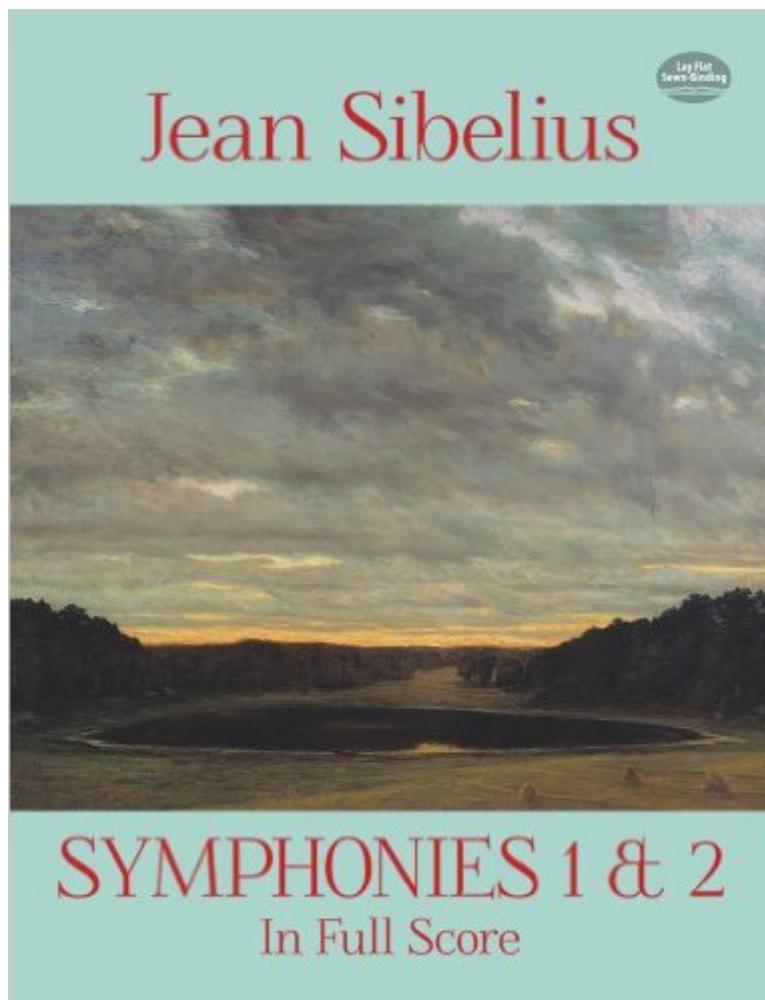


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Symphonies 1 And 2 In Full Score (Dover Music Scores)



Synopsis

Finland's greatest composer and a major figure in the development of Scandinavian music, Jean Sibelius (1865–1957) is admired for his complete mastery of symphonic form. Of the seven symphonies he composed, each differs greatly from the others, for Sibelius rarely approached the symphonic "problem" the same way. Each work seems committed to the thoughts, feelings, and logic of the movement. Sibelius's first two symphonies remain among his most accessible and popular. Of all his symphonic works, perhaps the First Symphony, composed in 1898–99, adheres most to classical form yet reflects the spirit of Nordic nationalism that came to be associated with the composer's music. The Second Symphony, perhaps his most expansive and melodious work in symphonic form, demonstrates Sibelius's increasing command of orchestral form and scoring. These two major works are reprinted here from the definitive full-score editions published by Breitkopf & Härtel, Leipzig.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For a Dover score, this is standard. You get what you pay for--it's a reprint, which means the quality is only as good as the original was. For a student like me, it works very well as a study score. If you want to be picky, it is a pain to have to remember which line is which instrument (and what key the instruments are in, e.g. Trumpet in F in #1) since the instruments are only given on the first page of each movement (with a few exceptions throughout the score).

Sibelius's first two symphonies are not regarded as being his best but I personally love the first symphony. I wrote a research paper for a music history course relating Symphony 1 and 7. I used this score to analyze the first symphony and enjoyed working with this version of the score. However, I can't find any other version of the score and I would've liked to have found a pocket-sized version of the first symphony only so it would have been cheaper.

This reprint is exactly what you expect from Dover: an acceptable photocopy (yes, that's what Dover scores are) of an old edition of the piece. This said, the score is printed on good quality paper, has a good size to conduct from it, and opens flat on a music desk, and on top the price is really good.

Because this is a reprint of the Breitkopf & Hartel original, the print is exceptionally clear and easy to read. The 12" x 9 1/2" page is perfect for the conductor's stand, and the "Lay Flat Sewn-Binding" is a blessing for the performer. One wishes for several improvements: measure numbers, the identification of the instruments when the full instrumentation appears, and bar lines broken between the winds and brass, as they are above the strings. Also, a brief commentary about the symphonies would be of interest. All in all, this is a beautiful score and a delight to own and study.

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