

Slovakia

"Lightning Over the Tatras"

Janko Matúška 1844

Traditional

♩ = 120

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 2/4. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the first eight measures of the melody. The second staff begins with a measure number '9' and contains the remainder of the piece, including a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.') with various performance markings such as accents (>) and a fermata over the final note.

*Lighting flashes over the Tatra, the thunder pounds wildly,
Lighting flashes over the Tatra, the thunder pounds wildly.
Let us stop them, brothers, they will surely disappear, the Slovaks will revive,
Let us stop them, brothers, they will surely disappear, the Slovaks will revive.*

*This Slovakia of ours has been fast asleep until now,
This Slovakia of ours has been fast asleep until now.
But the thunder and lighting are encouraging it to come alive,
But the thunder and lighting are encouraging it to come alive.*

*In 1844 Janko Matúška put his own words to an Hungarian folk tune called "They won't let me marry my ducky".
It became very popular and was adopted as part of the Czechoslovak anthem in 1920.
When Slovakia broke from Czechoslovakia in 1993 it became the official anthem.
The Tatra are a range of mountains in eastern Slovakia famous for their brown bears.*