

## Concerning the First German Printed Edition of Beethoven's *Sinfonia Eroica*

The reproduction of the first German printed score edition of the *Sinfonia Eroica* documented here (N. Simrock, Cologne–Bonn, 1822, No. 1973, 231 pages) was made possible by the generous assistance and permission of the Music Collection of the Austrian National Library in Vienna, to whom kind acknowledgement is due.

This edition is in many ways remarkable. It was the earliest subsequent publication following that of the first score edition, which was brought out in London by Cianchettini & Sperati in 1809. The London edition was made available again in 1975 in a facsimile reprint, while the Simrock score has long been out of print and survives only in the archives of a few libraries.

According to Jonathan Del Mar, editor of the Urtext critical edition of the Beethoven symphonies, the composer himself was not involved in the preparation of this edition. It is, however, the first in which Beethoven's metronome markings, which he added retrospectively, were included, although only at the beginnings of the movements. Apart from this it served as a basis for the later publication of the score in the first Beethoven Complete Edition (Breitkopf and Härtel, Leipzig, 1862).

Photocopies prepared by the Austrian National Library were used for the reproduction of the score. The fragile condition of the 180-year old volume does not permit a perfect reproduction. At many points the left or right edge is slightly distorted, as the fragile volume could not be pressed onto the copy glass very firmly. The extreme discoloration of the paper created some contrast problems: at times the note heads do not come out clearly and some areas of the pages are too dark. The pages were enlarged to A4 format prior to scanning to increase their legibility. The recto and verso pages as well as the two prefatory pages each appear in one frame.

The order of instruments is indicated in the score at the beginning of each movement (1st movement: p. 1; Marcia Funebre: p. 82; Scherzo: p. 124; Trio: p. 139; Finale: p. 163). In contrast to modern usage the timpani appear at the top of the page, then the trumpets (=Clarini) and horns (=Corni). These are followed by the flutes, oboes, clarinets and bassoons, and finally the first and second violins, violas, cellos and double basses, the last two, according to old customs, notated in a single system.

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Translation by John A. Phillips

Title: Sinfonia Eroica (No. III) op.55  
Author: Ludwig van Beethoven  
Publisher: N. Simrock, Bonn & Köln  
Library: Österreichische Nationalbibliothek Wien  
Location: Musiksammlung  
Signature: „SH.Beethoven.254. Mus“  
Original size: 270 x 180 mm, upright