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RLD/JA

30th September 1982

Mr. Colville,
58 Trumbull Street,
New Haven, 06511,
Connecticut,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Colville,

George Snyder of our New York office kindly informed us of your interest in the manuscript of Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring' which is Lot 55 in our sale on 11th November.

I enclose herewith photographs of some pages of the manuscript and a copy of the proof for the whole sale and an extra copy of the description for the "Rite".

You may know that Dr. Stephen Roe is our expert on music books and manuscripts. He is away until next week. If either of us can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

R. L. Davids,
Director,
Department of Printed Books and Manuscripts.

Enc.

Stravinsky Manuscript Sale Sets Auction Record

By JON NORDHEIMER

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Nov. 11 — A record price for a musical manuscript was set today when the first completed working draft of Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" was auctioned at Sotheby Park Bernet for $548,000.

The manuscript was obtained for the Paul Sacher Collection in Basel, Switzerland. The full original score of the Stravinsky masterpiece, which created a furor at its Paris premiere in 1913, is already in the collection. But its administrators wanted the heavily annotated and corrected working draft "because it is the creative stage of composition of the piece which was the most sensational of the 20th century," according to a spokesman.

The previous record was established last May in New York when $350,000 was paid for the original score of Debussy's "Pelléas et Mélisande."

In addition to the Stravinsky work, several autographed scores and historic documents attracted high prices.

A total of $621,000 was paid in separate bids for the composing scores of two cantatas by Bach: $347,000 for "O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort" (B.M.V. 20) and $247,000 for "Herr Jesu Christ, du hochstes Gut" (B.W.V. 113).

In a surprise bid that far exceeded pre-auction speculation, an anonymous buyer paid $110,000 for Mussolini's declaration of war in 1940. Other prices included $19,000 for Napoleon's marriage certificate, and $28,000 for a letter written by Napoleon to his brother Joseph.

A spokesman for Sotheby's said today's auction showed that superlative items still attracted high prices despite a decline brought on by the recession in the more modest range of lots available at auctions. "Items that are really important will always find a buyer at a very good price," he observed. "The opportunity for special items doesn't come along very often and if a buyer wants something he'll somehow come up with the money."

The sale of the Stravinsky score, beyond its record-setting price, was good news for Stravinsky scholars because the score has not been available for study. Its last known owner was Serge Lifar, the dancer.

Scholars did have access to the first sketchbook in the Paris collection of André Meyer, and the Sacher Collection had made available the full score. But the first full-scale working draft sold today shows the transition between the other two, with many new ideas introduced or discarded, corrections made and other fascinating details disclosed.

The manuscript notably lacks the "Danse Sacrale" and in an intemperate note on the manuscript itself Stravinsky has written: "The bloody fool Nijinsky did not give me the 'Danse Sacrale.' Don't forget to ask him for it."

Stravinsky, a half-century after the ballet was presented, mistakenly recalled that he had completed the composition in early 1912. Experts now believe the manuscript proves that the work did not resemble its final form until the new introduction to Part 2 was drafted and added, and this section is signed and dated March 19, 1913, on the manuscript.

Rite of Spring photographs

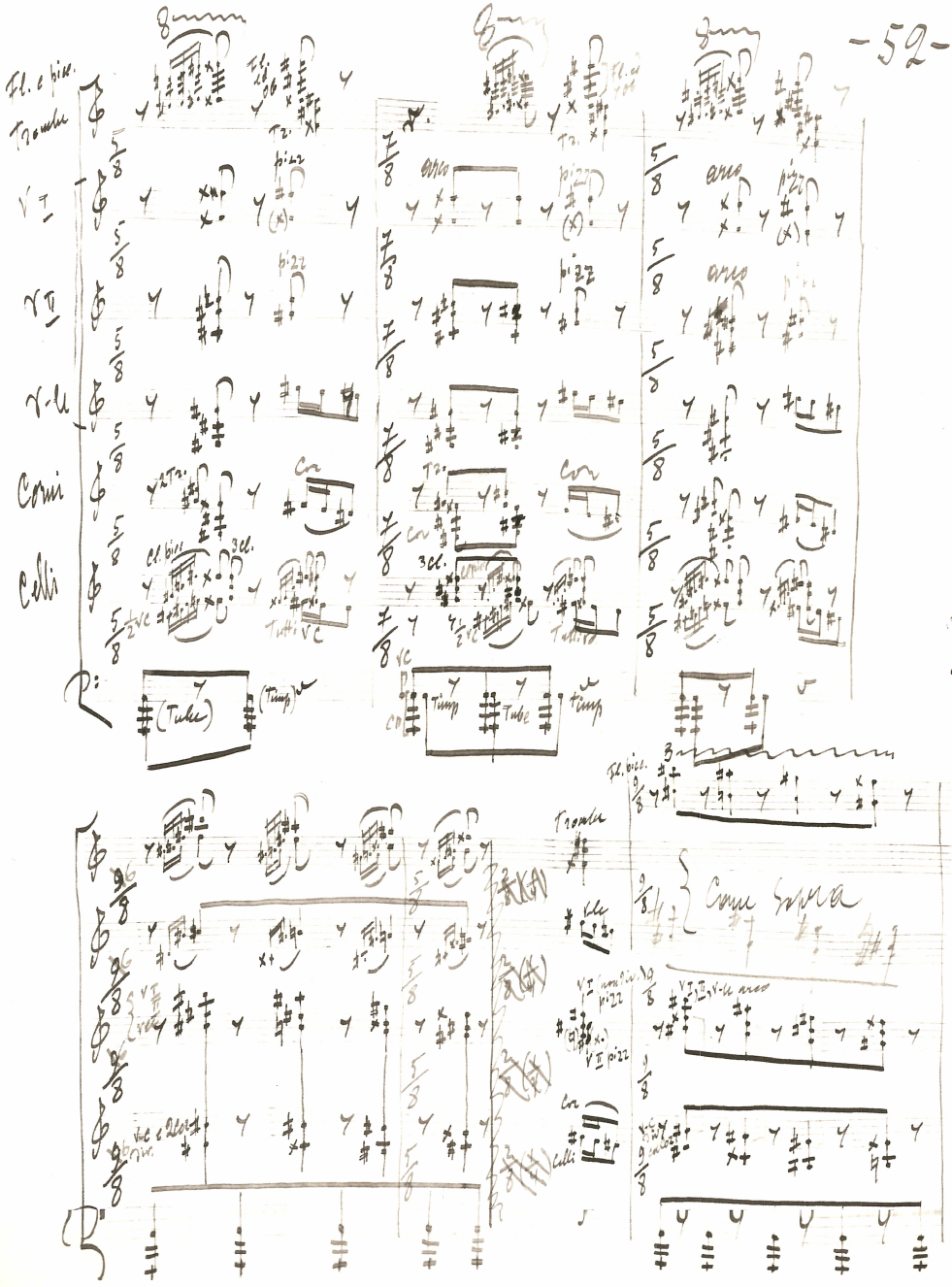
p.52 Honoring of the Chosen One, Rehearsal 104 (Part II)
(Note position in the autograph)

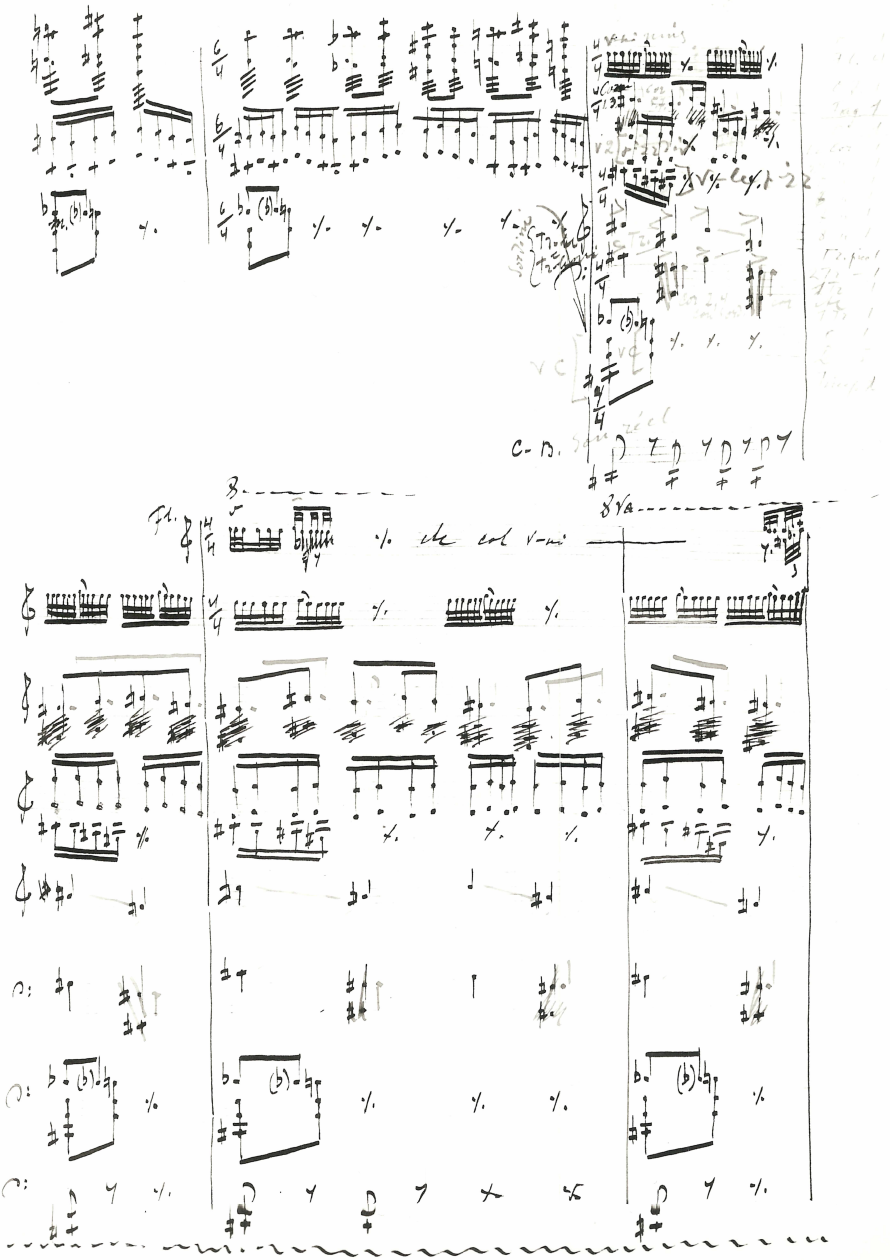
p.57 Ritual of the Ancestors, R134

p. 65: Introduction to Part II, Rehearsal 79

Fl. e picc.
Trombe
V I
V II
V-le
Corni
Celli

Tr.
pizz
arco
Cor
Cl. bass
3 cl.
Tutti VC
(Tube)
(Timp)
Timp
Tube
Fl. picc.
Come sopra
V I pizz
V II pizz
V I, V II, V-le arco
Cor
Celli

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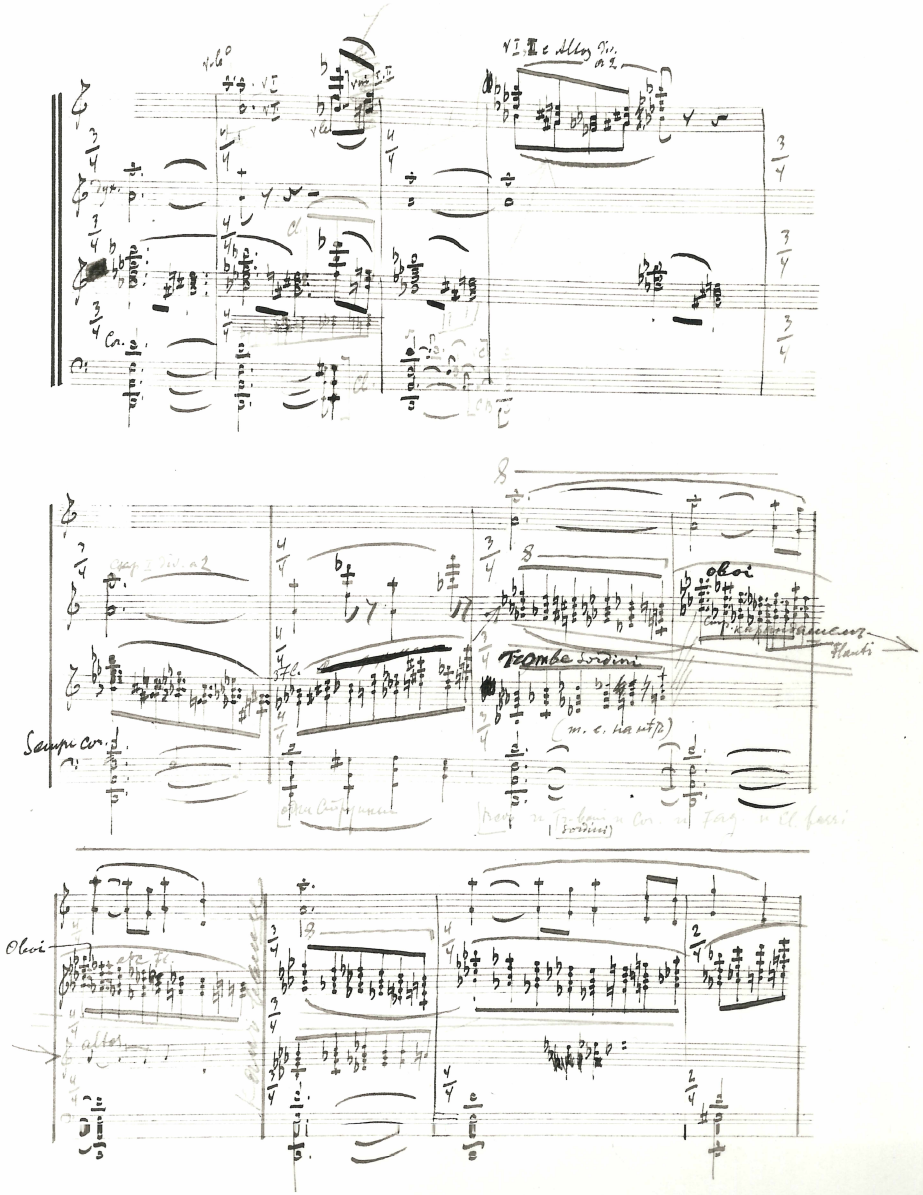
Вступленіе ко 2-ой части (см. стр. 37)