

## NJRO - Report of January 30, 2011

Lest we forget, this January has been the snowiest since records were kept. This day granted us a momentary reprieve, and we played nobly despite lacking a cello section. Innes was ill, so we missed her on cello and daughter Ysa on viola. We welcomed a new violist, Andrew Byer, husband of our new bassoonist Chana Byer. In addition, we had Barbara Bivin on 2nd violin, yours truly by default on first, Bob Whiteley on bass, Donna Dixon on clarinet, Alice Marcus on oboe, Doris Danielson, Laura Papatatto and Kent Weisert on flute, followed by Paul Erickson on horn. We missed the Lepps on cello and oboe. Maestro Culbertson led us, and Evan Schwartzman supported us on piano.

We opened with Dvorak's Slavonic Dances. With the encouragement of Fritz Simrock (Brahms' publisher) to produce something danceable, Antonin Dvorak, taking cues from the Brahms Hungarian Dances, produced the Slavonic Dances in two segments, Op. 46 (in 1878) and Op. 72 (in 1886) originally as piano-four-hands compositions. Simrock encouraged Dvorak to also orchestrate them for publication. And voila! the start of Dvorak's international recognition. We played the 4 dances in Op. 46 energetically, but maybe not quite the tempo Dvorak intended.

We then read Beethoven's Fourth Symphony, with an ambitious part for the bassoonist, especially in the last movement. Of course, some of us were too busy stumbling through our own parts to pay attention. The work was commissioned by Count Franz von Oppersdorf, who, after hearing his Symphony No. 2, offered Beethoven a princely sum to compose a symphony for him. It premiered in 1807

Dead camera batteries (yes, even my cell phone) again precluded me from taking pictures (the gods are not with me!) but the internet offered the following.



Title page from Dvorak's first Slavonic Dance series (circa 1878).



Dvorak in 1868—in about 10 years he would become friends with Brahms, whom he greatly admired.



Beethoven as he appeared a few years before the premier of his Symphony No. 4