

VÁCLAV TALICH

LIVE 1939

BEDŘICH SMETANA / 1824–1884/

LIBUŠE / Overture and fragments from Act 3 of the opera ... 50:39

Czech National Anthem / sung by the audience ... 3:45

Libuše **Marie Podvalová** / *Přemysl* **Stanislav Muž**

Chrudoš **Vilém Zítek** / *Štěhlav* **Josef Vojta**

Lutobor **Jaroslav Veverka** / *Krasava* **Ota Horáková**

Radmila **Marta Krásová** / *Radovan* **Josef Křikava**

CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA / Overture
PRAGUE NATIONAL THEATRE CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA
Chorus master **JAN MARIO OUŘEDNÍK**
Conductor **VÁCLAV TALICH**

Recorded at the National Theatre in Prague on 29 May 1939 (live)
and on 30 April 1940 (Overture)



LC 00358

Producers **Miloš Guth, Matouš Vičinský**
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A week before Václav Talich's legendary recording of *My Country* was made, on 29 May 1939 the National Theatre in Prague, at the time occupied by the Nazis, hosted a performance of Bedřich Smetana's opera *Libuše*. The surviving fragments of the unique recording of the performance have been released for the very first time on the present CD. *Libuše's Prophecy* in the finale is deemed to have been the Czechs' boldest declaration of national pride and resistance to the German occupiers. The tumultuous applause and the spontaneous singing of the national anthem attest to the moment's enormous emotional gravity, imbuing the recording with exceptional energy.

