

Thirty-third Season
Esplanade Concerts

On Storrow Memorial Drive

Arthur Fiedler, Conductor and Founder

Evenings at 8:30, July 2nd through July 15th
(Except Saturday, July 8th, and Thursday, July 13th)

August 21st through 26th

Wednesday mornings at 10:15 to 11:15,
July 5th, 12th, August 23rd, 1961

*“Through the vision and diligence of this native Bostonian,
symphonic music has been brought to thousands in these pleasant
surroundings, since July 4, 1929”*

(L)

— Inscripton at doorway of Hatch Memorial Shell.



OVERTURE "LEONORE," No. 3 — BEETHOVEN (1770-1827).

Of the four overtures which Beethoven composed for his one opera, "Fidelio" — originally entitled "Leonore" — this one has won the highest esteem for performance on the concert stage.

Wagner wrote of it: "This work is no longer an overture, but the mightiest of dramas in itself."

The plot: Florestan, a prominent citizen of Seville, has incurred political enmity, and has disappeared. His wife, Leonore, suspects that the deed was perpetrated by the tyrannical Don Pizarro, governor of the State Prison. Disguising herself as a youth, and taking the name of Fidelio, she obtains employment as a helper to the jailer, Rocco. Thus she learns that a mysterious prisoner is held in solitary confinement in a dungeon nobody but Rocco may enter. She believes the captive to be her husband. When Don Pizarro hears of a forthcoming inspection of the prison by the Minister of Justice, he decides to murder Florestan and hide the evidence. He orders a grave to be dug in the dungeon by Rocco, whereupon Fidelio pluckily obtains assignment as a digger. Don Pizarro enters the dungeon. He is about to stab Florestan, when the supposed youth slips between them, announces that she is the intended victim's wife, and menaces Don Pizarro with a pistol. The Minister of Justice arrives, and the tyrant is marched off to pay the penalty he deserves.

The sombre atmosphere of the prison and the unfortunates within it is relieved by the love affairs of the jailer's daughter, Marzelline. Betrothed to Jaquino, a young turnkey, she develops an infatuation for Fidelio. But when that youth turns out to be a married lady, she gives her heart back to Jaquino.

SYMPHONY NO. 8 — BEETHOVEN (1770-1827).

Sad, worried, in ill health when he composed this score, Beethoven here gives us one of his most joyous works. He had a special affection for this symphony, which he called "my little one."

OVERTURE SOLENNELLE, "1812" — TCHAIKOVSKY

The date is significant of the Battle of Borodino, which to the Russians has a meaning similar to that of the Battle of Bunker Hill to Americans — a technical defeat but a moral victory. Near the village of Borodino, on the Moskva River, General Kutuzov's army and that of Napoleon's invaders, commanded by Marshal Ney, fought from daylight until late afternoon. Losses were great on both sides — more by the Russians than their foes. But even so, the invaders from that day were in a tightening grip of disaster.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 12, at 8:30 o'clock

Harry Ellis Dickson Conducting

Overture to "Leonore" Beethoven

Symphony No. 8, in F major, Op. 93 Beethoven

I. Allegro vivace e con brio

II. Allegretto scherzando

III. Tempo di minuetto

IV. Allegro vivace

The Star-Spangled Banner

Romance in F, for Violin and Orchestra Beethoven

Zigeunerweisen, for Violin and Orchestra Sarasate

Soloist: JULIUS SCHULMAN

*1812, Overture Solennelle Tchaikovsky

There will be no Esplanade Concert on Thursday.

THE SOLOIST AND HIS SOLOS

Julius Schulman, before joining the Boston Symphony Orchestra last season, was Concertmaster, first, of the New Orleans Philharmonic-Symphony; then, of the Little Orchestra of New York. His principal teacher was Efreim Zimbalist.

In the *Romance in F*, Beethoven is by turn tender, agitated, serene.

The *Zigeunerweisen* (Gypsy Tunes) is rated as the best composition of the Spanish violin virtuoso, Pablo Sarasate (1844-1908).

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HENRY B. CABOT

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*Victor Recording by the Boston Pops Orchestra, Arthur Fiedler, Conductor

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1690: *The first American play* was "Gustavus Vasa," written by Benjamin Colman and acted by Harvard students.

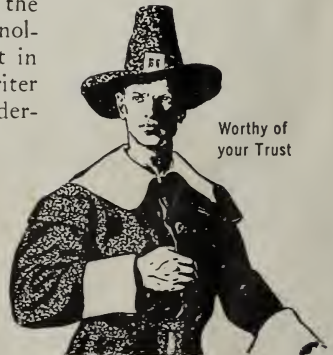
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candlelit stage...



to starlit concerts

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