



## Leos Janáček 1854-1928

Baby Leos was born in Hukvaldy, Moravia, now part of the Czech Republic. His father wanted him to follow the family tradition, and become a teacher but Leos already had great musical talent. In 1865 young Leos enrolled at Abbey of St. Thomas in Brno, where he took part in choral singing and became a very good pianist and organist. He soon moved to Austria to study at the famous Leipzig Conservatory and at age 19 began to compose music for piano, organ, and choir.

Leos returned to Brno and became the head organist and choir director for the Conservatory of Music and used his heritage to inspire his music compositions. Leos was inspired and loved the Moravian and Slavic folk music he grew up with and used their songs to create an original, modern musical style.

Janáček's music is very original in sound because it also uses the rhythms and melodies he found from listening to a person speaking and from nature sounds like the songs of birds, the wind in the trees and running water.

Janáček's music is part of the late *Romantic* era but in the early 20th century became known as the pioneer of Minimalist music by using short repeated musical themes in a repeated fashion.

Janáček wrote a choral mass, two pieces for large orchestra and 5 very famous Operas. He also wrote 2 string quartets and Storytime Quartet No 1 known as the "Kreutzer Quartet".