

Der große Basstrommel



Expectations among classical music aficionados were high when Maestro Dingo Dinklaker's downbeat began Act 1 of Gustav Mahler's previously unknown opera, *Die Pummelig Taxi-Tänzer*, or "The Pudgy Taxi Dancer." Like many of W.R. Wagner's operas, *Taxi-Tänzer* employed leitmotifs that related to specific characters: the taxi dancer leitmotif was played on a große Basstrommel, or big bass drum, an instrument invented expressly for the opera. Unfortunately, the first time the drum was struck, its shock wave caused an architectural anomaly to the front eight rows of the balcony, whose occupants abruptly found themselves in the laps of the audience members beneath them. But it wasn't until the next measure, when the drum was struck for the second time – *fortissimo!* – that chaos on the order of the Tunguska event of June 30, 1908, transpired. Consequently, Maestro Dinklaker never did get to Act 2.