

1 NYP 18-07 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: **...Our Mahler cycle continues with a single work:**  
9 **the Symphony No. 7 in e-minor. This is Alec**  
10 **Baldwin inviting you to listen, now, as we hear**  
11 **a recording of this rarely-heard masterpiece**  
12 **from February of 1981. Rafael Kubelik will**  
13 **conduct...The New York Philharmonic This Week.**

14 (INSERT PSA #1)

15 AB: **Mahler began work on his Seventh Symphony**  
16 **during the summer of 1904. The orchestration**  
17 **was completed two years later and the symphony**  
18 **continued to undergo some minor revisions en**  
19 **route to its world premiere in Prague on**  
20 **September 19, 1908.**

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26 **The Seventh Symphony has several motifs in**  
27 **common with Mahler's Sixth symphony...which is**

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

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

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53 Mahler acolyte (and former Philharmonic Musical  
54 Advisor) Bruno Walter noted quote, '*In the*

55 *three middle movements of the Seventh,*  
56 *meaningfully and humanly revealing, we hear*  
57 *music embodying a Romanticism that we thought*  
58 *had been overcome."*

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

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79 Despite the support of such figures as  
80 Schoenberg and Walter, however, the Seventh  
81 Symphony has never received the accolades-

82 popular or critical-that many of Mahler's other  
83 symphonies achieved and today it continues to  
84 be one of the composer's more neglected works.

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

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

103 (LEGAL ID)

104 And now we hear the Symphony No. 7 in e-minor  
105 by Gustav Mahler. Rafael Kubelik conducts...the  
106 New York Philharmonic.

107 (MUSIC)

108 (APPLAUSE)

109 Recorded live, at Avery Fisher Hall, on  
110 February 28, 1981, that was the symphony No. 7  
111 in e-minor by Gustav Mahler. The New York  
112 Philharmonic was conducted by Rafael Kubelik.  
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