

Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in Paris, he led the world premieres of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (1913) and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*. After World War I (in which he served in the French Army), he conducted at the Metropolitan Opera (1917–19) and directed the Boston Symphony (1919–24). He founded and directed the Paris Symphony (1929–38) and then returned to the U.S. to take over the newly reorganized San Francisco Symphony (1936–52). In 1943 he established an annual summer school for student conductors at Hancock, Maine. From 1960 he was permanent conductor of the London Symphony.

As a conductor, Monteux was equally admired in ballet, opera, and symphonic music. His interpretations were considered elegant and refined.



BRAHMS SYMPHONY No. 2 in D, op. 73

Pierre Monteux, Conductor • The Vienna Philharmonic



Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73, was composed by Johannes Brahms in the summer of 1877, during a visit to Pörschach am Wörthersee, a town in the Austrian province of Carinthia. Its composition was brief in comparison with the 21 years it took Brahms to complete his First Symphony.

The symphony is scored for 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, and strings.

The cheery and almost pastoral mood of the symphony often invites comparisons with Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, but, perhaps mischievously, Brahms wrote to his publisher on November 22, 1877, that the symphony "is so melancholy that you will not be able to bear it. I have never written anything so sad, and the score must come out in mourning."

The premiere was given in Vienna on 30 December 1877 by the Vienna Philharmonic under the direction of Hans Richter; Walter Frisch notes that it had originally been scheduled for 9 December, but "in one of those little ironies of music history, it had to be postponed [because] the players were so preoccupied with learning *Das Rheingold* by Richard Wagner." A typical performance lasts between 40 and 50 minutes.

Pierre Monteux, (born April 4, 1875, Paris, France—died July 1, 1964, Hancock, Maine, U.S.), one of the leading conductors of the 20th century, acclaimed for his interpretations ranging from Beethoven to contemporary composers such as Stravinsky and Arthur Honegger.

He studied at the Paris Conservatory and later was a professional viola player. As conductor (1911–14) for

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1 Allegro Non Troppo 20:35

2 Adagio Non Troppo 9:15

3 Allegretto Grazioso 5:05

4 Allegro Con Spirito 8:55

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