

NJRO

Report of our October 4, 2009 reading session

It was crowded! Probably our largest group ever; I counted 25 people, and I'll be embarrassed if I leave out anyone, but here goes. Celli: Innes Borstel, Ruth Lepp, Ed Davis and a newcomer Ashley Borders. Violas: Peggy LaVake, Isa Borstel and another welcome newcomer Charlotte Lin. 2nd violins: Dave Crowell, Noriko Kubo, Barbara Bivin and Ellen Hill. 1st violins: Herb Steiner, Luba Schnabel, Barbara Brandyberry, Dan Daniels, Peggy Reynolds. Bass: Bob Whitely. Woodwinds: Alice Marcus, Steve Lepp, Jeff Ladolcetta, Laura Papparatto, Kent Weisert, Aaron Abramovitz. Piano (and missing horns and percussion) Evan Schwartzman, and of course, Maestro Steve Culbertson. Click [here](#) to see the photo album.

We read Haydn Symphonies 99 and 100 and the first three movements of Schumann's Symphony No. 3, the Rhenish.

Symphonies 99 and 100 were the 7th and 8th of Haydn's London Symphonies. Wikipedia reports that No. 99 was the first Haydn Symphony to be scored for clarinets. No. 100 derives its nickname "The Military" from the second movement, "which features prominent fanfares written for C-trumpets and percussion effects. One reviewer wrote after the premiere that the second movement evoked the "'hellish roar of war increas[ing] to a climax of horrid sublimity!" (quoted in Landon, Haydn, III, 247). Evan's piano coverage of percussion and trumpets was certainly sublime, if not horrid.

Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony was completed in 1851, three years before his attempted suicide in its namesake river, the Rhein. I recall an NET-tv show in the late '90's wherein Kurt Mazur conducts a young orchestra in excerpts from the Rhenish and he describes Schumann, as revealed in this music, as someone desperately striving to be happy, but could never be happy. I found this [you-tube link](#) to a 1995 Kurt Mazur/NY Phil presentation of the fourth movement. You may want to check it out, just in case we get a chance to read the 4th movement at our next session on Oct. 18.

Speaking of which, here is the music Steve has planned for the 10/18 session (new time, 7 pm):
All Beethoven: Egmont Overture, Symphony No. 5 and Piano Concerto No. 3

