

# Made in the USA

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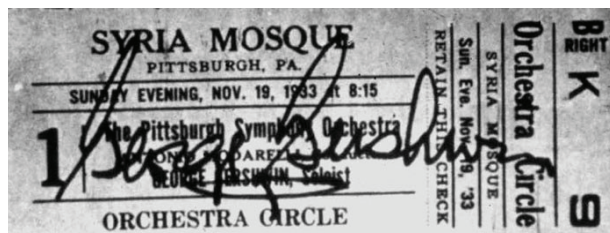
## Local Connections

### Gershwin Resource

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra first performed George Gershwin's Piano Concerto in 1933, with the composer himself at the piano for a tremendous trifecta: the Concerto in F Major for Piano, *An American in Paris*, and *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Gershwin famously sold the first ticket for that concert from the steps of the Syria Mosque in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood. It was the first ticket ever sold for a Sunday concert in Pennsylvania! The performance was a sold-out success.

Gershwin had composed much of his Piano Concerto on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution in western New York, two hours north of Pittsburgh. During the summer of 1925, he took up residence in a piano practice shack secluded in the beauty of nearby Chautauqua Lake. His quarters were strictly off limit each day until 4:00 p.m., allowing the composer time and space to focus.



**Top:** George Gershwin, center, standing with fans on the steps of the Syria Mosque in Pittsburgh. **Bottom:** Autographed ticket to the PSO's Sunday performance of Gershwin's piano concerto, featuring George Gershwin himself on piano, November 19, 1933.



Practice shack where George Gershwin wrote his Piano Concerto, Chautauqua Institution, NY.

The Chautauqua Institution later dedicated the piano practice shack where he did most of his work to Gershwin on July 17, 1952, after which the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra played the piano concerto to a full crowd at their open-air amphitheater.