

Gustav Mahler's Symphonic Landscapes

In this study Thomas Peattie offers a new account of Mahler's symphonies by considering the composer's reinvention of the genre in light of his career as a conductor and more broadly in terms of his sustained engagement with the musical, theatrical, and aesthetic traditions of the Austrian *fin de siècle*. Drawing on the ideas of landscape, mobility, and theatricality, Peattie creates a rich interdisciplinary framework that reveals the uniqueness of Mahler's symphonic idiom and its radical attitude towards the presentation and ordering of musical events. The book goes on to identify a fundamental tension between the music's episodic nature and its often-noted narrative impulse and suggests that Mahler's symphonic dramaturgy can be understood as a form of abstract theatre.

THOMAS PEATTIE is Assistant Professor of Music at Boston University. His articles and reviews have appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Musical Association*, *Acta Musicologica*, *Music and Letters*, and *Naturlaut*. His essay "In Search of Lost Time: Memory and Mahler's Broken Pastoral" appears in the collection *Mahler and His World* (2002). His research interests include the Austro-German symphony, Gustav Mahler, early modernism, sound reproduction, auditory culture, aesthetics, and historiography.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02708-4 - Gustav Mahler's Symphonic Landscapes
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UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107027084

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First published 2015

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Peattie, Thomas Allan, 1967–

Gustav Mahler's symphonic landscapes / Thomas Peattie.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-02708-4

1. Mahler, Gustav, 1860-1911. Symphonies. 2. Symphonies – Analysis, appreciation.

3. Mahler, Gustav, 1860-1911 – Criticism and interpretation. I. Title.

ML410.M23P43 2015

784.2'184092–dc23

2014043419

ISBN 978-1-107-02708-4 Hardback

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Acknowledgements

This book would never have seen the light of day without the generous support and mentorship of my closest friends, colleagues, and advisors. I would like to express particular thanks to Zoltan Roman, my master's thesis advisor at the University of Calgary. He was the first to teach me the value of source-critical research and saw to it that I never left any stone unturned. My doctoral advisor Reinhold Brinkmann provided me with a model of intellectual inquiry. During our frequent meetings, he would often insist that we listen together to the music we were discussing, not merely excerpts but entire movements. Even more striking was his uncommon willingness to share his own research. On more than one occasion, he presented me with a folder of notes on a topic we had been discussing. It took me a while to understand that these folders were gifts, presented to me not to copy or to borrow, but to keep.

To my fellow Mahlerians, I wish to express gratitude for your wisdom and support, as well as for the hard questions you so often asked. I would particularly like to thank Jeremy Barham, Stephen Downes, Susan Filler, Peter Franklin, Timothy Freeze, Julian Johnson, Sherry Lee, Katarina Markovic, Marilyn McCoy, Vera Micznik, Matthew Mugmon, Karen Painter, Milijana Pavlović, Anna Stoll Knecht, Morten Solvik, and James Zychowicz. Special thanks are also due to Federico Celestini, Daniel Grimley, Richard Kramer, Marie Sumner Lott, Christopher Morris, and Charles Youmans, all of whom provided valuable feedback on previously published material that eventually made its way into some of the chapters that follow. Joseph Auner was particularly generous with his time, not only providing me with detailed feedback on several chapter drafts but also reading and commenting on the entire manuscript. Jan Philipp Sprick, Barbara Poeschl-Edrich, and Martin Wittenberg kindly offered help with translations. For their support, encouragement, and advice along the way, I also owe a particular debt of gratitude to Michael Beckerman, Jane Bernstein, Walter Frisch, Ben Korstvedt, Thomas Forrest Kelly, John Kmetz, Lewis Lockwood, Keith Polk, Alex Rehding, Michael P. Steinberg, James Webster, and Christoph Wolff.

During my time at Boston University, I received continuous support and encouragement from my colleagues in the Department of Musicology and

Ethnomusicology, the School of Music, the College of Fine Arts, and the College of Arts and Science, including Marié Abe, Richard Bunbury, Steven Cornelius, Charles Dellheim, André de Quadros, Sean Gallagher, Paul Harris, Brita Heimarck, James Johnson, David Kopp, Christopher Martin, Christopher Ricks, Joshua Rifkin, James Schmidt, Andrew Shenton, Joel Sheveloff, Jacquelyn Sholes, Roye Wates, James Winn, Patrick Wood Uribe, and Jeremy Yudkin. I would like to express particular gratitude to Victor Coelho for his remarkable guidance and friendship spanning nearly three decades and two countries. A Junior Fellowship from the Boston University Center for the Humanities afforded me the luxury of concentrated work, as well as a rare chance to engage with an extraordinary group of scholars. Charles Griswold, Peter Hawkins, Walter Hopp, Jennifer Knust, Laura Korobkin, Maurice Lee, Jeffrey Mehlman, Katherine O'Connor, and Rosanna Warren all provided me with invaluable feedback on what became the first chapter of this book.

My students deserve special thanks for enthusiastically accompanying me on a long and often circuitous journey through the music of Mahler. I am particularly indebted to Paula Bishop, whose seminar paper on spatial deployment in Mahler's symphonic writing provided me with a stimulating point of reference for my own considerations of space in the First and Third Symphonies. During the spring of 2005, I taught a Mahler seminar at Harvard University, where I first explored many of the ideas in this book. I would like to acknowledge in particular Peter McMurray with whom I shared many fruitful exchanges on Luciano Berio's relationship with Mahler's music.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to the librarians and to the staff of the Music Library at Boston University's Mugar Memorial Library. Particular thanks go to Holly Mockovak, Sarah Hunter, Donald Denniston, and Olga Khurgin. At Harvard's Loeb Music Library and the Isham Memorial Library, Virginia Danielson and Sarah Adams always went out of their way to make my visits both productive and pleasant. I would like to extend my appreciation to the staff in the music division of the Austrian National Library, the Internationale Gustav Mahler Gesellschaft, and the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna. In New York, I received prompt and kind attention from the librarians at the Pierpont Morgan Library, as well as at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. The staff at the Beinecke Library at Yale University not only welcomed me but also made me feel at home. A special note of thanks is due to Lisa Rae Philpott and Monica Fazekas at the University of

Western Ontario, who graciously allowed unrestricted access to the holdings of the Music Library's Gustav Mahler – Alfred Rosé Collection.

An earlier version of Chapter 1 appeared as “The Expansion of Symphonic Space in Mahler's First Symphony,” *Journal of the Royal Musical Association* 136 (2011): 73–96. Parts of Chapter 2 appeared as “Mahler's Distance,” *Naturlaut* 8 (2010): 11–20. Chapter 3 appeared in an earlier version as “Mahler's Alpine Journey,” *Acta Musicologica* 83 (2011): 69–92. I would like to thank the editors of these journals for granting me permission to reproduce portions of this material.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Cambridge University Press, above all to my editor, Victoria Cooper, who shepherded the book through the production process with patience and good humour. I must also acknowledge the tireless work of Fleur Jones, Rebecca Taylor, Chloé Harries, Flora Kenson, Linda Benson, and Sri Hari Kumar who responded to endless queries with remarkable efficiency. Thanks are also due to the anonymous readers for their many valuable comments and suggestions.

To my brother and fellow musicologist, Matthew Peattie, I express particular thanks for the countless hours we have spent together over the years talking and singing, usually over a Manhattan or two. To my parents Marlene and Roger Peattie, I offer my thanks for everything they have given and continue to give. Their love and support know no bounds and they have followed me every step of the way. Most importantly, I thank my partner Alessandra Campana, who as my most careful and dedicated reader continues to make everything possible.