Symphony No. 5, Rehearsal 3

Transposition Inquisition No. 83

Sergei Prokofiev arr. Martorano

About the Composer:

"Russian composer and pianist. He began his career as a composer while still a student, and so had a deep investment in Russian Romantic traditions – even if he was pushing those traditions to a point of exacerbation and caricature – before he began to encounter, and contribute to, various kinds of modernism in the second decade of the new century. Like many artists, he left his country directly after the October Revolution; he was the only composer to return, nearly 20 years later. His inner traditionalism, coupled with the neo-classicism he had helped invent, now made it possible for him to play a leading role in Soviet culture, to whose demands for political engagement, utility and simplicity he responded with prodigious creative energy.



About the Composition:

"Sergei Prokofiev described his Fifth Symphony as "glorifying the human spirit ... praising the free and happy man – his strength, his generosity, and the purity of his soul. I cannot say I chose this theme; it was born in me and had to express itself." In a postwar interview, Prokofiev added, "The Fifth Symphony was a very important composition to me, as it marked my return to the symphonic form after a long interval. I regard it as the culmination of a large period in my creative life. I conceived of it as a symphony on the greatness of the human soul." Indeed, Prokofiev's career reached its zenith with his Fifth Symphony. Soon after its premiere his health began to fail. Although Prokofiev lived another eight years and continued composing, no other work brought him such unqualified praise, both at home and abroad. Prokofiev's countryman, composer Dmitri Kabalevsky, described the Fifth Symphony as "the embodiment of man's courage, energy, and spiritual grandeur."





