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NEW YORK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

What promises to be a musical event of genuine interest is the concert by the New York Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Walter Damrosch, announced for Thursday evening, May 19th, at the Grand Opera house. This is to be the first concert given in this city by New York's only permanent orchestra, and it will doubtless attract favourable public attention. The most important work promised is Raff's *Lenore* symphony. The following sketch of its design, written by Sir George Grove on the occasion of its first production in England, at the London Crystal Palace in 1874, should prove interesting:—

"The *Lenore*, or *Leonore*, who has given her name to this symphony is a very different personage from the *Leonore* of Beethoven's opera. She is the heroine of a ballad of Burger, which was well known to our grandfathers and grandmothers through Walter Scott's spirited version—or rather paraphrase, for it is hardly closer to the original than that—but for two generations withdrawn from the intimate acquaintance of English readers, though familiar to all students of German poetry. *Lenore's* lover has gone to the battle of Prague in the army of Frederick the Great, and since his departure nothing has been heard of him. Peace is concluded and the host returns—but no William. *Lenore* rushes wildly through the ranks, questioning everyone, but without effect: her lover is not there. Then the unhappy girl curses her fate, and cries out for death. That night, as she lies despairing in her chamber, she hears the well-known voice of William. He calls to her from his charger's back, telling her to mount and ride behind him a hundred leagues to their wedding. She descends and they start. As they rush along through heath and bog, and over the thundering bridges, ravens flap, frogs croak, bells toll, a funeral passes with sexton and priest, a troop of ghosts is dancing round the gibbet. And each group as they pass flies after the pair. As the cock crows they reach a churchyard, and by the open grave *Lenore* finds she is clasping a corpse. In the symphony the ballad is only employed in the last movement; the others are introductory to it. Herr Raff has completed the ballad of Burger by depicting to us in the music of the first three portions of his symphony how *Lenore* and William so lived and loved, as to make the midnight ride and the spectre bridegroom and the demon marriage the necessary termination to the sufferings of the poor unhappy girl."

The sale of reserved seats for the concert will commence to-morrow morning at the Grand Opera house box-office.