

MAY 21
1938

PACIFIC
COAST

MUSICIAN

Vol. XXVII
No. 10

THE OLDEST MUSICAL MAGAZINE IN THE WEST EST. 1911

Philharmonic Orchestra

With the last concert of the Brahms Cycle, Saturday night, May 7, the Philharmonic Orchestra winter season came to a close in one of the most brilliant performances of the year. The program opened with the Serenade for Small Orchestra, Op. 16, a work scored for lower strings, reeds and two horns. It contains much of beauty but scarcely can be considered profound. Dr. Klemperer appeared to enjoy it himself; it was delightfully performed.

The Quartet in G-minor, originally scored for strings and piano, but arranged for full orchestra by Arnold Schoenberg, is unqualifiedly an important addition to orchestral literature. It is casting no aspersion on Schoenberg, however, to say that by his orchestration of the piece, it is no longer Brahms. To be sure thematic material has been conscientiously preserved, but the very nature of Schoenberg's concept of orchestral color and tonal combination being what it is, and expectedly different from that of Brahms, the composition in this orchestral form is not the Brahms we know in his symphonies. Nor yet is it the Schoenberg we have come to know in his original compositions, for only in one or two instances has he departed from the orthodox idiom and gone "modern." He has made of it a powerful concert work and lovers of great music owe him a debt of gratitude for having brought such a work into the broader symphonic concert field.

The program closed with the Fourth Symphony, which at Klemperer's hands, was given a most impressive performance.

A large and enthusiastic audience showed, unmistakably, its approval of and thanks for one of the best played concerts of the season.