

# **THE STORY OF SYMPHONY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649098262

The story of symphony by E. Markham Lee

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**E. MARKHAM LEE**

**THE STORY  
OF SYMPHONY**





*"The Piano in the Hall" (The woman in the dress of the Virgin Mary)*

© 1877. By  
M. J. P. & Co. P. 100. N. Y.

The book cover is framed by a decorative border of repeating floral and vine motifs. The text is centered within this frame.

The  
Story of Symphony

BY  
E. MARKHAM LEE  
M.A. : Mus. Doc., Cantab.

London  
The Walter Scott Publishing Co., Ltd.  
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons  
1916



Music  
Library

316  
1255  
L51  
L51

## Preface.

No book, so far as I have been able to discover, exists in the English language on the History of the Symphony. There is one work in French, Brenet's *Histoire de la Symphonie à Orchestre* (see Bibliography). This is not well known in this country; it has few actual musical quotations, deals more especially with early French composers, and ends with Beethoven.

Weingartner's, *Symphony Writers since Beethoven* carries on the story up to recent times, but more prominence is given in this to German compositions than to the equally, if not more, important works of the Russian and other schools.

The nearest approach to a complete work on the subject is Sir Hubert Parry's masterly article in Grove's *Dictionary*, which treats exhaustively of the history of the symphony up to the time of Brahms. But in this, again, more modern composers obtain but slight consideration.

1100291



## Story of Symphony

The present book is an attempt to put before the reader all that is important in the story of the symphony, from the earliest examples of the form to the present day. Its rise and development are traced briefly, but, I hope, as adequately as the limits of the book allow. Many musical quotations are given, not only from the older, but also from the more recent composers, and a (necessarily) short account of the works of present-day writers is included.

Some comment may be aroused by the comparatively extended analysis given to the symphonies of Beethoven, seeing that so much literature on the subject already exists. The following considerations have influenced me in this connection:—

- (a) The books of this series are intended primarily for amateurs, although it is hoped that much in them may be of use also to the more serious student. The ordinary amateur is more likely to hear a symphony of Beethoven—I am not speaking of London or of the great provincial centres—than one by any other composer. The books on the subject (Grove's *Beethoven and his Nine Symphonies*, etc.) are not possessed by the majority of amateurs; moreover, they contain much that the ordinary concert-

## Preface

goer need not know for full enjoyment of their performance.

- (b) The analytical programme, on which the amateur often relies, cannot usually be studied beforehand; nor does it always contain extracts from the actual music.
- (c) Spite of all modern changes of taste and custom, the symphonies of Beethoven remain the most important of all symphonies; they are still acknowledged as the most perfect in form, the most beautiful and dignified in texture, and the very finest examples of what a symphony should be.
- (d) The lover of the symphony *must* know his Beethoven. This book will give him, in succinct form, a fairly complete account of Beethoven's work in this direction, in addition to some information as to the works of other composers; and this at a considerably less cost than the books which deal with the symphonies of the Bonn master alone.

In Appendix A the difficulty has been to decide what to omit. A mere catalogue of the names of those who have composed symphonies would in itself constitute a good-sized volume. It is hoped, however,

## Story of Symphony

that no name which has either historical significance, or musical importance, so far as the development of symphony is concerned, has been omitted.

My thanks are due to Dr. Spooner-Lillingston and other friends for help in revising the proof-sheets and for suggestions.

E. MARKHAM LEE.

WOODFORD GREEN,  
1916.