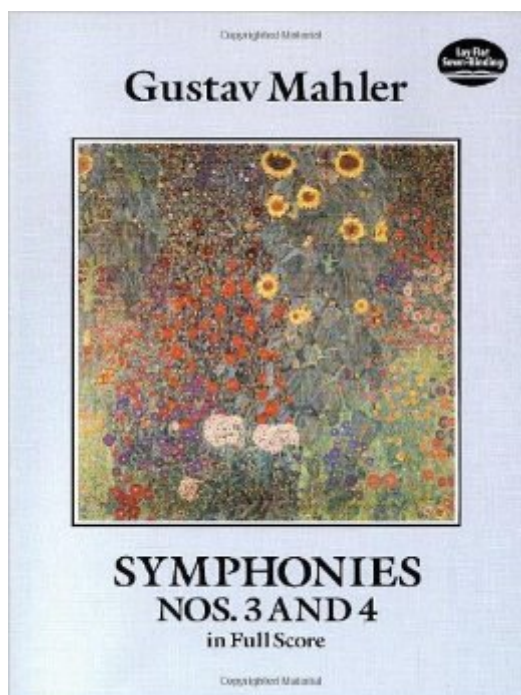


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Symphonies Nos. 3 And 4 In Full Score (Dover Music Scores)



Synopsis

Mahler's third and fourth symphonies mark a turning point in his development as a composer. Symphony No. 3 (1896) predominantly follows the musical style of the earlier two symphonies, which tended to emphasize a single melodic line with subordinate harmonies. Symphony No. 4 (1900) embodies the more contrapuntal style that characterizes his later symphonic works. At the same time, these works bring Mahler to the end of his "Wunderhorn years," when his inspiration derived strongly from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (The Youth's Magic Horn), an early 19th-century collection of folklike poetry that celebrated themes of nature. The Third Symphony, scored for a massive orchestra, was conceived as a vast nature cycle in six movements. These include the great opening march, the moving setting for alto of Nietzsche's "O Mensch! Gib Acht!" and the scintillating bell song for women's and boys' choirs "Es sungen drei Engel." The Fourth Symphony, more restrained in expression yet filled with affecting melody, is one of the most beloved of all Mahler's symphonies. Smaller in scale than the Third and classically proportioned, it progresses from the striking sleighbells of the opening and the rich complexities of the early movements to the deeply touching simplicity and beauty of the closing soprano song "Das himmlische Leben." Now music lovers can study the orchestral richness of these two great Mahler scores, reprinted here from original Viennese editions. In the unusually diverse musical textures of these two contrasting symphonic masterworks, music professionals, and students alike can explore the genius of the composer often regarded as the last great Austrian symphonist."

Book Information

Series: Dover Music Scores

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (January 1, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486261662

ISBN-13: 978-0486261669

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.8 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #397,079 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Humor &](#)

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