

Piano Concerto No. 2 (Concert Piece)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 3-4 December 1931

(Frederick Stock, conductor; the composer at the piano)

Program Notes

The Concert Piece in A minor is a large work 'en miniature,' that is—the thematic material undergoes no working over, consequently what might have become a broad symphonic work is now condensed and episodic in character.

A slow introductory theme soon transforms itself into the main subject of the first (*Allegro*) section. A lyric idea follows and is spun out at some length, then giving way to a Scherzo Diabolico—the most ambitious section, in that it contains a Trio and Recapitulation. The cadenza follows the scherzo and summarizes the material up to that point.

The orchestra then begins a short transitional section which leads to the entrance of the theme of the last movement, in A major, 3 1/2–4 time. This section also contains a subsidiary idea and a return, followed by the climax of the work—*Andante trionfale*—which is a repetition of the early lyrical theme, now *fortissimo* in the orchestra and accompanied by violent arpeggios and octaves in the piano. This leads to the coda, which is a scurrying xylophone-like version of the 3 1/2-4 theme.

The work, which employs the classical orchestra (to which is added a glockenspiel and triangle), was written in the summer of 1931 at Cedar Lake, Wis."

~ Edward Joseph Collins