



Outline History of the Philharmonic

Musicians of New York called to a meeting by F. C. Hill on April 2, 1842.

First public concert, December 7, 1842.

First composition performed, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. (The first Columbia recording of the Orchestra.)

Conductors of Philharmonic: Hermann, Thomas, Seidl, Safonoff, Mahler, Stransky. Many of the great conductors of the world have also been guest conductors at various times.

Three concerts given during first season. Attendance 200.

Over 150 performances during Seventy-fifth Anniversary year, 1917. Attendance over 300,000.

"For the aim of the Philharmonic has ever been to appeal to the best, to the most divine in man and to give the highest expression to one form of the most moving of the arts."

When we recount the world's beautiful musical compositions in slow tempo, we naturally think of Beethoven, and among Beethoven's superb symphonies, the Andante from the Fifth is the admitted masterpiece. And justly so, for it is transcendently splendid in conception and expression. In substance this composition is an exalted reverie with wonderful melodies, masterly development and mighty chords. It opens directly with a typical Beethoven theme sung by the 'cellos and accompanied softly by the other instruments. The answering motive is played soon by the violins, appealingly, and with infinite sweetness. The development of the themes is charming and inspiring, working up into great climaxes and dying away into vaguely reminiscent strains. As played by The Philharmonic Society of New York this record is undoubtedly the supreme interpretation of Beethoven's great inspiration.

FIFTH SYMPHONY. (Beethoven.) Part I. Andante. Philharmonic Orchestra of New York. (Under the direction of Josef Stransky.)

FIFTH SYMPHONY. (Beethoven.) Part II. Andante. Philharmonic Orchestra of New York. (Under the direction of Josef Stransky.)

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