

Resurrection in the Golden Hall

Saturday, February 20, 2027 · 15:30 · Musikverein

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor · Christiane Karg, soprano · Elīna Garanča, mezzo-soprano · Singverein der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien, chorus

approximately 85 minutes

Gustav Mahler

85 minutes

1860–1911

Symphony No. 2 in C minor ('Resurrection')

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR

The first movement begins with a shudder in the upper strings and a fierce, striding theme in the cellos and basses. It is a funeral march on a symphonic scale, relieved now and then by a quiet, rising melody in the violins.

The second movement looks back to happier times, an unhurried country dance in the manner of a Ländler, led by the strings. The third is the scherzo drawn from Mahler's song about St Anthony of Padua preaching to the fishes. Its rolling, circular motion goes on and on until the orchestra breaks out in a dissonant cry, and the music sinks away.

The alto then begins "Urlicht" with the words "O Röschen rot", over a soft chorale. It lasts only a few minutes and is the stillest point in the symphony.

The finale bursts in with the same cry and then unfolds as a long sequence of scenes. Horns call from offstage. There are marches and a chorale. Then comes what Mahler called the Great Summons: brass from a distance, and in the hall a solitary flute, like a bird. After a silence the chorus enters, at first almost unaccompanied and as quietly as it can sing: "Aufersteh'n", rise again. The soprano's voice lifts out of the choral sound, the alto and soprano sing Mahler's own verses, and the music builds in stages to the closing hymn, with organ and bells joining the full orchestra.



CONCERT PROGRAMS

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