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KNOW YOUR CLASSICS

THIS is the final article of a series written for "The Listener" by BESSIE POLLARD, and designed to help the student and the interested listener towards a more complete appreciation of good music. A further series of articles will appear later.

(16) Piano Concerto in D Minor, K.466 (Mozart)

MOZART'S Concerto in D Minor, K.466, is one of the most deservedly popular and representative of his twenty-four standard piano concertos. These may be roughly divided into three periods (1) The Salzburg (Kochel 175, 238, 242, 246, 271, 365), from 1773 to 1780; (2) The Vienna (Kochel 382, 413, 414, 415), appearing in 1782; (3) The "mature" period (Kochel 449, 450, 451, 453, 456, 459, 466, 467, 482, 488, 491, 503, 537, and 595), dating from 1784 to 1791.

The D minor Concerto was completed in February 1785 and the solo part was played by Mozart at a subscription concert on February 11. Of this performance, Mozart's father wrote: "Wolfgang played a new splendid concerto on which, as we arrived yesterday, the copyist was still busy. He had not even time to play through the Rondo-Finale before the concert, as he had to look over and revise the parts."

The first movement begins with the customary long orchestral Tutti with this dramatic and impassioned theme predominating:



Later, the soloist announces this main theme:



Then a short bridge passage ("A" below), treated conversationally by woodwind and soloist, leads to a subsidiary theme ("B" below).



The usual working out and re-statement sections follow; the Coda is masterly, including references to the dramatic opening phrase.

The second movement is a lovely Romance, of great charm and melodic beauty; the main theme is treated antiphonally by soloist and orchestra. There is a more animated middle section, presented by soloist and sustained woodwind, mainly; and the re-statement is slightly altered, and extended by a Coda. Here is the main theme of the Romance:



The Finale, a vivacious Rondo, is based on a characteristic progression of the period, known as the "Mannheim Rocket." This is an ascending arpeggio figure built on the notes of the common chord, used by composers of Mozart's period, and also later by Beethoven. The Rondo-Finale's main theme, forming the core of the movement, begins



Mozart's Piano Concerto in D Minor, K.466, will be heard from Station 4YZ Invercargill, at 9.35 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26.