

From the Fourth Symphonic Poem.

"ORPHEUS"

This Symphonic Poem was composed in **1854**. It was conceived at a time when Liszt was conducting rehearsals of Gluck's opera "Orpheus" for performance at Weimar. When finished it was played as a prelude to Gluck's opera on February **16, 1854**. It is one of Liszt's most poetic and fanciful compositions.

The musical score consists of six staves of music. The top staff is for the 1st Violin, starting with a 'Lento' marking and 'SOLO' instruction. It includes dynamics like 'R*' (ritardando) and 'p espressivo'. The second and third staves are for the 1st Violins, featuring 'cresc.' (crescendo) and 'rinf.' (rinflesso) markings. The fourth staff is for the 2nd Violins, also with 'cresc.' and 'rinf.' markings. The fifth and sixth staves show rhythmic patterns with 'p' (piano), '3', and '5' over bar lines, followed by 'molto espressivo' and a dynamic '3'.

(*) Note: R denotes slight Ritardando.)