

# Music, Politics and the Imagination: Béla Bartók's

## Concerto for Orchestra

*Written by Howard S. Meltzer*

*Every true work of art arises out of the particular and real alternatives of its time. The means for the dynamic rendering of these alternatives is what we are accustomed to call style, which requires a two-fold investigation. One must consider the what of the human content in the alternatives and in the meaningful responses to these alternatives; and second, the how in the artistic expression, the way in which the human reactions to the world are articulated and fixed aesthetically.*[\[1\]](#)

Béla Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, composed in 1943 and first performed on December 1, 1944, has achieved a political profile as a work believed to express the composer's reaction to the Second World War and his own status as an exile. Musical works may come to be regarded as political through two very different sets of criteria. In one case, an explicitly political text (sung, recited or presented in the program), the stated intentions of the composer, or the function of the piece (as an anthem, as part of a ceremony) may justify our considering the piece as a political statement. In contrast, music may also be received as political either through association with the circumstances surrounding creation of work or reception of work. Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra fits the second condition. The work has been imagined as political, not presented by the composer as such. In this essay, I shall consider how a work comes to be received as political.

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Musical works, notated works, are peculiarly anchored in the <sup>asda</sup>  
past and the present. At a piano recital, a string quartet or  
orchestral concert, the performers will often pass through three  
centuries of musical works. The performances will all be  
present events, the works themselves bound, one imagines, to a  
particular historical moment (revealed through the work's  
style). With knowledge of its historical status, the listener  
reflects on the circumstances of the work's composition. In her  
response to the performance, the listener has an immediate  
engagement with the work in the present. Georg Lukács's  
statement, from the preface to *Writer and Critic* was directed towards  
painting (Cezanne) and literature. To what extent might it apply to a  
work by music, specifically a work by Lukács's friend and fellow  
countryman, Béla Bartók? If a work reveals its status as historical  
artifact, does it also reveal the conditions under which it was  
composed?

Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra is one of several musical works  
composed during or immediately after the Second World War that have  
acquired distinct political and historical associations. It is an  
unlikely candidate for this status. Unlike Olivier Messaien's  
*Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps*, composed in prisoner of war camp in  
Silesia or Arnold Schoenberg's "A Survivor from Warsaw," with its  
text chronicling the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Bartók's work has  
no obvious biographical or textual connection with the war. Bartók  
was in exile in New York in poor health and financial distress, but  
arguably not in immediate physical danger.<sup>[21]</sup> The Koussevitsky Music  
Foundation commissioned the work. Since the 1920's, Bartók had  
composed works regarded as absolute music, chamber music - sonatas and  
string quartets, concerti, the Music for Strings, Percussion and  
Celeste. The Concerto for Orchestra might well be regarded as another  
work removed from all extra-musical associations.

Bartók's writings support this view of the work. His only public  
explanation of the work describes its structure and mood, but alludes  
neither to the war nor to his personal exile. The work's fourth  
movement, the "Interrupted Intermezzo," contains a musical quotation,  
the single overt connection to politics. The source of the quotation  
is contested, leading to two different interpretations of the  
movement's political significance. In the absence of an explicit  
statement by Bartók, the validity of a political interpretation raises  
two distinct issues.

First, there is a question of musical meaning. The content of purely musical sounds has always been questioned. Whether or not one regards political critique as the province of artworks, there seems little reason to doubt that literature or the plastic arts, painting and sculpture, could engage in critique. Words and images are the common currency of political expression. Although musical works are created at a particular historical moment (and if Lukács's statement applies to music, embodies that moment), the assertion that musical works could indeed either comment on or reflect history, and politics is in itself problematic. Instrumental sounds are not obvious signs or symbols as words or images are.

Second, there is a question of evaluation. Literary works, paintings, and sculptures with overt political content run the risk of being labeled propaganda or kitsch. The same might be said of musical works if we admit the possibility that they could function as political commentary. Great music (as well as other artworks) may be regarded as existentially autonomous, created and received without reference to the circumstances of its composition. Independent of outside concerns, whether political or biographical, the musical material generates the work, following what could be loosely termed a musical logic. Extra-musical associations, political pressure, historical concerns distort the work. Indeed, Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, one alleged source of Bartók's quotation in the Concerto, has been viewed as work structurally distorted by its programmatic elements.

We assume that music speaks to something beyond merely a spinning out of notes, however elegantly we can demonstrate the interrelationships of pitch and duration within the work. Since the composer's death in 1945, Bartók's work has most often been evaluated through analysis of compositional technique. While a view of the work as a political statement was not necessarily foremost or immediate in these earlier critiques of the Concerto for Orchestra, claims of political content recur in more recent writing. The reception of Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra as a political commentary may be an act of the listener's imagination, one not warranted by the work itself, but only by extra-musical factors. In other words, it is dependent upon the sense of the past in the present performance, a sense derived from knowledge of the work's origins. Essentially, critical response to Bartók's

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Concerto for Orchestra reflects an ongoing tension between opposed  
views of instrumental music itself.

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Purely instrumental music gained ascendance in the latter half of the eighteenth century, as exemplified by the symphonies and chamber music of Mozart and Haydn. With the rise of instrumental music came questions regarding its possible content, apparent in both Rousseau's writings about music and in Kant's *Critique of Judgment*. Musical expression had long been linked to expression of a text. Rousseau maintained that music did not reach the level of the other imitative arts, in that the imitation was not immediate as in painting or prose. In his definition of "Sonata" from the 1768 *Dictionary of Music* he (perhaps peevishly) wrote:

*In order to know what all these heaps of sonatas mean, one would have to follow the example of the inept painter who must label his figures, this is a tree, this is a man, this is a horse. I shall never forget the sally of the celebrated Fontenelle, who finding himself overburdened with these interminable Symphonies cried out in a fit of impatience, 'Sonata what do you want of me'?[31]*

On his part Kant, writing in *The Critique of Judgment* claimed:

*If on the other hand, we estimate the worth of the fine arts by the culture they supply to the mind, and adopt for our standard the expansion of the faculties whose confluence, in judgement, is necessary for cognition, music, then, since it plays merely with sensations, has the lowest place among the fine arts—just as it has the highest among those valued at the same time for their agreeableness...Music advances from sensations to indefinite ideas; formative art from definite ideas to sensations. The latter gives a lasting impression, the former one that is only fleeting.[41]*

During the nineteenth century, composers and writers offered two different responses to Rousseau and Kant. One response, the solution advanced by advocates of program music, provided explicit content through text and title. The other denied the necessity of specific content and justify music as abstract sound structure. This response leads to the definition of absolute music. Though the term “absolute music” was coined in the nineteenth century, the rationale for absolute music was given in the eighteenth. Responding to Rousseau, Charles Burney suggested that instrumental works were admired for their structures, the composer’s inventiveness in presenting and developing musical materials.

*The famous question, therefore, of Fontenelle: Sonata, que veux tu? to which all such recur as have not ears capable of vibrating in the sweetness of well-modulated sounds, would never have been asked by a real lover or judge of Music. But men of wit of all countries being accustomed to admiration and reverence in speaking upon subjects within their competence, forget, or hope the world forgets, that a good poet, painter, physician, or philosopher, is no more likely to be a good musician without study, practice and good ears, than another man. But if a lover and judge of Music had asked the same question as Fontenelle; the Sonata should answer: ‘I would have you listen with attention and delight to the ingenuity of the composition, the neatness of the execution, sweetness of melody, and the richness of harmony, as well as to the charms of refined tones, lengthened and polished into passion.*[\[5\]](#)

Burney’s statement suggests that music be valued simply as music, needing no further justification for its existence. No content was to be inferred because none was necessary for the appreciation of the work. In the nineteenth century, this claim for music’s intrinsic value is associated with Eduard Hanslick, whose *On the Musically Beautiful* (1854) set forth the following premise: “The

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ideas which the composer produces are first and foremost purely musical ideas. To his imaginations there appears a particular

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beautiful melody. It exists for no other purpose than simply to be itself.”[\[6\]](#)

Hanslick specifies what he regards as the content on an artwork.

*Whatever the content of a work of literary or visual art may be can be expressed in words and traced back to a concept: We say that this picture represents a flower girl, this statue a gladiator, that poem one of Roland's exploits. The more or less perfect fusion of such a definite content into the artistic phenomenon, then, is the basis of our judgment concerning the beauty of the artwork.*[\[7\]](#)

While Hanslick's concept of content may strike a contemporary reader as impossibly narrow or simplistic, it reflects a view common enough in the nineteenth century and sets up the distinction between music and other art forms. In music, according to Hanslick, form and content are identical. “The content of music is tonally moving form.”[\[8\]](#) One consequence of adopting Hanslick's view would be to measure the success or value of a particular musical work by the degree to which the work's form, the development of its musical material, was evident to the listener.

Consider Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. This work will serve as a model for music for music's sake, as it seems to meet the criteria I just suggested. A clearly identifiable motive is presented immediately; its presence and development can be traced through the four movements of the work. Beethoven has made the link among the four movements not only obvious aurally, but forced performance of the four movements as a unit by eliminating the break between the third and fourth movements. This suggests Beethoven intended the work to be heard as a

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whole, in contrast to previous performance practice where a symphony's individual movements might be separated in performance. In generating the large-scale work from a single idea and unifying the symphony as a cycle, Beethoven's work invites a view of a musical work as an organic whole, a work that has grown naturally and inevitably from a musical seed.

By demanding the listener's attention over forty minutes, Beethoven's work also raises the question of significance. If a composer demands forty minutes of your life, what will you receive in return? If Hanslick suggested that our apprehension of form is sufficient reason to value a work, Beethoven's contemporaries did not regard form as the only source of value. In an 1810 review, E.T.A. Hoffmann wrote:

*In a similar way, Beethoven's instrumental music unveils before us the realm of the mighty and the immeasurable. Here shining rays of light through the darkness of night, and we become aware of giant shadows swaying back and forth, moving ever closer around us and destroying within us all feeling but the pain of infinite yearning, in which every desire, leaping up in sounds of exultation sinks back and disappears. Only in this pain, in which love, hope and joy are consumed without being destroyed, which threatens to burst our hearts with a full-chorused cry of all the passions, do we live on as ecstatic visionaries.*[\[9\]](#)

Hoffmann's comments are those of an enthusiastic listener, one indulging his imagination without invoking the composer's intention to provide content. Beethoven's one-time secretary and factotum Anton Schindler ascribed the oft-cited "Fate knocking at the door" to Beethoven himself. Writing in his 1840 biography, *Beethoven as I Knew Him*, Schindler claimed,

*In the crown of the master's symphonic creations, the C minor*

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symphony stands next to the Pastoral. Indeed, as free poetry which, ~~though independent of all outer influences, still owes its~~

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existence to external forces, it surpasses the Pastoral and represents the greatest triumph in instrumental music up to that time. Among of the hundreds of compositions written by many masters, no work bears out more fully than Beethoven's C minor symphony the maxim that every true work of art is a realization of the divine, whose purpose it is to confer the loftiest blessing on man by the enlightenment of the earthy and the spiritualization of the sensual as well as by the sensualization of the spirit. What a marvelous union of pathos, majesty, mystery, and grandeur is contained in those four movements! What a life of poetry this work unfolds before our senses, allowing us to see into its depths! The composer himself provided the key to those depths when one day, in this author's presence, he pointed to the beginning of the first movement and expressed in these words the fundamental idea of his work: 'Thus Fate knocks at the door!' [\[10\]](#)

Schindler's comment led to an interpretation of the symphony as the triumph of an individual (whether Beethoven himself or some unnamed avatar) over fate, represented by the transition from the minor mode of the first movement to the major mode of the finale. The four-note motive plays its role as the constant presence of fate through all four movements; perhaps fate displayed in four "seasons" of the protagonist's life. Supposedly licensed by Beethoven himself, such interpretations would place the work in the company of literary or visual artworks (Thomas Cole's *Voyage of Life* comes to mind) or prefigure Berlioz's overtly programmatic *Symphonie fantastique*.

Thus Hanslick's remarks in *On the Musically Beautiful* can be understood as a response to the claims made by writers like Hoffmann and Schindler as well as a defense of music as an abstract art of tone. The skepticism regarding narrative interpretations of the Fifth Symphony continued into the twentieth century with writers debating the content of Beethoven's works. Theorist and writer Heinrich Schenker wrote in 1921:



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“Even if we accept that there was a connection between the rhythm of this motive and the idea of a Fate knocking at the door, it is nevertheless only the office of art, not of Fate, which has responsibility for this knocking. And if one wished to offer a hermeneutic interpretation, that Beethoven was wrestling with Fate throughout the movement, then it would not be Fate alone that participated in this struggle but also Beethoven himself: but not merely Beethoven the man, but even more so Beethoven the musician. If Beethoven wrestled in tones, then no legend, no hermeneutic interpretation can offer a satisfactory explanation of the tonal world, unless one thinks and feels with these tones exactly as they themselves think, so to speak. Anyone who, in spite of everything, still finds it difficult to rid himself of the musical and metrical nonsense on account of the legends, merely has to consider that Beethoven developed a similar note repetition in the contemporaneous piano concerto; was it perhaps another door at which Fate knocked, or was Fate knocking at the same door, only in a different way?”[\[111\]](#)

Schenker’s comments could be regarded as a theorist defending music analysis as a valid discipline (valuing structure over any intimation of content). Roman Ingarden’s writings are my final example of a philosopher rejecting any notion of musical content. His views on musical content are best understood as the counterexample to his conception of literary works, a conception developed in two works written in the 1930’s, *The Literary Work of Art* and *The Cognition of the Literary Work of Art*. In Ingarden’s conception, a literary work has level of sound (the sounds of the words themselves), a level of meaning of words and sentences, a level of objects, and a level of interrelationships.[\[121\]](#) In a literary work, sound is merely one level with which the reader interacts. A musical work, however, is only a sheer sensory experience of sounds, sounds which do not interact with a level of semantic meaning, objects projected by that semantic meaning, or relationships among those objects. Ingarden thus contrasts the single stratum of the musical work with the multiple strata, or levels of meaning in painting and literature. In a musical work, there is no place for the listener to locate meaning:

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*The notion that some musical works perform the function of expression or presentation leads to the supposition that in this respect the musical work and the literary work are related. Now the literary work performs those functions by virtue of the stratum of phonological formation and the stratum of meaning units occurring in its total structure; thus one is led to believe that meanings in the musical work are borne by individual musical motifs...the musical work contains within itself no stratum of linguistic units of meaning. Consequently, no states of affairs projected by sentences and hence no objectivities presented by these can occur in the musical work as elements of it.*[\[13\]](#)

Since there is no room in a musical work for (social, political or other) meaning, , a listener who adopts the notion that the work has content mishears the work.

*Thus, whoever, upon hearing a musical work, imagines certain objects or objectual situations or events and in this imagining actualizes the corresponding aspects, that person in doing so goes beyond the proper content of the musical work; under the influence of the musical work which can be absent (and indeed ought not to take place) without the aesthetic apprehension of the musical work itself being in any way impaired. For these literary fantasies distort and adulterate the aesthetic apprehension of the musical work.*[\[14\]](#)

In spite of this lack of specific meaning, Ingarden values the listener's experience of music, that is purely instrumental music. The shift in thinking from Kant and Rousseau to Schenker and Ingarden is in that valuation. Curiously, once pure music is valued, even the writers most committed to an appreciation based solely on the

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experience of sound itself attach significance to musical works beyond  
the sheer enjoyment of the relationship among tones. Hanslick and  
Ingarden suggest that music has other aspects that are valuable.

Hanslick's later writings suggest an acceptance of some notion of content, even where Hanslick wrote about his favorite composer of symphonies and "standard-bearer" for absolute music, Johannes Brahms.

*Even the layman will immediately recognize it as one of the most individual and magnificent works of the, symphonic literature. In the first movement, the listener is held by fervent emotional expression, by Faustian conflicts, and by a contrapuntal art as rich as it is severe.*[\[15\]](#)

Ingarden, writing about non-sounding elements in *The Identity of the Musical Work* also appeals to emotion:

*From what I have just said, it will be clear that I recognize the existence of emotional qualities within a musical work. They appear upon specific sound-constructs, both of a higher and of a lower order, and sometimes they permeate the whole of the work in a characteristic way. In 'emotional qualities,' I include both purely emotional 'feeling' qualities and qualities of desires, states of excitement, satisfaction, and exultation. When we take 'emotional qualities' in the wide sense we detect their presence in many musical works. Sometimes even the coloring of a sound carries a specific emotional character, as in, say, the opening bars of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* Symphony.*[\[16\]](#)

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Bartók's own statement about the Concerto for Orchestra reflects this somewhat equivocal attitude towards musical content. After explaining the title "by its tendency to treat the single instruments or instrument groups in a 'concertant' or soloistic manner" and then devoting three paragraphs to the formal structures of the various movements, he closed with this comment:

*The general mood of the work represents—apart from the jesting second movement—a gradual transition from the sternness of the first movement and the lugubrious death-song of the third, to the life-assertion of the last one.*[\[17\]](#)

It is evident that debate over the value of instrumental music continued without resolution from the mid-eighteenth century through Bartók's lifetime (and continues to the present day). While philosophers and critics may have begun the debate, composers, whether through direct statements in prose or more obliquely through titles and commentaries for compositions, participated in the debate as well. The recurring issue of absolute music's value is not merely an abstraction, but shapes composition as well.

Composers, whether or not they are also performers (as Bartók was), are continually faced with works by their predecessors. This familiarity can be thought of as a liability. The debate regarding absolute music was as much a question of originality as a question of content. As formal structures became the subject of textbook study in the mid-nineteenth century (as in the work of A.B. Marx), Liszt and Wagner argued that composers of absolute music simply followed patterns invented by their predecessors. In contrast, following a poetic conception, as was the practice in program music, not only guaranteed musical content, but fostered originality. Each work would have its own pattern of introduction and development of themes. In the view of Liszt and Wagner, Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven had created their musical forms ex nihilo; Schumann and Brahms merely imitated.

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Bartók's comments about the Concerto reveal his rejection of Liszt and <sup>as d</sup>  
Wagner's views on form, as he is explicit in stating his use of  
established formal patterns.

This has been part of the appeal of Bartók's music for analysts. In his most clearly cyclic works, the Music for Strings Percussion and Celeste for one, a single theme unifies the four movements of the work, like Beethoven's Fifth. The work under consideration, the Concerto for Orchestra, while not cyclic, suggests developmental processes similar to, if not demonstrably derived from Beethoven's and Brahms's works.

A tradition of learned devices, reworked or made original, can be traced through works of absolute music. The fugue that opens the Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste contains elements of fugues written by Bach (and those of Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms who continued writing fugues), yet also varies the structure (the full circle of fifths). As was the case with the finale of Brahms's Fourth Symphony, a passacaglia that reworks a movement from a Bach Cantata, works like Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celeste almost invite analysis because of obvious references to earlier works.

In the appendix I offer a brief sketch of the opening measures of the Concerto for Orchestra's first movement to suggest the compositional processes that tie Bartók's work to "traditional" forms.

Even the most informal writing about Bartók began by considering the composer's mastery of technique. Although the reviewer Olin Downes in his comments on the work's premiere spoke of the emotional impact of the work, the review begins by citing Bartók's reputation as a

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composer for the intellect:

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*This was due in the first place to the fact that the score is by no means the nut to crack that other of Bartók's late works have offered. It is a wide departure for its author's harsher and more cerebral style. There might even be the assumption, with an artist of less sincerity than this one, that he had adopted a simpler and more melodic manner with the intention of an appeal to a wider public...But that would not be Mr. Bartók's motive. Nor would the emotional sequence of this music or the care with which it has evidently been fashioned support such an assumption. What is evident is the courage, which this composer has never lacked in striking out, in his late years, in new directions.*[\[18\]](#)

More recent commentary has sought extra-musical explanations and justification. David Cooper's monograph on the Concerto begins with the premise that the work is significant, a comment in keeping with Lukács's remarks cited at the beginning of this essay.

*The Concerto is historically embedded in a world in crisis. Written at the turning point of the Second World War, it forms the most powerful of Requiems, one that perhaps only an atheist could have written. It is a lament for man's inhumanity to man, but also a positive vision of a world in a kind of harmony in which chaos and order, the primeval enemies, are held in dynamic equilibrium.*[\[19\]](#)

How has this view of the work developed? The answer lies in our view of the reception of musical works. As I have stressed earlier in the essay, even those writers most committed to a strictly formalist view of musical content, that is that work is

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simply a construct of sounds following an internal musical logic,  
~~are unwilling to abandon some notion of significance beyond that~~

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formal structure. On one hand, a host of writings, some addressed to concert-goers, students, and laymen proceed from the assumption that biographical data is as essential to an understanding of musical works as explication of structure and style critique.

Judit Frigyesi's study, *Béla Bartók and Turn-of-the-Century Budapest*, is an exemplar of the range of materials that we regard as influences on the composer. Beginning with a consideration of nationality and ethnicity, Frigyesi traces Bartók's education, readings and personal associations, to understand the background of the work.

Frigyesi presents a "theory of organicism," traced through Nietzsche, to Lukács, the composers of Second Viennese School, and Bartók.<sup>[20]</sup> In presenting an analysis of segments of the Concerto, I have demonstrated how the work might be viewed as "growing" from a limited amount of pitch material. Analysis and analytic methods, then, are not entirely internal to the piece, but themselves refer to prevailing concepts which have emerged from a particular historical context. Bartók's Concerto demonstrates coherence under a certain set of assumptions. Much the same may be said concerning Bartók's presumed expression of nationalism or religion, the attributions Cooper makes in his statement about the Concerto. Frigyesi's work provides evidence of Bartók's interest in Hungarian culture, both the urban culture of Budapest and the rural culture of the agrarian communities Bartók visited to collect folk music. In comparing Bartók with poet Endre Ady, she suggests that the very act of collecting folk music represents a particular stance.

*Within the context of this controversy [radical politics in turn of the century Hungary], Bartók's discovery of peasant music has political significance. Bartók's attitude was by no means intentionally political. His ethnomusicological thesis was presented in a scholarly manner and the results of his research were in essence, independent of aesthetic and political considerations.*<sup>[21]</sup>

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In this statement, by no means intentionally, Frigyesi has stated the heart of the matter. Musicians make political statements whether they wish to or not. In the broadest sense, this concept plays into our sense that artworks on the whole may express more than their creators consciously intended. In particular, we seem to have adopted Adorno's view that music (and art in general) expresses the composer's (and artists) life as a political being, whether that is consciously intended.

What allows us to regard Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra as political? There are indeed elements in the work, the appearance of themes, patterns of rhythm, elements of formal structure that serve as evidence. There are statements attributed to Bartók that articulate a political critique. The question that remains is that of the warrant. Is it licit to connect the extra-musical to the musical and hear the work not in isolation, but with knowledge of specific circumstances (not the general historical background of the work)? The matter is made more tendentious by the manner in which the extra-musical associations emerge, revealed not with the initial performances of the work, but afterwards, through analysis and reportage.

In sum, we seem to operate with the following tacit belief. As we move further and further in time from the work, we gain a true understanding of the work. It is as if the circumstances of the work's creation are a chrysalis from which the true work, its essence, emerges. We are then able to judge (to continue the simile), whether the work is a moth or a butterfly. Analysis, in its attempt to view the work in isolation, operates with this belief (along with the concomitant belief that analytic methods are akin to scientific theories, not tied to the particular time in which they were created or employed, but also achieving a more satisfactory understanding of the work with each improved or more powerful method). This runs counter to the idea I suggested at the opening of the paper, that musical works are peculiarly tied to the past, even as they are performed and received in the present.

While valued as absolute music, the Concerto for Orchestra is also valued as a reflection of Bartók's experience in the world. It



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seems to me that Hanslick's and Ingarden's own difficulties in

maintaining the completely isolated and abstract status of

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instrumental music reflect the inability of any listener to hear a musical work without placing it in some context. Musical works are heard both in reference to other musical works and to our knowledge of the work's history. The past resonates in the present experience of the work. If that past is that of an exile in New York during World War II, it would be difficult to *imagine the work* as not being influenced by the circumstances of its composition. That is precisely my point. The political interpretation of Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra resides in the listener, not in the piece itself. In light of the composer's reticence to speak directly, absolute music as political statement is perhaps best understood as a product of the imagination of the listener. That it resides in the listener's experience does not render it less valid or meaningful; we value artworks for the responses they provoke.

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[1] Georg Lukács, *Writer and Critic*, (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1971), 18-19.

[2] The circumstances of Bartók's final years in New York have been differently evaluated. For what appears to be a relatively balanced assessment, see Tibor Tallián, "Bartók's Reception in America, 1940-1945" in *Bartók and his World* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).

[3] Rousseau, *Dictionary of Music*, 1768, in Weiss, Taruskin, 287-288. The original may be found in Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Oeuvres complètes*, V (Paris: Éditions Gallimard, 1995), 1059-1060.

[4] Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgement*, translated Meredith (London: Oxford University Press, 1982): 195

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[5] Charles Burney, *A General History, Volume II*, (New York: Dover Publications, 1957), 11.

[6] Hanslick, *On the Musically Beautiful*, translated Geoffrey Payzant, (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1986) 10.

[7] Hanslick, 8.

[8] Hanslick, *On the Musically Beautiful*, 29.

[9] E.T.A. Hoffmann, "Review: Beethoven's Fifth Symphony" in Ian Bent, *Music Analysis in the 19th Century*, Volume 2 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 146.

[10] Anton Felix Schindler, *Beethoven as I Knew Him*, translated Constance S. Jolly, (New York: Dover Publications, 1996), 147.

[11] Schenker, "Beethoven's Fifth Symphony," in *Der Tonwille*, Volume, I, translated William Drabkin, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 29.

[12] A brief summary of Ingarden's views on literature can be found in the translator's preface to *The Cognition of the Literary Work of Art*. (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1973).

[13] Roman Ingarden, *Ontology of the Work of Art*, translated Raymond Meyer (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1989), 31

[14] Ibid.

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[15] Eduard Hanslick, *Music Criticisms 1846-99*, translated Henry Pleasants (Hammondsworth: Penguin Books Ltd., 1950), 126.

[16] Roman Ingarden, *The Work of Music and the Problem of Its Identity*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986), 97-98.

[17] Béla Bartók, "Explanation to Concerto for Orchestra," in *Béla Bartók Essays*, selected and edited by Benjamin Suchoff, (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1976), 431.

[18] Olin Downes, "Bartók Concerto Introduced Here," *The New York Times*, January 11, 1945.

[19] David Cooper, *Bartók: Concerto for Orchestra*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 2.

[20] Judit Frigyesi, *Béla Bartók and Turn-of-the-Century Budapest*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), 25.

[21] Judit Frigyesi, *Béla Bartók and Turn-of-the-Century Budapest*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), 77-78

## Appendix:

In the appendix I offer a brief sketch of the opening measures of the Concerto for Orchestra's first movement to suggest the compositional processes that tie Bartók's work to "traditional" forms.

## Literature:

Burney, Charles, *A General History, Volume II*. New York: Dover

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Publications, 1957

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