

The Swiss conductor, Ernest Ansermet, came from a musical family; he successively studied the clarinet, violin and brass instruments, which he used in fanfares; later he wrote military marches for the Swiss army which he did not consider important. Besides Music, he studied Mathematics in Lausanne and graduated with a Diploma in 1903; until 1906 he taught at the Lausanne Grammar School, then he decided to continue his studies at the Sorbonne and, at the same time, to attend courses at the Paris Conservatory. After his return to Lausanne, he taught Mathematics for one more year before devoting himself entirely to music.



Ansermet was a particular advocate of the Swiss composers Arthur Honegger and Frank Martin. He conducted the first performances of the following works of A. Honegger: *Horace victorieux* (1921), *Chant de joie* (1923), *Rugby* (1928) and *Pacific 231* (1923), which was dedicated to him, and of the following works of Frank Martin: *Symphonie* (1938), *In terra pax* (1945), *Der Sturm* (1956), *Le mystère de la Nativité* (1959), *Monsieur de Pourceaugnac* (1963) and *Les Quatre Éléments*, which were dedicated to him. Also important were the first performances of Benjamin Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* (1946) and *Cantata misericordium* (1963).

Stravinsky

Symphony In Three Movements

Symphony In C

Ernest Ansermet / L'Orchestre De La Suisse Romande



The Symphony in C was written between 1938 and 1940 on a commission from American philanthropist Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss. It was a turbulent period of the composer's life, marked by illness and deaths in his immediate family. In 1937, Stravinsky was diagnosed with tuberculosis, which had already forced his wife and two daughters to a sanatorium in Switzerland. Stravinsky's daughter Ludmilla and wife Catherine died of their illnesses in November 1938 and March 1939, respectively, followed by Stravinsky's own quarantine and the death of his mother Anna in June 1939. He also suffered a cerebral thrombosis while conducting the symphony at a 1956 concert in Berlin, Germany.

Stravinsky was still mourning the deaths of his family members when World War II forced him to leave Europe. He had written the symphony's first two movements in France and Switzerland. Stravinsky wrote the third movement in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the fourth movement in Hollywood, after his emigration to the United States. The symphony was premiered by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Stravinsky on November 7, 1940.

Stravinsky wrote the the symphony in Three Movements from 1942-45 on commission by the Philharmonic Symphony Society of New York. It was premièred by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra under Stravinsky on January 24, 1946.

The Symphony in Three Movements is considered as Stravinsky's first major composition after emigrating to the United States. It uses material written by Stravinsky for aborted film projects.

In 1943, Stravinsky had begun work on rescoring his ballet *The Rite of Spring*. Although the project was left incomplete, his revisit to this earlier composition appears to have influenced the symphony. The ostinatos and shock tactics of the last movement, for example, recalls the "Glorification of the Chosen One" and "Sacrificial Dance" from *The Rite*, and some woodwind passages are reminiscent of the ballet's introduction. On the other hand, there are passages forecasting the opera *The Rake's Progress*, notably the openings of the slow movement and the finale.

Stravinsky

Symphony In Three Movements

Symphony In C

Ernest Ansermet / L'Orchestre De La Suisse Romande

Symphony In 3 Movements

- 1. Allegro 10:31**
- 2. Andante - Interlude (L'istesso tempo)- 5:48**
- 3. Con Moto 6:14**

Symphony In C

- 4. Moderato Alla Breve - Tempo Agitato Senza Troppo Accelerare
Tempo I 10:42**
- 5. Larghetto Concertante 8:01**
- 6. Allegretto - Meno Mosso - Tempo I - Più Mosso - Tempo I 5:00**
- 7. Largo - Tempo Giusto, Alla Breve - Poco Meno Mosso 7:08**

Total Time: 53:24

Recorded by Decca Producer: James Walker Engineer: Roy Wallace

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