Modern Work In Classic Style, Classic Work In Grand Style Key Symphony

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The fourteenth concert pair of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, March 5 and 6, will feature the overture “Colas Breugnon” by Kabalevsky, Piston’s Symphonic Prelude, the Concert for Cello and Orchestra by Shostakovich, and the famous Fifth Symphony of Beethoven.

Kabalevsky’s opera “Colas Breugnon,” based on a novel by Romain Rolland, was first performed in Leningrad in 1938. The opera followed a two year study of French folk songs, but it contains only two themes from the French. These themes appear in the overture.

THE SYMPHONIC Prelude of Piston is a modern piece, commissioned by the Woman’s Societies of Symphony Orchestras for a meeting in Cleveland in 1960. The work is one of a number of such commissions which Mr. Piston has accepted in recent years. The music is generally slow, and is in one movement. One might call it the “adventures of a theme.” The composition is classic in view, and modern in scope.

The Concerto for Cello and Orchestra of Shostakovich was written during the summer of 1959 and first published in 1960. The work is divided into four movements. It is in classic form, and is divided into two parts. The first movement is separate, but the other three continue without pause. There is a cadenza in the third movement. Only one horn is included in the scoring, very little percussion. In this piece the tone of the cello is of great importance.

The Symphony No. 5 in C Minor by Beethoven was first performed on December 22, 1808. There has been no other as great.