

# Essential Symphonic Repertoire

**Criteria:** Pieces by (mostly) non-living composers, playable by standard, modern instruments, appearing frequently in recordings and performances by American orchestras and which constitute a musical statement of large scope in a concert setting. In general, “overtures” and “concerti” are excluded.

## First Tier:

Bartok	Concerto for Orchestra	Holst	The Planets
Beethoven	Symphonies (9)	Mahler	Symphonies (9)
Berlioz	Symphonie Fantastique	Mendelssohn	Symphonies (5) (Nos. 3-5)
Brahms	Symphonies (4)	Mozart	Requiem
Brahms	Variations on a Theme of Haydn	Mozart	Symphonies (Nos. 31, 35, 38-41)
Bruckner	Symphonies (9) (Nos. 3-9)	Mussorgsky	Pictures at an Exhibition (orch. Ravel)
Copland	Appalachian Spring	Orff	Carmina Burana
Debussy	Prelude a l'apres-midi d'une faune	Rimsky-Korsakov	Scheherazade
Debussy	La Mer	Schubert	Symphonies (9) (Nos. 8 & 9)
Dvorak	Symphonies (9) (Nos. 6-9)	Sibelius	Symphonies (7) (2, 5 & 7)
Franck	Symphony in D minor	Stravinsky	The Rite of Spring
Gershwin	Rhapsody in Blue	Tchaikovsky	Symphonies (6) (Nos. 4, 5, 6)
Handel	Messiah	Wagner	Prelude to "Tristan und Isolde"
Haydn, F.J.	"London" Symphonies (Nos. 93-104)		

## Second Tier:

Bartok	Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste	Grieg	Lyric Suite
Bartok	The Miraculous Mandarin	Grieg	Peer Gynt Suites
Beethoven	Missa Solemnis	Handel	Music for the Royal Fireworks
Bernstein	Chichester Psalms	Handel	Water Music
Bernstein	Symphonic Dances from "West Side Story"	Haydn, F.J.	The Creation
Bizet	Carmen Suites	Hindemith	Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes of Carl Maria von Weber
Bizet	L'Arlesienne Suites	Hindemith	Symphony "Mathis der Maler"
Bizet	Symphony in C	Janacek	Sinfonietta
Borodin	Polovtsian Dances from "Prince Igor"	Kodaly	Hary Janos Suite
Brahms	Ein Deutsches Requiem	Ligeti	Atmospheres
Britten	Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell (The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra)	Lutoslawski	Symphonies (4) (Nos. 3 & 4)
Britten	War Requiem	Mahler	Das Lied von der Erde
Copland	Symphonies (3) (No. 3)	Mahler	Kindertotenlieder
Debussy	Nocturnes	Mendelssohn	Incidental Music to "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Debussy	Images	Mussorgsky	A Night on Bald Mountain (orch. Rimsky-Korsakov)
Dukas	The Sorcerer's Apprentice	Nielsen	Symphonies (6) (Nos. 3-5)
Elgar	Pomp & Circumstance Marches (4)	Poulenc	Gloria
Elgar	Variations on an Original Theme (Enigma)	Prokofiev	Romeo & Juliet Suites
Gershwin	An American in Paris	Prokofiev	Symphonies (7) (Nos. 1 & 5)
		Rachmaninoff	Symphonic Dances
		Rachmaninoff	Symphonies (3) (No. 2)
		Ravel	Bolero

Ravel	Daphnis et Chloe
Ravel	La Valse
Ravel	Ma Mere l'Oye
Respighi	Fountains of Rome
Respighi	Pines of Rome
Rimsky-Korsakov	Capriccio Espagnol
Rodrigo	Concierto de Aranjuez
Saint-Saens	Symphony No. 3
Schoenberg	Five Orchestral Pieces
Schoenberg	Orchestral Variations
Schumann, R.	Symphonies (4)
Shostakovich	Symphonies (15) (Nos. 1, 5, 7, 9, 10)
Sibelius	Tone Poems (Finlandia, Tapiola, The Oceanides)

Smetana	Ma Vlast (esp. "The Moldau")
Strauss, R.	Also sprach Zarathustra
Strauss, R.	Death and Transfiguration
Strauss, R.	Don Juan
Strauss, R.	Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche
Stravinsky	Petroushka
Stravinsky	The Firebird
Tchaikovsky	Capriccio Italien
Tchaikovsky	Romeo & Juliet
Vaughan Williams	Symphonies (9) (Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7)
Verdi	Requiem
Wagner	Highlights from "Der Ring des Nibelungen"

### Third Tier:

Barber	Symphony No. 1
Beethoven	Choral Fantasia
Berg	Lyric Suite
Berg	Three Orchestral Pieces
Berlioz	Requiem
Berlioz	The Damnation of Faust
Bernstein	Symphonies (3)
Britten	Four Sea Interludes from "Peter Grimes"
Britten	Sinfonia da Requiem
Bruckner	Te Deum
Chabrier	España
Dvorak	Stabat Mater
Elgar	Symphonies (2)
Falla	El Amor Brujo
Falla	The Three-Cornered Hat
Faure	Pelleas et Mellisande
Faure	Requiem
Ginastera	Estancia Suite
Gorecki	Symphony No. 3
Honnegger	Pacific 231
Hovhaness	Symphonies (67)(No. 2)
Ibert	Escales
Ives	Symphonies (4) (No. 4)
Ives	Three Places in New England
Janacek	Glagolitic Mass
Janacek	Taras Bulba
Liszt	Tone Poems (Les Preludes, Mazeppa)
Liszt	A Faust Symphony
Mendelssohn	Elijah
Messiaen	Turangalila-Symphonie
Milhaud	Le Boeuf sur le Toit
Milhaud	La Creation du Monde

Mozart	Serenade No. 10 ("Gran Partita")
Penderecki	Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima
Prokofiev	Lieutenant Kije Suite
Prokofiev	Peter and the Wolf
Ravel	Alborada del Gracioso
Ravel	Pavane pour une Infante Defunte
Respighi	Church Windows
Rossini	Stabat Mater
Schoenberg	Pelleas und Mellisande
Schoenberg	Verklarte Nacht
Schuman, W.	New England Tryptych
Scriabin	Poem of Ecstasy
Scriabin	Prometheus
Sibelius	The Swan of Tuonela
Strauss, R.	Don Quixote
Strauss, R.	Ein Alpensinfonie
Strauss, R.	Ein Heldenleben
Strauss, R.	Sinfonia Domestica
Stravinsky	Oedipus Rex
Stravinsky	Pulcinella
Stravinsky	Symphony in Three Movements
Stravinsky	Symphony of Psalms
Tchaikovsky	Francesca da Rimini
Tchaikovsky	Serenade for Strings
Varese	Ameriques
Villa-Lobos	Bachianas Brasileiras
Wagner	Siegfried Idyll
Webern	Im Sommerwind
Webern	Passacaglia
Webern	Symphony, Op. 21