

Extracts from the works
of

Richard Wagner.

Rienzi Overture.

"Rienzi, the Last of the Tribunes", although chronologically the third of Wagner's operas, was the first to meet with any noticeable favor, and the first to be published. Rienzi was produced at Dresden, Germany, October 20, 1842.

The Overture is in the conventional "potpourri" style, being built up from prominent themes of the opera, in a fashion which serves to epitomize the program of the latter— a form which Wagner speedily abandoned for the more plastic and increasingly picturesque Vorspiel. The themes which come saliently to notice in this overture are the opening peal of the trumpet, which is the signal for the popular revolt; Rienzi's prayer, from the fifth act; an excerpt from the spirited finale of the first act, leading to the Roman war-cry (which the brass instruments shout in unison); and, lastly, the stirring chorus of salutation to Rienzi from the close of the second act.

The violin parts of this overture are very difficult, and foreshadow the absolutely new treatment which Wagner accorded the string instruments in his later music-dramas.

Molto sostenuto e maestoso.

1st Violin. *ff* *Viol. I and II unisono*

sempre ff

Allegro energico.

f *pp* *f* *ff*