

## THE ROMANTIC SOUL OF ENGLISH CLASSICAL MUSIC



One of the first famous English composers<sup>1</sup> was Henry Purcell. He lived in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and he wrote Baroque<sup>2</sup> music.

Other popular English composers are **much younger**. One of them is Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958). He composed operas, ballets and symphonies. His music is often romantic. It is also influenced<sup>3</sup> by English **folk songs**.

Vaughan Williams was the son of a vicar<sup>4</sup>. His mother Margaret had a famous uncle, scientist<sup>5</sup> Charles Darwin. Vaughan Williams **came from** a rich family, but he played music also to poor people.

His music is sometimes mysterious<sup>6</sup>, but also peaceful<sup>7</sup> and optimistic. One of the **most-played pieces** by Ralph Vaughan Williams is *The Lark Ascending* (1914) for violin and orchestra<sup>8</sup>.

**Vocabulary:** <sup>1</sup>skladatel|<sup>2</sup>barokní|<sup>3</sup>ovlivněný|<sup>4</sup>vikář|<sup>5</sup>vědec|<sup>6</sup>záhadný|<sup>7</sup>poklidný|<sup>8</sup>orchestr

**Language notes:** much younger=mnohem mladší|folk song=lidová píseň|come from=pocházet|most-played piece=nejhranější skladba

**Sources:** bbc.com|en.wikipedia.org