedbám já včil o nic, než aby večer byl, abych já si s Zefkú celú noc pobyl.

Povšeckým kohútom hlavy bych zutínal, to aby žádný z nich svítání nevolal.

Gdyby chtěla noc na věky trvati, abych já na věky mohl milovati!

I don't care about nothing, only twilight's coming, I'll be with Zefka and stay all night.

As for the cocks, I should chop off their heads, so they can't herald the dawn.

If night never ended, I could make love forever!

XIX. And ante 2μ (J=69) – Let i straka, let i – Fly, magpie, fly

Letí straka, letí, křídlama chlopotá, ztratila sa sestře košulenka

z plota.

Gdo jí ju ukradl? Oj, gdyby věděla, věckrát by se mnú řečnovat nechtěla.

Oh, Bože, rozbože, jak sem sa proměnil, jak sem své myšlenky ve svém srdci změnil.

Co sem sa modlíval, už sa hlava zbyla, jak gdyby sa pískem zhlybeň zařútila! Fly magpie, fly, wings a-flapping,
My sister's blouse went missing
from the garden.
Who took it? Oh, if she finds out,

God a'mighty
How I've changed,
My thoughts
and even my heart are different.

she'll never speak to me again.

I used to pray, now I'm out of my mind, it's like sand is sifting into my head.

XX. Con moto 2/J (J=100) – Mám já panenku – I've a sweetheart

Mám já panenku ale po, po, po

kolenka,

už sa jí zdvihá režná ko, ko, košulenka.

I've a sweetheart...up...the knees,

Watch her blouse fly off.

XXI. Meno mosso $2 / (J=84) - M \hat{u} j drah \hat{y} tatičku - My dear father$

Můj drahý tatíčku, jak vy sa mýlíte, My dear father, how you're wrong, že sa já ožením, kterú mi zvolíte. That I'd marry your choice.

Každý, gdo pochybil, nech trpí za vinu: Screw up and you must suffer for it: svojému osudu rovněž nevyminu! From my fate there is no escape!

XXII. Andante 2_{l} . (f.=66) – Sbohem, rodný kraju – Goodbye, native land

Sbohem, rodný kraju, sbohem, má dědino! Navždy sa rozlúčit, zbývá mi jedino. Sbohem, můj tatíčku, a i vy, maměnko, sbohem, má sestřičko, mých očí ⁷poměnko!

Ruce vám obtúlám, žádám odpuštění,

už pro mne návratu žádnú cestú není!

Chci všechno podniknút, co osud poručí. Zefka na mne čeká, se synem v náručí! Goodbye, native land, goodbye, my village! Leaving is my only option. Goodbye, my father, and you, mother, goodbye my sister,

apple of my eye!

As I kiss your hands, please let this go, ...too late to change things now!

Every part of me wants to obey what fate commands.

Zefka's waiting for me, with my son in her arms.

Transversions™

Say it like you mean it.

Translation Notes

1/ peň treefall: a felled tree trunk, creating a berm

2/ trnoži tumbleweed: the *Amaranthaceæ* flowering plant *Kali*

tragus (native to Eurasia) is the so-called "Russian

thistle," introduced to Western North America in

shipments of flax seeds, perhaps about 1870.

3/ olšině alder (tree) *Alnus*, belongs to the birch family *Betulaceæ*.

4/ kolíček /[ná] kolníček linchpin/linch-pin

5/ úvratím turnrow: a ploughed berm at the (headland) edge of a field

6/ seče mow: fresh, drying cuttings, as a barley mow or a hayrick

7/ (mých očí) poměnko apple (of my eye) (fr. Lat. pomum, Fr. pomme) Instead of

jablko (also meaning apple), choosing poměnko makes a poetic allusion

to a near-homophone: pomněnko (add'l n), the "Forget-me-not" flower in

the family Boraginacæ, genus myosotis.

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(JA MZM=Janáček Archive of the Moravian Museum in Brno)