

1 NYP TBD 2: Mahler 7

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3 (INSERT NATIONAL UNDERWRITERS 01)

4 (NYP THEME MUSIC UP AND UNDER)

5 (ROLL: NYPTW INTRO)

6 AB: **...and "this week..."**

7 (MUSIC EXAMPLE UP AND UNDER)

8 AB: **...We present a single work: Gustav Mahler's**

9 **Symphony No. 7 in e-minor. This is Alec**

10 **Baldwin inviting you to listen, now, as we hear**

11 **Alan Gilbert lead the orchestra in his final**

12 **concert as the orchestra's Music Director. It's**

13 **Mahler 7...on the New York Philharmonic This**

14 **Week.**

15 (INSERT PSA #1)

16 AB: **Mahler began work on his Seventh Symphony**

17 **during the summer of 1904. The orchestration**

18 **was completed two years later and the symphony**

19 **continued to undergo some minor revisions en**

20 **route to its world premiere in Prague on**

21 **September 19, 1908.**

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27 The Seventh Symphony has several motifs in
28 common with Mahler's Sixth symphony...which is
29 little surprise since their periods of
30 composition actually overlapped a bit. Indeed,
31 the Seventh's juxtaposition of major / minor
32 chords, the march-like figure of the first
33 movement and also the use of cowbells within
34 certain "pastoral" episodes all harken back to
35 the Sixth. As New York Philharmonic program
36 annotator James M. Keller writes in Notes on
37 the Program, however, "[Mahler's] new symphony
38 would prove a far more optimistic work than its
39 immediate predecessors, essentially tracing a
40 trajectory from darkness into light."

41
42 Though Mahler was generally opposed to
43 attaching (or at least revealing) a defined
44 program to the individual movements of his
45 symphonies, both the harmonic and stylistic
46 structure of the "Seventh" undeniably suggest a
47 progression of dusk towards dawn.

54 Mahler acolyte (and former Philharmonic Musical
55 Advisor) Bruno Walter noted quote, *'In the*
56 *three middle movements of the Seventh,*
57 *meaningfully and humanly revealing, we hear*
58 *music embodying a Romanticism that we thought*
59 *had been overcome.'*

60
61 Mahler himself conducted the world-premiere of
62 his seventh symphony in Prague. Both the
63 audience and the musicians present were
64 confused by the work, and it was not
65 particularly well-received during any of its
66 subsequent performances in Munich or the
67 Netherlands. When the piece was given in
68 Vienna in 1909, however, no less a figure than
69 Arnold Schoenberg took notice, causing him to
70 write to Mahler quote, *"...I am now really*
71 *wholly yours. What I felt [after hearing this*
72 *symphony] was a perfect repose based on*
73 *artistic harmony.'* Indeed, this piece contains
74 many expressionistic elements, notably harmonic
75 instability and melodic neuroses, which very
76 likely influenced Schoenberg's own Five Pieces
77 for Orchestra, written only a couple of years
78 later.

80 Despite the support of such figures as
81 Schoenberg and Walter, however, the Seventh
82 Symphony has never received the accolades-
83 popular or critical-that many of Mahler's other
84 symphonies achieved and today it continues to
85 be one of the composer's more neglected works.

86
87 To further illustrate just how special
88 performances of this piece are, consider this:
89 Willem Mengelberg conducted the New York
90 Philharmonic premiere of the Mahler Seventh on
91 March 8, 1923...and then the orchestra didn't
92 perform it again until June 2, 1990 with Erich
93 Leinsdorf. Riccardo Chailly and Lorin Maazel
94 each led four performances of it during the
95 mid-2000s and this performance is the
96 orchestra's first in roughly a decade.

97
98 Now, since the symphony is well over 80 minutes
99 in length, we'll pause right now for station
100 identification. We can then enjoy the complete
101 work without interruption. I'm Alec Baldwin
102 and uou're listening to the New York
103 Philharmonic This Week.

104 (LEGAL ID)

105 And now we hear the Symphony No. 7 in e-minor
106 by Gustav Mahler. Alan Gilbert conducts...the
107 New York Philharmonic.

108 (MUSIC)

109 (APPLAUSE)

110 Recorded live, at David Geffen Hall, on June
111 10, 2017, that was the symphony No. 7 in e-
112 minor by Gustav Mahler. The New York
113 Philharmonic was conducted by Alan Gilbert in
114 his final subscription concert as the
115 orchestra's Music Director.

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117 AB: You can relive the magic of Alan Gilbert's 8
118 seasons as Music Director of the New York
119 Philharmonic through a special celebratory
120 website that captures highlights of his tenure
121 with the orchestra through video, audio, and
122 photos. The address is
123 nyphil.org/gilbertfarewell. There, you can
124 watch video of staged productions he led
125 including Ligeti's Le Grand Macabre, plus
126 slideshows, complete concert audio, and more.
127 You can even send a personal message to Alan
128 and wish him well in his next great adventure.
129 Once again, the address is
130 nyphil.org/gilbertfarewell.

131 (MUSIC OUT)