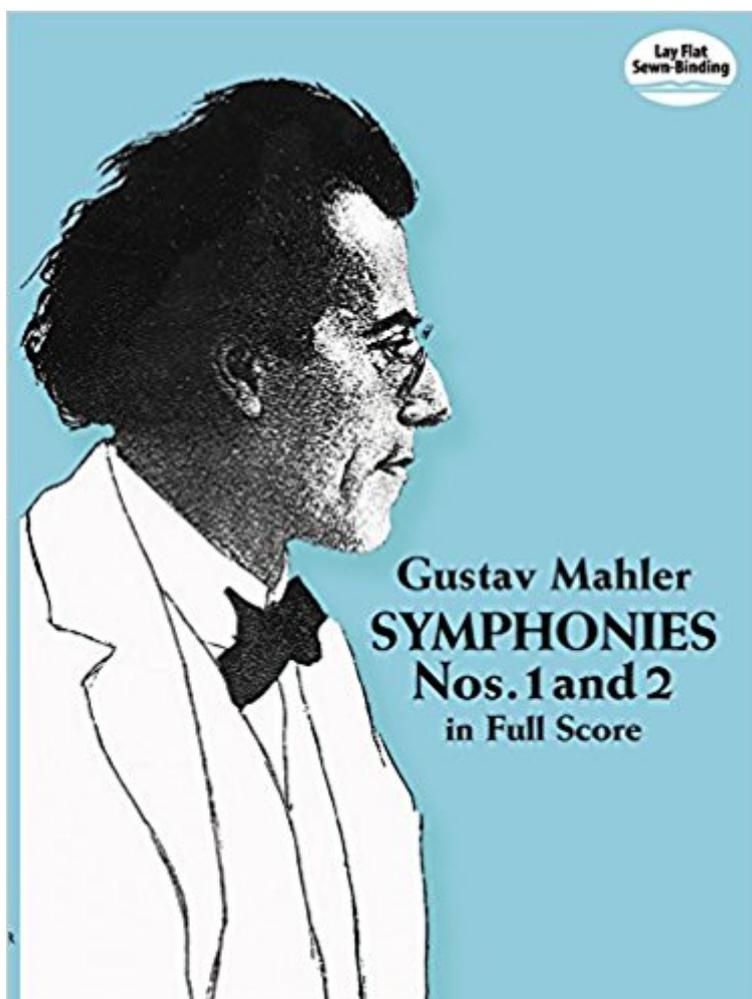


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Gustav Mahler: Symphonies Nos. 1 And 2 In Full Score



Synopsis

Often regarded as the last great composer in the Austro-Germanic tradition, Gustave Mahler (1860–1911) exerted a major influence on 20th-century music; his later work in particular affected the musical ideas of such composers as Arnold Schoenberg, Dimitri Shostakovich, Alban Berg, and Benjamin Britten. While his mature work foreshadowed radical elements of modern music—particularly the dissolution of tonality—Mahler's first symphonies were written in a relatively traditional programmatic style with a strong spiritual element. These early works are seen by some critics as attempting to "establish some ultimate ground for existence in the face of pain, death, doubt, and despair." The composer's spiritual quest, as well as the vivid orchestration, innovative symphonic structure, and rich emotional expression that characterized his music can be clearly studied and appreciated in this volume, which contains complete scores of Mahler's first two symphonies. Of the Symphony No. 1 in D Major ("Titan"), the Encyclopaedia Britannica notes, "The program of the purely orchestral Symphony No. 1 in D Major is autobiographical of his youth; the joy of life becomes clouded over by an obsession with death in the macabre "Funeral March in the Manner of Callot (basically a parody of popular music), which is eventually routed in the arduous and brilliant finale." Of Symphony No. 1 in C Minor, ("Resurrection"), Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians states: "Symphony II is a good example of all Mahler's works—scored nearly always heavily for a large orchestra, restless and stormy in places, monumentally exalted in others." Now both works are available in this handsome, inexpensive edition, reproduced directly from the original editions published by Josef Weinberger in Vienna in 1897 and 1899. Beautifully printed with wide margins and clear noteheads, this edition of the symphonies offers an unparalleled resource for studying and enjoying the seminal works of a modern master.

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Customer Reviews

There is nothing special about the Mahler score in particular, aside for the fact that it is a masterpiece like all of Mahler's works. I discovered Dover Orchestral Scores when in college years ago. They were new to the market back then, but they provided a better alternative to those expensive mini-scores we were forced to use. For students learning about composers and their styles, learning and practicing conducting, and even for individual players trying to learn how their part fits in with the entire orchestra, Dover has consistently delivered a quality product at a price every music student can afford. The print is large, clear and accurate, and easy to read, just right to go on a music stand allowing you to play along

These are wonderful, wonderful romantic symphonies with gorgeous chords and ecstatic climaxes. They call for very large forces (two Eb clarinets plus 3 Bb clarinets, one doubling Eb and another doubling Bass Clarinet in No.2), and it is wonderful to follow the score and see how these dramatic effects were achieved. There must have been a sale on flats for No.2: The composer goes from 6 to 7 flats, and then to 8, written as 4 sharps. Unfortunately, squeezing so many staves in on a page makes for very crowded and somewhat grubby printing. Better this way, though, than a pocket score, and you would be appalled at the price of a conductor's score. This is a case where the IMSLP.org free pdf download might actually be more readable.

These scores are excellently printed and easy to read when following along with a recording. I will eventually add all the Mahler symphonies in score to my collection along with other composers also. If anyone with the ability to read a score would be interested, I would highly recommend this printed series.

Among the things I look for in a score is the readability of the music itself. The larger the better, though smaller print is acceptable in most classical and earlier pieces and a few Romantic pieces. Not so in Mahler's gigantic symphonies. I feel that the score should be the full size of some of scores of his later symphonies (Dover). There were times where I had to squint or look twice to see the score properly. That is my only problem with the score. These are two wonderful works and,

unlike other composers, Mahler isn't beginning but nearing the peak of his symphonic powers with these "early" works. This score is wonderful for music lovers and students alike for its accessibility and low price.

I received the score 2-3 weeks ago. I can absolutely say that it's a must have, having read all the score and listened to both masterpieces once again while following it on the sheet music. Everything's clear, perfectly printed and at an unexpected price. There's nothing unnecessary that might confuse the musician, and everything necessary (as I said above) is in it. But well, if you don't know German, you'd better have a dictionary while reading the score in detail :) (I guess the notes are originally by Mahler. After all, if you're curious about the issue, the preface gives info about the edition.)

Excellent, practical, and at a fantastic price. Includes all of Mahler's extensive annotations (albeit in German). Must have for any Mahler enthusiast.

Good price on scores, readable and fairly well laid out on the page. It still doesn't quite lay flat like advertised, but I've never known a book that could lay completely flat.

Possibly the most reasonable size you'll get on a kindle. For all its amazing capabilities, the kindle has not mastered displaying music, yet. Hopefully future generations will be better.

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