

# Major Work By

# Berlioz

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MUSIC

by DR. ENID  
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ONCE again the Burnside Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Black is to perform music by Berlioz, this time a major work, though one seldom heard, the "Symphonie Funebre et Triomphale."

The performance at the Orchestra's next concert, early in December, will be, it seems, the first in Australia—probably the first in the Southern Hemisphere.

The "Symphonie Funebre et Triomphale" was commissioned from Berlioz to commemorate those who had lost their lives in the July Revolution of 1830, and who 10 years later were to be honored by a national burial in the Place de la Bastille.

The music for the march and ceremony was to be provided by massed military bands; so Berlioz planned to write a symphony for wind instruments, virtually turning the bands into an orchestra for the occasion.

But for Berlioz these forces were not enough. For the right balance in an open-air performance he wanted extra wind—oboes, bassoons, and horns; and was forced himself to hire some German horn players then in Paris to swell his numbers.

Berlioz envisaged himself conducting his vast orchestra with a drawn sword, then collapsing over the timpani in fears.

But the music for this ceremonial occasion was not meant to be a personal

expression. Rather was it intended to conjure up a vision of Napoleonic grandeur, not perhaps as it was, but as it might be.

Here the military motive which appears again and again in early 19th century music becomes sublimated. Yet Berlioz, as always, loses himself in his subject; and the "Symphonie Funebre et Triomphale" mirrors his sensibility as an artist no less closely than the ostensibly autobiographical "Symphonie Fantastique."

Even Berlioz had doubts about how this music, poorly played as he expected it to be, might sound in the open air. So he invited the public to the final indoor rehearsals with 207 instrumentalists.

It was here that Wagner heard it, and, calling it "great from the first note to the last," confessed himself at last "convinced of the greatness and enterprise of this incomparable master."