

1 Script for NYP 14-12

2 (INSERT NATIONAL UNDERWRITING CREDIT #1)

3 (THEME MUSIC UP AND UNDER TO "X")

4 AB: **And "this" week....(X)**

5 AB: **...we mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of**
6 **Benjamin Britten.**

7 **This is Alec Baldwin. Thanks very much for**
8 **your company as we get set to hear two of**
9 **Britten's greatest scores for the concert hall.**
10 **Principal Horn Philip Myers and Tenor Paul**
11 **Appleby will be the soloists in the Serenade**
12 **for Tenor, Horn, and Strings to open our**
13 **program. Then, in the second half, we'll hear**
14 **a work not performed by the Philharmonic since**
15 **the Bernstein era: The Spring Symphony. Music**
16 **Director Alan Gilbert will conduct...The New York**
17 **Philharmonic This Week.**

18 (ACTUALITY: alan)

19 AB: **Conductor Alan Gilbert on this week's program.**

20 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

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AB: British composer, conductor, and pianist Benjamin Britten was a central figure of 20th-century classical music. Born November 22, 1913, he contributed a wide range of works to the active repertoire including operas, songs, orchestral, choral, and chamber pieces. Perhaps best-known for large-scale works such as Peter Grimes, Billy Budd, and the War Requiem, Britten also composed numerous works with smaller forces in mind. He also didn't limit his output to works for virtuosi; his catalog includes works many for amateur and student musicians too.

Britten often composed with particular performers in mind. His most important muse was his personal and professional partner, the tenor Peter Pears; others included Janet Baker, Julian Bream, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Mstislav Rostropovich.

So was the case with the work that opens our program: the Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, which was completed in 1943 at the request of Horn virtuoso Dennis Brain. Here's Philharmonic Principal Horn Philip Myers with more of the story:

47 (ACTUALITY?)

48 AB: **The Serenade is a song cycle based on six poems**
49 **by British poets. Each movement is a**
50 **meditation on the subject of night and the**
51 **song-settings are framed by an instrumental**
52 **prologue and epilogue. Here with more is Tenor**
53 **Paul Appleby:**

54 (ACTUALITY?)

55 AB: **The Serenade was given its premiere at Wigmore**
56 **Hall in London on October 15, 1943. The**
57 **soloists on that occasion were—as one might**
58 **expect--Peter Pears and Dennis Brain. Those**
59 **two men, along with the composer, went on to**
60 **make a recording of the piece one year later.**

61 (APPLAUSE)

62 AB: **..and with our artists onstage now, at Avery**
63 **Fisher Hall, we'll hear the Serenade for Tenor,**
64 **Horn, and Strings, Op. 31 by Benjamin Britten.**
65 **The soloists are tenor Paul Appleby and**
66 **Principal Horn Philip Myers. Alan Gilbert**
67 **conducts...The New York Philharmonic.**

68 (MUSIC)

69 (APPLAUSE)

70 AB: **Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings by**
71 **Benjamin Britten. The New York Philharmonic**
72 **was conducted by its Music Director, Alan**
73 **Gilbert. The soloists were Philharmonic**
74 **Principal horn Philip Myers and tenor Paul**
75 **Appleby.**

76 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

77 AB: **We'll have more music of Benjamin Britten on**
78 **the second half of our program when Alan**
79 **Gilbert leads a performance of the Spring**
80 **Symphony. I'm Alec Baldwin and you're**
81 **listening to the New York Philharmonic This**
82 **Week.**

83 (ID)

84 (ACTUALITY?)

85 AB: **Music Director Alan Gilbert.**

86 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

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91 AB: Premiered in July, 1949, Benjamin Britten's
92 Spring Symphony is dedicated to Serge
93 Koussevitzky and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

94 This is a choral symphony, written for soprano,
95 alto and tenor soloists, mixed chorus, boys'
96 choir (or children's choir) and orchestra.
97 Britten employs texts by several poets—largely
98 from the 16th and 17th century. These include
99 works by Edmund Spenser, John Clare and George
100 Peele. The 20th century is also represented in
101 the piece by the verse of the composer's good
102 friend W. H. Auden.

103 In the composer's own words, the work
104 represents quote "...the progress of Winter to
105 Spring and the reawakening of the earth and
106 life which that means."

107 (APPLAUSE)

108 AB: ...and we return to the stage, now, for The
109 Spring Symphony by Benjamin Britten. Joining
110 the Philharmonic for the performance are the
111 New York Choral Artists and the Brooklyn Youth
112 Chorus. As soloists, we'll hear soprano Kate
113 Royal, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, and tenor
114 Paul Appleby. Alan Gilbert conducts...The New
115 York Philharmonic.

116 (MUSIC)

117 (APPLAUSE)

118 **AB: We just heard The Spring Symphony by Benjamin**
119 **Britten. The New York Philharmonic was led by**
120 **its Music Director, Alan Gilbert. The soloists**
121 **were soprano Kate Royal; mezzo-soprano Sasha**
122 **Cooke, and tenor Paul Appleby. We also heard**
123 **the New York Choral Artists and the Brooklyn**
124 **Youth Chorus of which Joseph Flummerfelt and**
125 **Dianne Berkun are the directors.**

126 (INSERT CLOSERS/CREDITS)

127 PROMO for NYP 14-12 :30

128 **AB: Next time, on The New York Philharmonic This**
129 **Week:**

130 **We hear Handel's Messiah. I'm Alec Baldwin.**
131 **Please join me as the orchestra teams up with**
132 **the New York Choral Artists and soloists for**
133 **this masterpiece. Gary Thor Wedow will**
134 **conduct...The New York Philharmonic.**