

## **On the Concept of Czech National Dance: What and for Whom?**

*Daniela Stavělová*

(Summary)

Dance like *obkročák*, *polka*, and *sousedská* have become so familiar by now that there is no doubt about them being folk, national Czech dances; they have made their way as Czech dances into the works of prominent Czech composers such as Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák or Bohuslav Martinů. The research is mostly interested in what helped the dances gain the status of Czech folk ones as well as national dances, when, for whom and why they worked as symbols of Czech citizenship and in what way the concept of ‚national dance‘ developed.

**Keywords:** dance, polka, folklore, national identity, ethnicity

Daniela Stavělová  
Institute of Ethnology of AS CR  
Na Florenci 3  
110 00 Prague 1, CZECH REPUBLIC  
stavelova@eu.cas.cz