

New York Philharmonic Archives Digitization Project

1943-1970

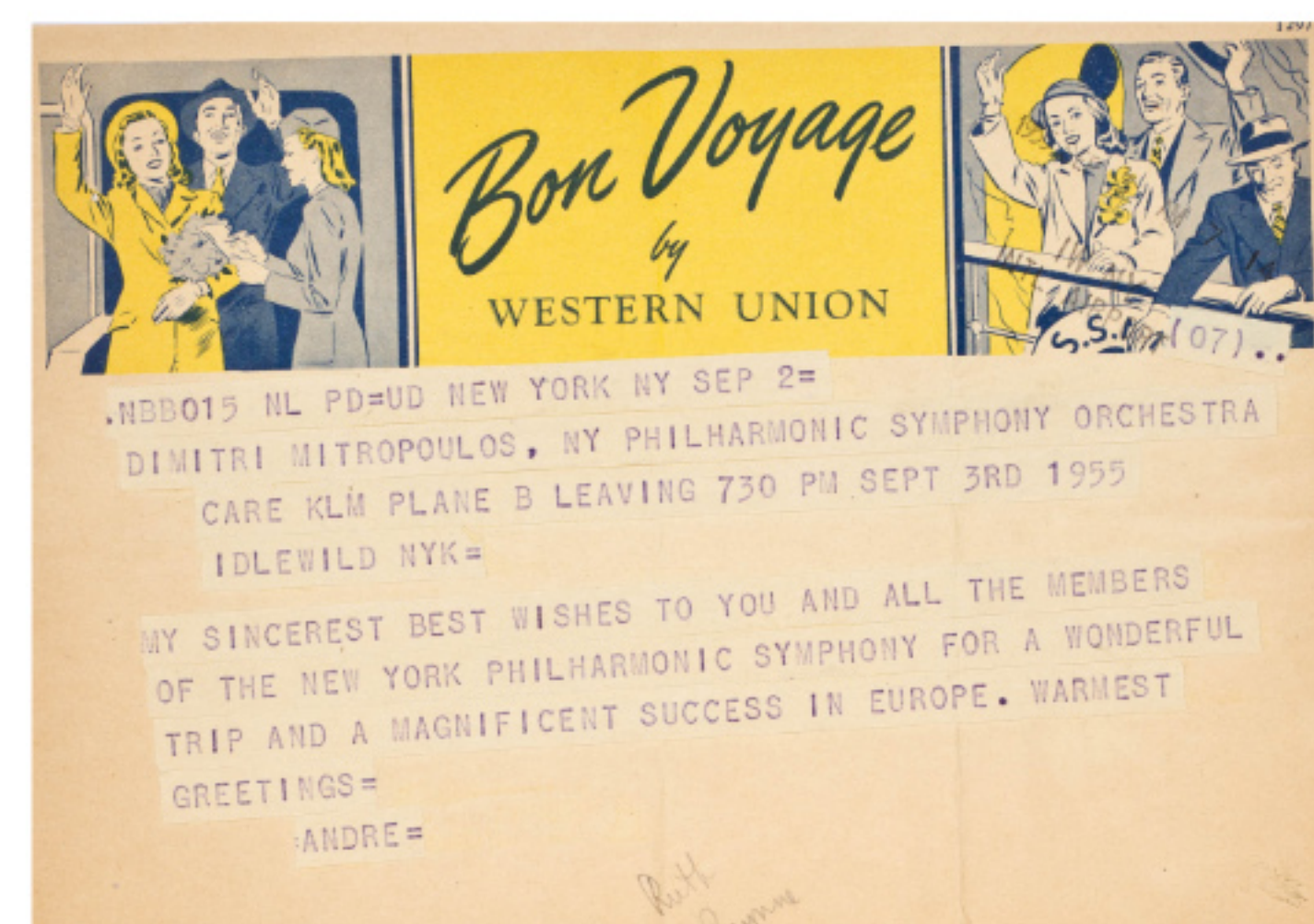
The International Era

New York Philharmonic History and Archives

- Founded in 1842; Oldest symphony orchestra in the U.S.
- Established as a cooperative society managed by musicians
- Performed more concerts than any other orchestra in the world
- Over 1,000 U.S. and world premieres
- Only orchestra in the world to be led by Mahler, Toscanini, and Bernstein
- Longest-running Young People's Concerts series
- First recording 1917, first radio broadcast 1922, first TV show 1951
- Performed in 431 cities, 63 countries
- 8.5 million pages of archival material
- 7,000 hours of audio/video
- 15,000 scores and music parts, largest privately-owned music library

Document Types

The International Era offers the greatest variety of document types.



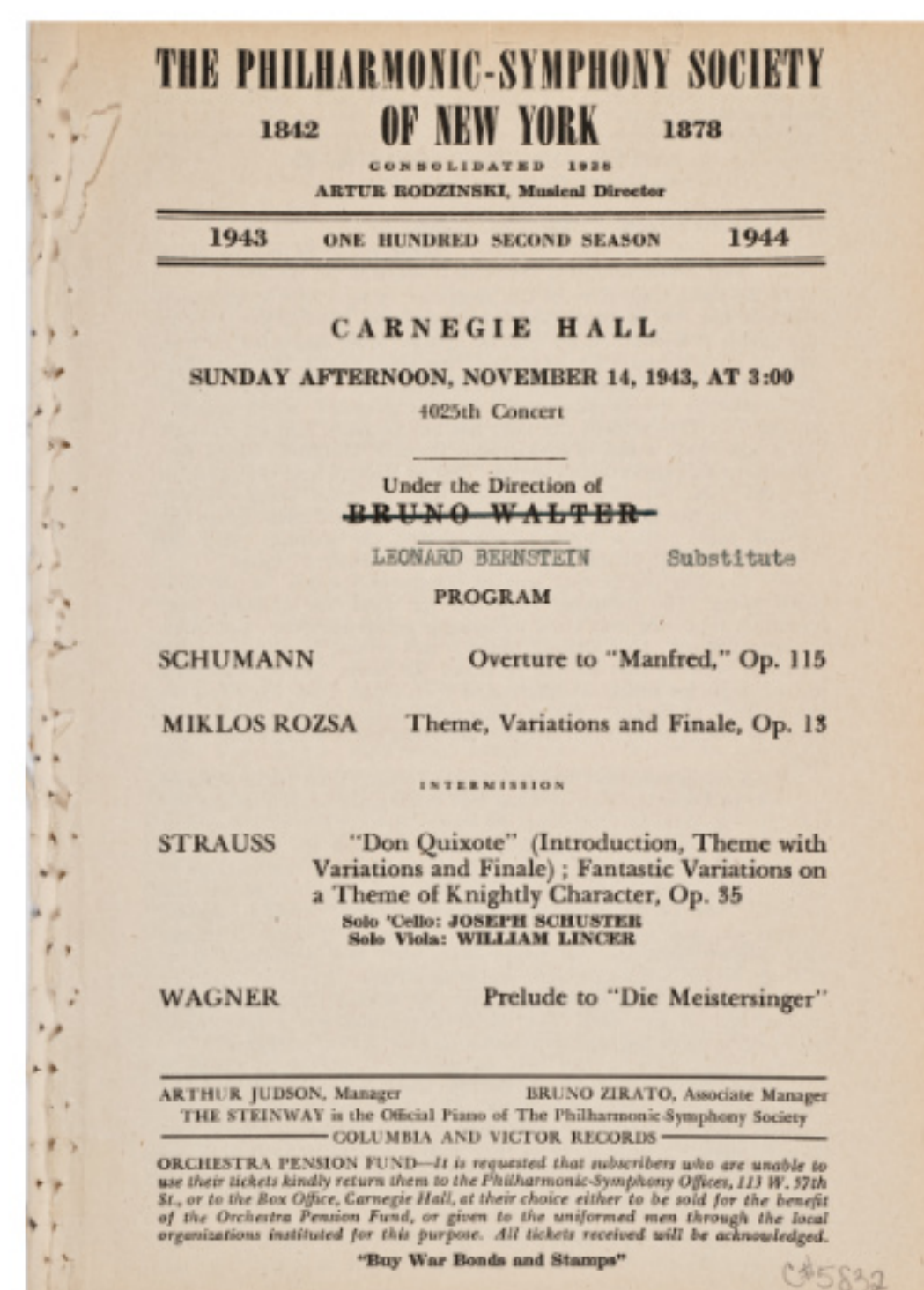
Business Documents

The most extensive collection in the Archives online repository is the business papers documenting the activities and management of the Orchestra. These records include minutes from Board of Directors meetings, planning sheets for special events, attendance and financial logs for the Orchestra and much, much more. Over 4,000 business folders are available.



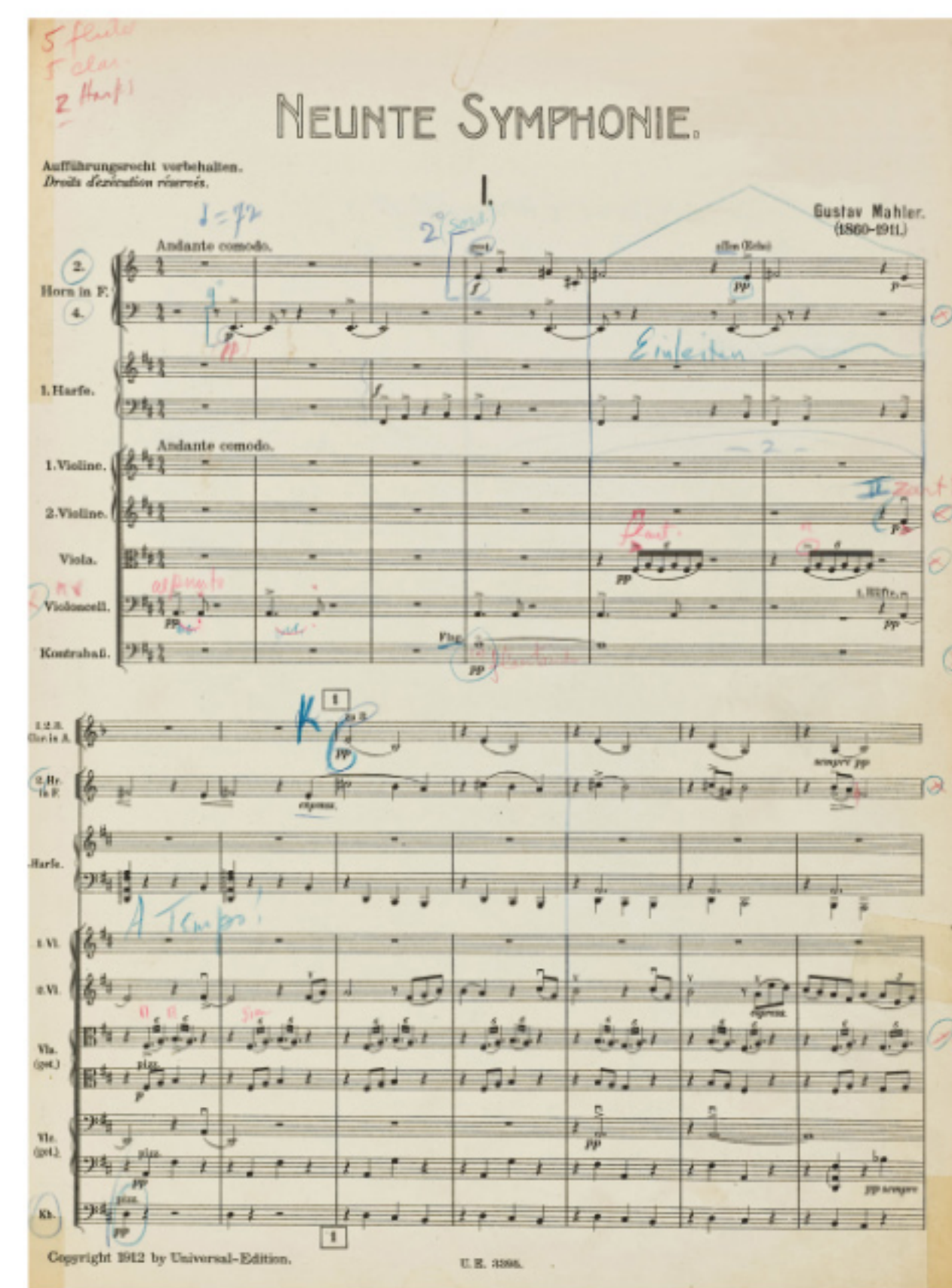
Ernest Schelling Slides

The Ernest Schelling slides are a series of Glass Lantern slides used to illustrate concerts for children. Ernest Schelling founded the Young People's Concerts in the 1930s as a way to teach and engage children with music. Approximately 4,300 slides are available.



Programs

All New York Philharmonic printed concert programs between 1943 and 1970 (3,235 programs) are available. Program metadata is imported to the Alfresco web platform from the Philharmonic's preexisting program history database.



Scores and Parts

The Digital Archives project has made accessible all scores which are significantly marked by conductors or orchestra players. Over 2,500 scores and parts are available.



Images

The image repository currently contains over 12,400 photographs, artworks, and other images pertaining to the Orchestra, conductors, soloists, concerts, tours, and other events. With their wide range, these images provide a multifaceted glimpse into the life of the orchestra and its cast of characters.

Digital Archives Site: Archives.nyphil.org

Website Architecture

The NYP Digital Archives uses the online digital content repository Alfresco to power its website and manage its various pools of data. Alfresco is:

- Open-source: providing an affordable and constantly evolving solution.
- Scalable: capable of accommodating any foreseeable growth of the digitized collection.
- Modular: allows developers to add features and components to any piece of the architecture.
- Flexible: able to accommodate all archival formats, pre-digital and born-digital alike.

Searching

Users wishing to research or explore the Digital Archives material do so through the website, archives.nyphil.org. Searches are performed with general keyword, name, or date and can be narrowed by a number of facets including subject, concert season, conductor, composer or artist, location, and venue.



Viewing

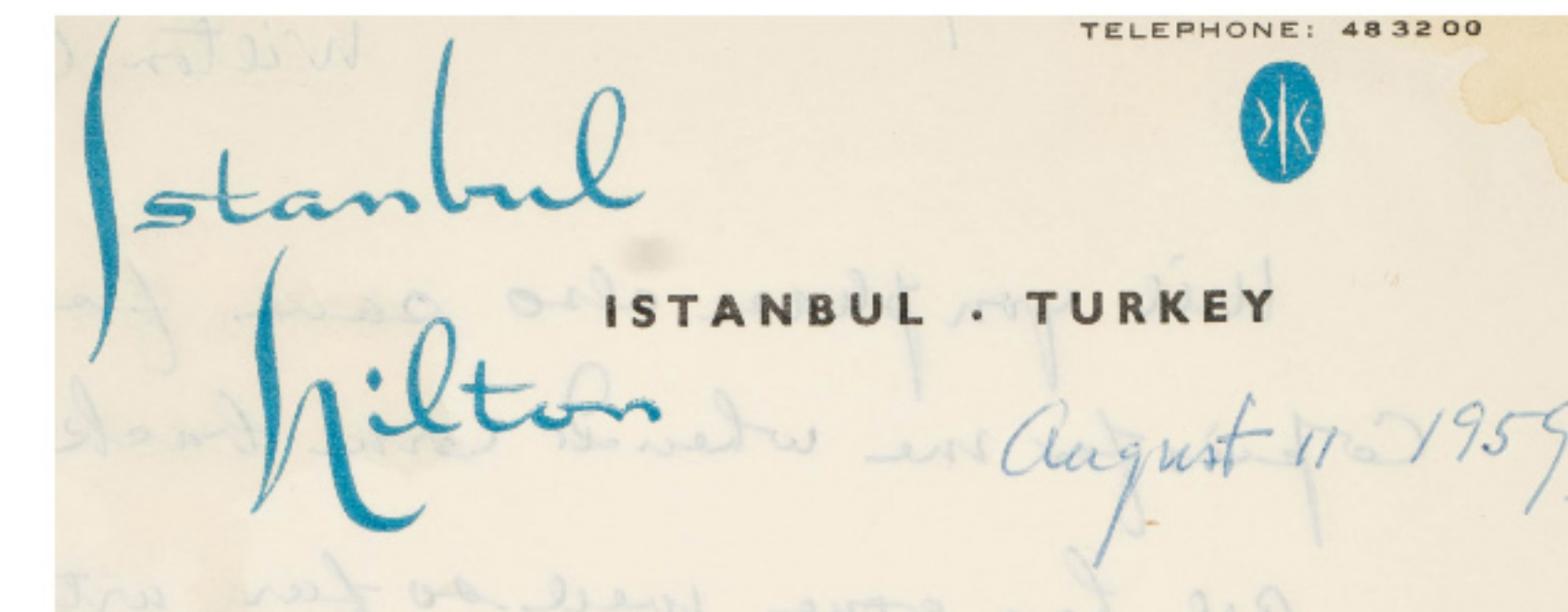
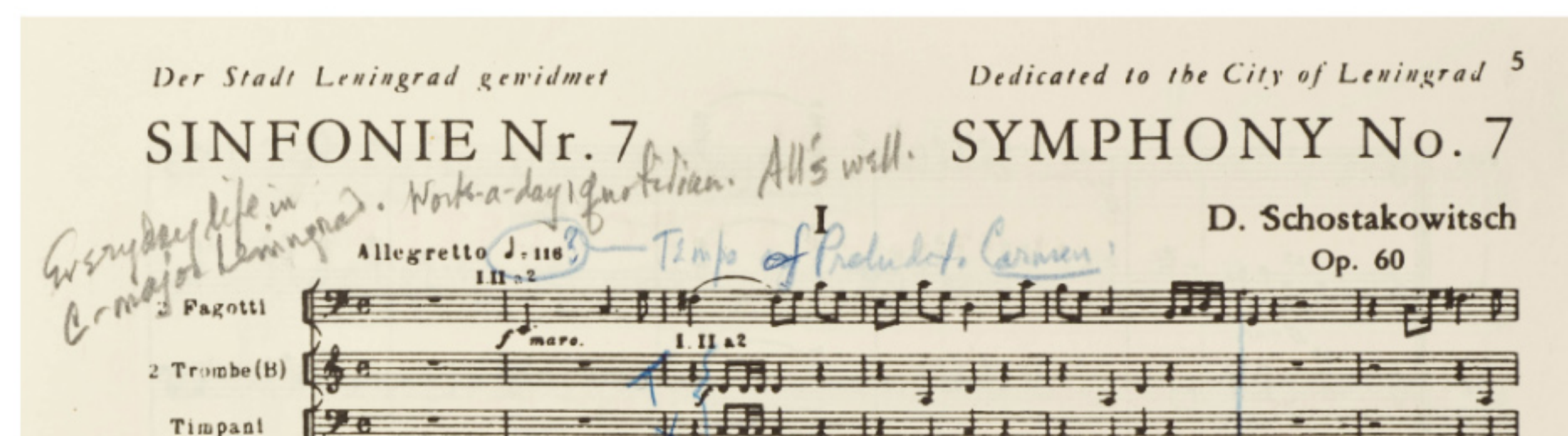
Users interact with selected items through customized viewers:

- Zoom-in and use a digital magnifying glass
- Turn pages
- Face-tag photos
- Share the item via email or social networking sites
- Access metadata with details regarding the item
- No downloading is permitted

Benefits on the Web

The viewing and search options lead to search results which improve upon the on-site experience at the Archives itself. Benefits to online research include:

- Easily performed searches with instantaneous results
- Searchable text, coming soon with OCR
- Immediate access to the metadata associated with any item
- Heightened viewing experience with high-res images and manipulation tools
- Suggested materials link to new discoveries



Workflow: Converting Paper Collections

Preparation

All material is physically processed to make the imaging as fast and easy as possible. The process varies for each document type, but usually involves:



Digitization

Completed with high-resolution digital photography on-site to minimize risk of material loss and damage. All postproduction is done in Adobe Lightroom. Postproduction includes minor color correction, sharpening, and export from raw format to uncompressed TIFF and JPEG.



Ingestion

Metadata originates in two in-house databases: DbTextworks and a historical performance database. Once this data is imported into Alfresco, images are ingested and associations are formed between metadata and images within Alfresco. The item is now ready to be viewed by internal staff.



Proofing

Proofer's compare each digital image and its corresponding physical item. When errors are found, items are reshot and reproofed.



Web-indexing

After an asset's pages and metadata have been approved, they are pushed to the Solr index, which drives the public front-end search.