













Mahler: Symphony No. 2

1st movement, beginning

Mahler's "Resurrection" symphony exhibits an incredibly dark character at the beginning of the work. In what is basically a march towards death, the cellos and basses present the main theme after a startling and fiery opening. Mahler clearly spent a lot of his time shut away in his composing hut to work out how exactly to frame all of these ideas. The beginning through 2 measures before rehearsal 2 is a long buildup of musical tension with many layers. If done right, the auditioning bass player, through the bass part alone, can show how there is room over top of their part for the rest

The details in this excerpt are crucial for a successful performance. There are a wide variety of dynamic markings, articulations, and lengths of notes that need to be presented clearly. With any passage that has a tremendous amount of written-in detail, it is a good idea for the player to often ask what their approach is to portraying all of these details, and if something might want to be changed,