

Program: Mahler's 2nd

The following program was written by Mahler for a performance of his 2nd symphony that took place in Dresden 1901.

First Movement: Allegro maestoso

"We are standing near the grave of a well loved man. His whole life, his struggles, his sufferings and his accomplishments on earth pass before us. And now, in this solemn and deeply stirring moment, when the confusion and distractions of everyday life are lifted like a hood from our eyes, a voice of awe-inspiring solemnity chills our heart, a voice that, blinded by the mirage of everyday life, we usually ignore: "What next?" it says. "What is life and what is death? Will we live on eternally? Is it all an empty dream or do our life and death have a meaning?" And we must answer this question, if we are to go on living. The next three movements are conceived as intermezzi.

Second Movement: Andante

"A blissful moment in the dear departed's life and a sad recollection of his youth and lost innocence."

Third Movement: Scherzo

A spirit of disbelief and negation has seized him. He is bewildered by the bustle of appearances and he loses his perception of childhood and the profound strength that love alone can give. He despairs both of himself and of God. The world and life begin to seem unreal. Utter disgust for every form of existence and evolution seizes him in an iron grasp, torments him until he utters a cry of despair.

Fourth Movement: Alto solo. 'Urlicht' (Primeval Light) - from the Knaben Wunderhorn

The stirring words of simple faith sound in his ears: "I come from God and I will return to God!"

Fifth Movement: Aufersteh'n

Once more we must confront terrifying questions, and the atmosphere is the same as at the end of the third movement. The voice of the Caller is heard. The end of every living thing has come, the last judgment is at hand and the horror of the day of days has come upon us. The earth trembles, the graves burst open, the dead arise and march forth in endless procession. The great and the small of this

earth, the kings and the beggars, the just and the godless all press forward. The cry for mercy and forgiveness sounds fearful in our ears. The wailing becomes gradually more terrible. Our senses desert us, all consciousness dies as the Eternal Judge approaches. The last trump sounds; the trumpets of the Apocalypse ring out. In the eerie silence that follows, we can just barely make out a distant nightingale, a last tremulous echo of earthly life. The gentle sound of a chorus of saints and heavenly hosts is then heard: "Rise again, yes, rise again thou wilt!" Then God in all His glory comes into sight. A wondrous light strikes us to the heart. All is quiet and blissful. Lo and behold: there is no judgment, no sinners, no just men, no great and no small; there is no punishment and no reward. A feeling of overwhelming love fills us with blissful knowledge and illuminates our existence."

Text

Fourth Movement: Urlicht (Primal Light)

Original German:	English Translation:
<p>O Röschen roth! Der Mensch liegt in größter Noth! Der Mensch liegt in größter Pein! Je lieber möcht' ich in Himmel sein! Da kam ich auf einen breiten Weg: Da kam ein Engelein und wollt' mich abweisen. Ach nein! Ich ließ mich nicht abweisen: Ich bin von Gott und will wieder zu Gott! Der liebe Gott wird mir ein Lichtchen geben, Wird leuchten mir bis in das ewig selig Leben! —DES KNABEN WUNDERHORN</p>	<p>O little red rose! Man lies in greatest need! Man lies in greatest suffering! How much rather would I be in Heaven! I came upon a broad road. There came an angel and wanted to block my way. Ah no! I did not let myself be turned away! I am of God, and to God I shall return. Dear God will grant me a small light, Will light my way to eternal, blissful life! —From Des Knaben Wunderhorn</p>

**Fifth Movement: Aufersteh'n
(Resurrection)**

Original German:	English Translation:
<p>Aufersteh'n, ja aufersteh'n wirst du, Mein Staub, nach kurzer Ruh! Unsterblich Leben Wird der dich rief dir geben.</p>	<p>Arise, yes, you will arise from the dead, My dust, after a short rest! Eternal life! Will be given you by Him who called you.</p>
<p>Wieder aufzublüh'n wirst du gesät! Der Herr der Ernte geht Und sammelt Garben Uns ein, die starben. —FRIEDRICH KLOPSTOCK</p>	<p>To bloom again are you sown. The lord of the harvest goes And gathers the sheaves, Us who have died. —FRIEDRICH KLOPSTOCK</p>
<p>O glaube, mein Herz, o glaube: Es geht dir nichts verloren!</p>	<p>O believe, my heart, oh believe, Nothing will be lost to you!</p>
<p>Dein ist, was du gesehnt! Dein, was du geliebt, Was du gestritten!</p>	<p>Everything is yours that you have desired, Yours, what you have loved, what you have struggled for.</p>
<p>O glaube: Du wardst nicht umsonst geboren! Hast nicht umsonst gelebt, gelitten!</p>	<p>O believe, You were not born in vain, Have not lived in vain, suffered in vain!</p>
<p>Was entstanden ist, das muß vergehen! Was vergangen, auferstehen! Hör' auf zu beben! Bereite dich zu leben!</p>	<p>What was created must perish, What has perished must rise again. Tremble no more! Prepare yourself to live!</p>
	<p>O Sorrow, all-penetrating! I have been wrested away from you! O Death, all-conquering!</p>

O Schmerz! Du
Alldurchdringer!
Dir bin ich entrungen!
O Tod! Du Allbezwinger!
Nun bist du bezwungen!
Mit Flügeln, die ich mir
errungen,
In heißem Liebesstreben,
Werd' ich entschweben
Zum Licht, zu dem kein Aug'
gedrungen!
Sterben werd' ich, um zu
leben!

Aufersteh'n, ja aufersteh'n
wirst du,
Mein Herz, in einem Nu!
Was du geschlagen,
Zu Gott wird es dich tragen!
—GUSTAV MAHLER

Now you are conquered!
With wings that I won
In the passionate strivings of love
I shall mount
To the light to which no sight has
penetrated.
I shall die, so as to live!

Arise, yes, you will arise from the
dead,
My heart, in an instant!
What you have conquered
Will bear you to God.
—GUSTAV MAHLER