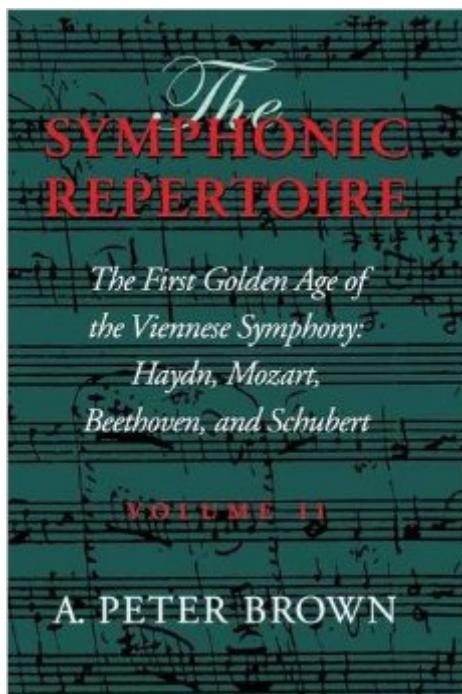


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The Symphonic Repertoire, Vol. 2: The First Golden Age Of The Viennese Symphony: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, And Schubert (Volume II)



Synopsis

Central to the repertoire of Western art music since the 18th century, the symphony has come to be regarded as one of the ultimate compositional challenges. Surprisingly, heretofore there has been no truly extensive, broad-based treatment of the genre, and the best of the existing studies are now several decades old. In this five-volume series, A. Peter Brown explores the symphony from its 18th-century beginnings to the end of the 20th century. Synthesizing the enormous scholarly literature, Brown presents up-to-date overviews of the status of research, discusses any important former or remaining problems of attribution, illuminates the style of specific works and their contexts, and samples early writings on their reception. The Symphonic Repertoire provides an unmatched compendium of knowledge for the student, teacher, performer, and sophisticated amateur. The series is being launched with two volumes on the Viennese symphony. Volume II The First Golden Age of the Viennese Symphony Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert Volume II considers some of the best-known and most universally admired symphonies by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert, who created what A. Peter Brown designates as the first golden age of the Viennese symphony during the late 18th and first three decades of the 19th century. The last two dozen symphonies by Haydn, half dozen by Mozart, and three by Schubert, together with Beethoven's nine symphonies became established in the repertoire and provided a standard against which every other symphony would be measured. Most significantly, they imparted a prestige to the genre that was only occasionally rivaled by other cyclic compositions. More than 170 symphonies from this repertoire are described and analyzed in The First Golden Age of the Viennese Symphony, the first volume of the series to appear.

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Customer Reviews

This book, Volume Two of a four book series concerns itself with the history of the Symphony from 1757 to 1828. These dates span the years between the composition of the Haydn's first Symphony and the death of Schubert. These give or take seventy years mark the complete lives of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert (except for Haydn's early years), four of the most important composers in the history of the symphony and four composer who remain popular and much listened to, to this day. The author calls this the first Golden Age of the Viennese Symphony. The second one coming a hundred years later with the works of Brahms, Dvorak, Bruckner, Mahler and Schoenberg according to Brown, though I find it hard to compare these two "Golden Ages" as the times and the music were so different. The book begins with an overview of the Symphony during this time, its performance, its programs, the complement of orchestras, etc. An interesting table shows how many symphonies were performed by different composers in Vienna from 1772 to 1828. This shows Haydn at the top from 1772-00, tied with Beethoven 1801-10 and Beethoven at the top from 1815-28. Three interesting facts are made clear here, Schubert never makes any of the lists, Mozart only ranks in the period 1780-90, but far behind Haydn, and most interesting to note are composers in the lists that are rarely recorded or listened to now: Dittersdorf, Huber, Wranitzky, Eberl and Krommer. I illustrate this as an example of the type of the interesting information contained in the introduction.

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