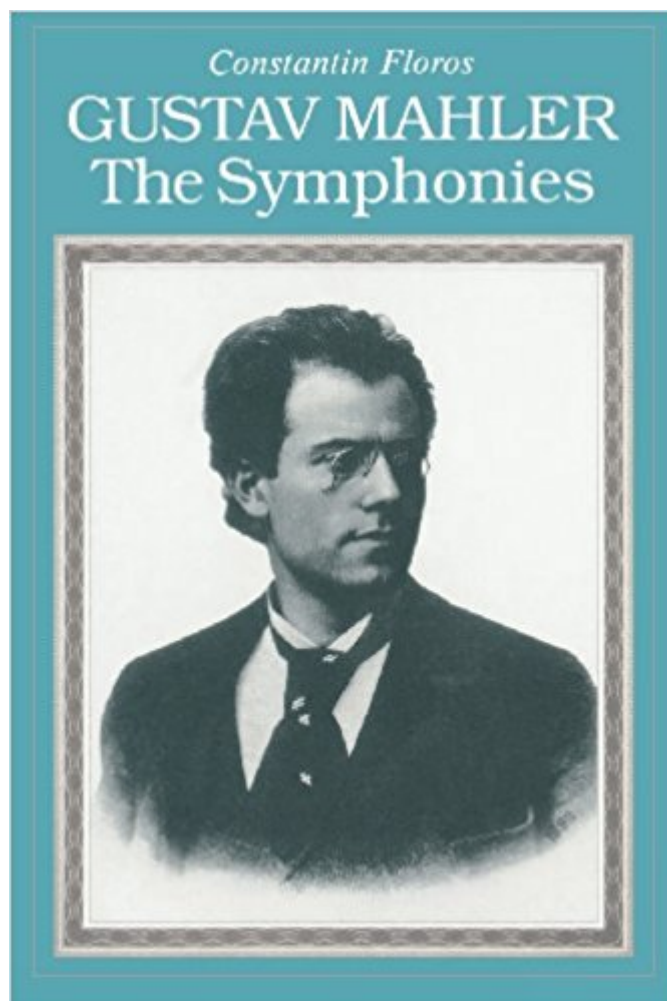


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Gustav Mahler: The Symphonies



Synopsis

(Amadeus). Mahler's 10 symphonies and Das Lied von der Erde are intensely personal statements that have touched wide audiences. This survey examines each of the works, revealing their programmatic and personal aspects, as well as Mahler's musical techniques.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An enlightening book. -- Classical Music Magazine
It is excellent. -- American Record Guide, Sept/Oct 1994
The translation by Vernon and Jutta Wickler is extremely readable. --Gerald S. Fox, President, The New York Mahlerites, November 1, 1999

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It is an amazing introduction to Mahler's Symphonies for an audience that loves his music. The programmatic ideas in his four first symphonies are well depicted through Mahler's own letters and his personal approach to musical trends of his time. The Greek musicologist, Mr. Constantin Floros, offers an interesting analysis of each Symphony of this Austrian composer. The book also illustrates few musical examples of the composer's music and some sketches of his symphonies. It is a good book for advanced students of music, musicologists, and reviewers. However you don't have to be music major to enjoy and understand this book that suggests us renewed ideas of the late-romantic

music.

I wish I could be as enthusiastic about this book as some other reviewers...Unfortunately, I found that the musical analyses are below my expectations. I bought this book while deeply involved in the Third, which I listened to almost daily, so it was natural for me to read Floros' analysis many times with the score in hand. To start with, he divides the first movement in four parts: Introduction, Exposition, Development and Recapitulation, but it so happens that the Recapitulation contains both the Introduction and the Exposition with some changes, which made me wonder what Floros had in mind when he isolated the section leading into the horns theme in F-major as separate from the exposition...On the other hand, nowhere does he underline the various themes and their relationships, giving just a list of subsections with bar numbers (and with a mistake to boot: bars 247 to 272 are missing from the list on page 94, but are mentioned in the text page 96 ...). Even the striking similarity -albeit fortuitous-between the opening "fanfare theme" and the principal subject of the fourth movement of Brahms' First Symphony is not mentioned! And there is not one single musical example from the mighty first movement! Other symphonies are somewhat better, but all in all I would not strongly recommend this book to those who are looking for Tovey-style analyses of musical works, or those who are used to Grove's analyses of Beethoven symphonies. And having read Stephen E. Hefling's excellent book on *Das Lied von der Erde*, I'm looking forward to his upcoming two-volume study of Mahler's symphonies, to be published by Yale University Press...

Wonderful book which not only covers symphonies 1-9 but also *The Song of the Earth* (really the 9th symphony) and the completed 10th symphony (really the 11th).

If you love Mahler symphonies, then this is a wonderful asset to gaining a deeper understanding.

By the time I opened this book I had already read more than a dozen biographies of composer Gustav Mahler. What could this one add? Well, it surprised me. It lives up to its name: **GUSTAV MAHLER: THE SYMPHONIES**. What it does is give you a thorough explanation of each Mahler symphony. It tells you things like when it was written, why it was written, how it was written, and suggestions as to "what the music means," which is especially relevant to Mahler's music. Thus, if I could have only a single book on Mahler, this would be the one I would keep, because it will be my learned, private guide or tutor, to better help me understand--and love even more--each Mahler symphony

If you like Mahler, this book is essential !

Great and fantastic book! Look forward to studying and discovering all hidden treasures the symphonies have. Truly a masterpiece! Gustav Mahler touches the body and mind.

Very good

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