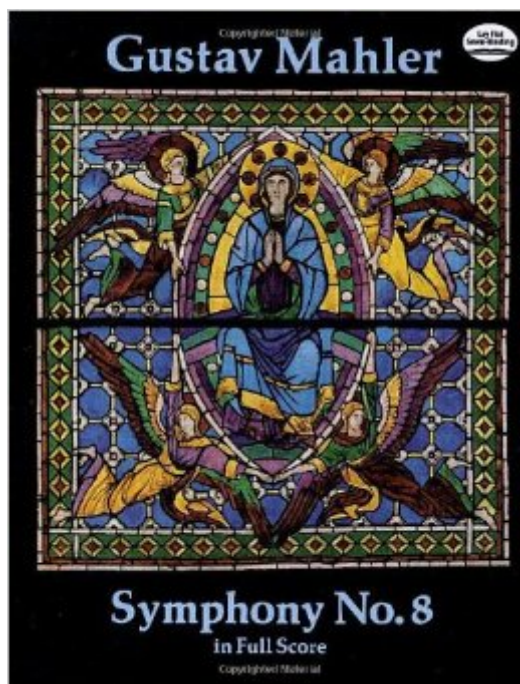


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Symphony No. 8 In Full Score (Dover Music Scores)



Synopsis

"The first performance of the work took place at Munich on September 12, 1910, Mahler himself conducting. Its reception, which was overwhelming, was the first unqualified success that he had ever enjoyed. Eight months later he was dead." — Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians. Mahler's massive complex "Symphony of a Thousand" has been called a crowning achievement of his career, a work that integrates on a truly grand scale the musical ideas, forms, and media that dominated his creative life. The symphony is in two parts. The first is a setting of words from the medieval Latin hymn "Veni, Creator Spiritus." The words of the second part are taken from the final scene of Goethe's Faust. The theme of this amalgam is the redemptive power of love, and its form is a powerful synthesis of motet, dramatic cantata, oratorio, song cycle, and symphony. Mahler scored the work for orchestra, eight solo voices, double chorus, boys' choir, and organ, eliciting from this mighty consortium the most subtle of musical nuances one moment and majestic torrents of sound the next. This authoritative full-score edition makes the Symphony No. 8 available at a reasonable price to all students and performers of Mahler, and all music lovers who wish to immerse themselves in the glories of this monumental masterpiece.

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Customer Reviews

This is the complete unabridged score for full orchestra, choirs and soloists. Presented in 256 pages with accompanying text and translation, glossary, and instruments and voices, this would be the

conductor's copy. The opening organ chord fills the air with such tremendous expectancy that one senses that this is a piece of music quite unlike any other. As the music unfolds and the choir make their entrance into the foray, I am suddenly conscious in a way I have never noticed before, as if I'm about to embark on a journey into unknown and unfamiliar regions of my mind. The first movement appears to describe death of the glorious kind, and for those twenty six minutes I am transported to a world that would embrace the very nature of Heavenly arrival. Following the score while listening to the actual sound, and one is liable to get lost in the technicalities, especially since the choirs are not always singing the same thing at the same time. Sometimes they sing words and phrases that are unexpected. Best to forget the manuscript and just listen to the music. It is, after all, what Mahler would have wanted.

I'm getting older, so I need to use glasses when reading music now. This score isn't the same as having the score in sheet music on your stand, where the typeface is larger. So using it to play would be difficult, in my opinion. You'd want the sheet music if you were performing it. However, as other reviewers so well noted, this score is excellent for those who know how to read music but haven't performed this piece (unfortunately, including me too). It's amazing when listening to Mahler's 8th how much is going on that you don't hear in a recording. Even if you've had the privilege of hearing it performed live (a rarity since it requires massive orchestral and choral forces, not to mention other instruments, and that cost \$\$\$), you still cannot take in every musical nuance that is going on. Having the score in front of you while listening brings this out. For me, I can't even imagine how Mahler conceived and wrote this piece; it is so complex and moving. And to know that he received such incredible praise at its debut, the orchestra applauding and the children's choir singing his name at fff as he passed them, when he didn't have much praise as a composer warms the heart. I would have given anything to have been in the audience at the debut performance, with artist luminaries, dignitaries and royalty present. I guess it was destined that he died within a year of writing it. As some reviewers said earlier, this score is indispensable for starving college students and musicians.

Was amazed that I could get a score for such a low price, but a lovely looking score. Arrived in good time and has been used for following the Score during the LA Phil's Mahler 8 that I recently sang in!

This symphony is so big, that if one has any chance to read the score while listening to it, do it! The score has revealed so many details about this great work that my opinion about it has changed

totally! At first when I heard this, all I could hear was the song, and it didn't tell me anything, but now with the score in hand, I can see the different melodies used with the cross-references all over, and I can follow the progress of the sonata form in the first movement, which is so ingeniously developed that one can barely trace it, but it still follows a very logical consistency. All this I could only see when I read the score! Now this is one of my very favourite works of music!

This full score of Mahler's 8th symphony is just what I wanted easy to read and light weight enough to travel with.

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