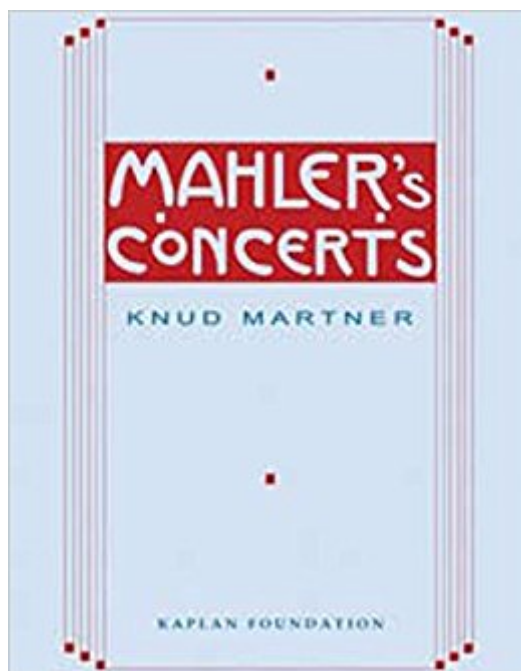


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# Mahler's Concerts



## Synopsis

Mahler is considered one of the foremost composers during his time. The book *Mahler's Concerts* provides the first complete history of Mahler on the podium with detailed information including the works performed, soloists, conductors who led part of a concert and concert halls for each of the more than 300 concerts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A poignant tour through those last years comes in a fascinating book to be issued this fall by the Kaplan Foundation and Overlook Press: *Mahler's Concerts*, by Knud Martner." --New York Times "Seeing Mahler's career through the prism of this exhaustive collection of flyers, programs and posters from some 300 plus concerts heard under Mahler's direction (starting in Jihlava and ending in New York), makes the reader realize just how huge his contribution to music was." -Entartete Musik Blog

Knud Martner is one of the foremost authorities of Mahler. In recognition of his contribution to Mahler scholarship Knud Martner was awarded the coveted gold medal of the International Gustav Mahler Society in Vienna.

This is a superb book for those who are more interested in musical issues surrounding Mahler, and less concerned about his biography (not that one couldn't be interested in both). Issued by the Gilbert KAPLAN FOUNDATION, Knud Martner is a somewhat unassuming man who has quietly

been one of the world's leading authorities on Mahler over the last several decades. If you're already familiar with the Peter Fulop Mahler discography book, you'll see that Martner's book is set up in a very similar manner, and just as well detailed. When you turn a page, you'll see that Martner gives details about every non-operatic concert that Mahler ever conducted (and sometimes, played on the piano) on the right hand page, while also providing copies of the actual playbills on the left page (how the heck did he find all those!?!). Interesting and useful notes are given on pretty much every concert of note. Any soloists involved are also listed. At the back of the book, Martner gives tallies and summaries of Mahler's concerts, organized by composer, work, city (no dates here, but he does give a 'concert number' to cross reference back), etc. While I was grieving over the fact that Martner didn't include Mahler's opera performances in the main pages, I was delighted to see that he did provide a summary of those as well (also organized by composer, work and city). The more I dig into this book, the more I learn. I have to stress this point: Martner could not possibly have organized this book any better. Also useful - but also threw me off my track for a bit! - are listings for the remaining concerts in New York that Mahler had programmed, but didn't get to conduct because of his near sudden collapse (Theodore Spiering took over Mahler's conducting duties for the remainder of the 1911 season after February 21 - the famous "All Italian" concert that had Busoni and Toscanini in attendance). As if all of this weren't enough, you can also cross reference by soloists; whether vocal, piano, violin, cello, etc. What I've learned from this book, so far, has been quite interesting. Mahler's New York Philharmonic period (that orchestra actually had a different name at that time) has often been dismissed by various commentators. But anyone who is thoroughly knowledgeable in orchestral and concerto literature will recognize that Mahler's New York programming was nothing to be dismissed lightly. By this time, Mahler had become more International and 'catholic' in his tastes. You'll see that he was conducting relatively new works by American, English, French and Italian composers - often times giving those works their American debut - as well as the usual Austro-German suspects that had been with him throughout his European years. Mahler also gave FAR more performances of his first four symphonies (and his vocal works) than I had previously surmised (less so for symphonies 5 through 8 because they were 'newer' - "DLvdE" and symphony 9 were not premiered until after Mahler's death). Well, enough - if Mahler the conductor interests you at all, get this book!

Wonderful book, which tells us which great conductor, artist and musical spirit Gustav Mahler was. Numerous enchanting reproductions of playbills, poster, Abendzetteln and so on. It looks like we accompany Mahler in his daily existence as performing artist. You open the book... and spend hours

redaing it. A must-have for every Mahler fan !

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