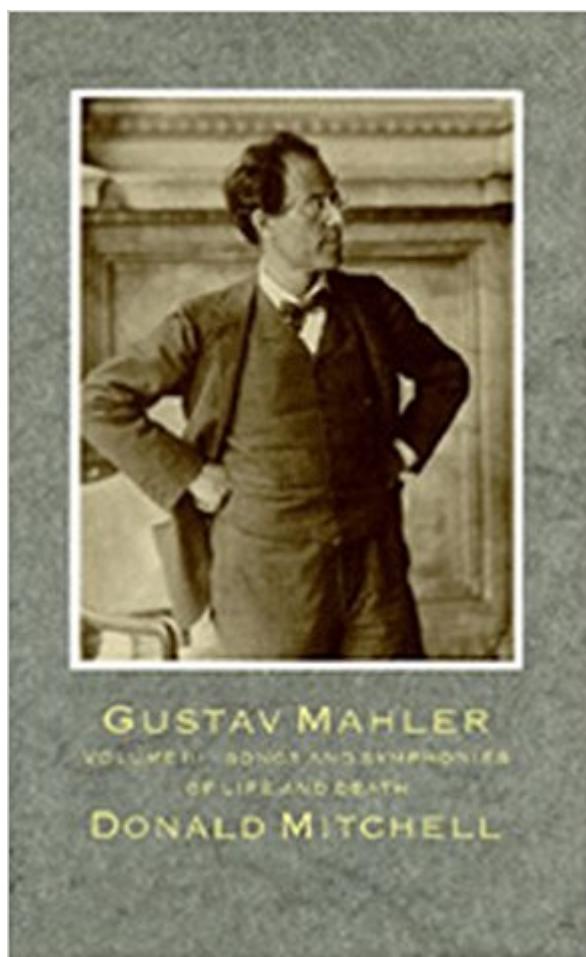


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Gustav Mahler: Songs And Symphonies Of Life And Death



Synopsis

The third volume of Mitchell's epic account of the composer and his works concentrates on the vocal music and, in particular, on some of his most famous, original, and best loved compositions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A quarter-century ago, the music of Mahler was little known in the United States. It was a period that had less support for Romantics, especially those who emerged late in the previous century. The interpretations by Bruno Walter, Leonard Bernstein, and others eventually won Mahler an ardent following, and now he is acknowledged as a major composer, with the symphonies and lieder receiving particular attention. In this third volume of Mitchell's monumental study, detailed attention is given Das Lied von der Erde, the Ruckert lieder, Kindertotenlieder, and the eighth symphony, explicated with translations, music examples, and facsimiles. This is a major contribution to the literature, essential for all historians and performers whose interests include the music of this pre-Expressionist master. Dominique-Rene de Lerma, Music Dept., Morgan State Univ. , Baltimore, Md. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

He is...an enthusiast, and his enthusiasm, which lights up every page, is reinforced by an unsurpassed knowledge of his subject. However well one thinks one knows Das Lied von der Erde, one's knowledge and understanding of it will be enhanced by reading this book. --Musical

Times Anyone genuinely interested in this composer should acquire this book at the earliest opportunity. It is magnificently produced, as befits the depth of scholarship the author continues to impart to his subject. --Music and Musicians No book I have read on any composer brings one closer to the act of composition itself, to imagining the creative decisions that occupied Mahler, especially in *Das Lied...* If ever a book forced one to reconsider every detail of a masterpiece it is this. --New Statesman --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Where do you begin? This column written by Donald Mitchell at first seems to be tantalizing in that his was to be another view of Mahler and his music. A biography it is not. *Songs and Symphonies of Life and Death* deals with the 10 Ruckert songs that make up *Kindertotenlieder* and his group of last songs w/o the two final Wunderhorn songs, the 8th symphony and DLVDE. I suppose what is irritating about this series is the way the books are designed. Each topic has two different approaches. Why not just write what you have to say about the work and move on. *Das Lied* is the 2nd part of this column and takes up a good part of the book. More than the Ruckert songs and the 8th symphony. I would have thought a lot more could have been written about the 8th symphony. It could be that I am having trouble acclimating to the style that Mitchell writes to convey the material. Maybe, somehow, I expected a more direct discussion of the works. I guess I just really expected that Mitchell would have written about all the works Mahler composed. There was discussion of a 4th book in this series. I have looked for it and can not find anything about it. As this column was published over 25 years ago, I would have thought the projected 4th vol would be available now. I suppose that column would contain essays on the 5,6,7,9,10 symphonies. This is why I find the planning of this series so odd. He basically has written about all the vocal works, leaving the purely instrumental items out except for the first symphony. Nevertheless, I do hope that Oxford releases Vol 1 of the la Grange biography in early 2013 as I was told, because so far it has been well written and the indexes are very helpful. The details are great, down the how long each movement should take to play per Mahler and his closest associates.

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