

1 NYP 17-03: Ax/Beethoven & more

2 (INSERT UNDERWRITING CREDIT #1):

3 (MUSIC: nyp "theme" UP AND UNDER)

4 AB: ...and **THIS** week...

5 (MUSIC: Beethoven up and under):

6 AB: **Emmanuel Ax is the soloist in Beethoven's Piano**
7 **Concerto No. 4. Also on the program: a pair of**
8 **symphonies by Webern and Schumann...and we'll begin**
9 **shortly with *The Unanswered Question* by Charles**
10 **Ives. I'm Alec Baldwin. Please stay tuned, now,**
11 **as Alan Gilbert conducts...The New York Philharmonic**
12 **This Week.**

13 (ACTUALITY: AG?)

14 AB: **Music Director Alan Gilbert sharing some thoughts**
15 **on the work that opens our broadcast: *The***
16 ***Unanswered Question* by Charles Ives.**

17 **One of the composer's boldest, most original**
18 **compositions (and that's saying something when**
19 **we're discussing Ives) this is also probably the**
20 **composer's best-known and most easily-digested**
21 **work.**

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24 Clocking in at just about six minutes, *A*
25 *Contemplation of a Serious Matter, or The*
26 *Unanswered Perennial Question* (as Ives's full title
27 reads) is, in essence, a miniature philosophy
28 lesson about the universe and man's existence in
29 it.

30 Three groups of players are situated in various
31 parts of the hall and engage in a musical argument.
32 Each voice has its own tempo, key signature,
33 texture, and sonority. First, there's the haunting,
34 never-changing, chorale-like, background created by
35 a string orchestra off-stage. According to Ives,
36 this represents, "*the silence of the Druids—who*
37 *know, see and hear nothing.*" Second, a solo trumpet
38 poses the "*eternal question of existence*" seven
39 times. Finally, a quartet of flutes represents
40 mankind's search for a reply.

41 As the piece progresses, however, the futility of
42 the quest becomes more and more obvious, the winds
43 grow more and more agitated with frustration to the
44 point of shrillness,...and then they are silent after
45 the question has been posed for a last time.

46 (APPLAUSE)

47 AB: And now we hear *The Unanswered Question* by Charles
48 Ives. Alan Gilbert conducts...The New York
49 Philharmonic.

50 (MUSIC)

51 AB: *The Unanswered Question*. Music by Charles Ives.
52 The New York Philharmonic was conducted by Alan
53 Gilbert.

54 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

55 AB: From Ives to Beethoven now, and a performance of
56 the piano concerto No. 4 in G-major. The soloist
57 in this piece is Emmanuel Ax...and he shared these
58 thoughts about the work with our producer, Mark
59 Travis:

60 (ACTUALITY: Ax/MT)

61 AB: After a private 1807 premiere at the palace of one
62 of his patrons, Beethoven first played the Fourth
63 Piano Concerto publicly in 1808. Due to his
64 increasing deafness, it was to be his last such
65 performance. The concert was an extraordinary,
66 four-hour marathon that also included his Fifth and
67 Sixth symphonies, the Choral Fantasy, sections of
68 his Mass in C...plus a concert aria. All of this—mind
69 you—taking place in an unheated hall in late
70 December.

71 **This concerto broke new ground when Beethoven made**
72 **the decision to open the piece with an**
73 **unaccompanied gentle introduction from the piano.**
74 **This is then followed by the orchestra playing**
75 **alone...and at great length. The concept was**
76 **astonishing to early-19th century ears. Here again**
77 **is Emmanuel Ax:**

78 **(ACTUALITY: Ax 02)**

79 **(APPLAUSE)**

80 **AB: ...and we get back to the music, now, with the Piano**
81 **Concerto No. 4 in G-major, Op. 58 by Beethoven.**
82 **Emmanuel Ax is the soloist and Alan Gilbert**
83 **conducts the New York Philharmonic.**

84 **(MUSIC)**

85 **(APPLAUSE)**

86 **AB: Piano Concerto No. 4 in G-major by Beethoven.**
87 **Emmanuel Ax was the soloist and the New York**
88 **Philharmonic was conducted by Alan Gilbert.**
89 **Emmanuel Ax was the Philharmonic's Artist-in-**
90 **Residence for the 2012/13 season. This recording**
91 **and others he made with the orchestra are available**
92 **as part of the Philharmonic's digital download**
93 **series. More information is available at**
94 **nyphil.org or wherever you purchase music online.**

A pair of symphonies awaits us in the second half of our broadcast: Anton Webern's Symphony from 1928...and the Symphony No. 2 by Robert Schumann. I'm Alec Baldwin and you're listening to The New York Philharmonic This Week.

(FADE OUT)(ID)(FADE IN)

(ACTUALITY TBA)

AB: Alan Gilbert with a few words on the next work on our program: the Symphony, op. 21 by Anton Webern.

Webern was the only one of the "Big Three" of the Second Viennese School to compose a symphony—which seems particularly odd when Webern is most well-known for his brevity. Indeed, at about 10 minutes in length, this Symphony is a relative "giant" among the composer's output. While a bit more challenging to the ears than the works of some of his contemporaries, there is a sparse and concentrated lyricism throughout this work that makes this music rewarding for those that approach it with an open mind. Alan Gilbert agrees:

(ACTUALITY TBA)

(APPLAUSE)

118 AB: Here, now, is the Symphony, Op. 21 by Anton Webern.
119 Alan Gilbert conducts the New York Philharmonic.

120 (MUSIC)

121 (APPLAUSE)

122 AB: Music of Anton Webern on the New York Philharmonic
123 This Week. That was his Symphony, Op. 21 from
124 1928. The conductor was Alan Gilbert.

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126 Next, and to conclude the program, we turn to one
127 of Mr. Gilbert's favorite works in the repertoire:
128 the Symphony no. 2 by Robert Schumann. Here's Alan
129 with a brief introduction:

130 (ACTUALITY TBA)

131 AB: Schumann's 2nd symphony was first performed under
132 Mendelssohn's direction at the Leipzig Gewandhaus
133 in November, 1846. The carefully prepared
134 performance was highly gratifying to the composer
135 and the work was soon taken up by other conductors
136 and equally well received. Schumann wrote to a
137 colleague:

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140 *"I composed the Symphony in December 1845 while I*
141 *was still half sick. It seems to me that one must*
142 *hear this in the music. In the Finale, I first*
143 *began to feel myself, and indeed I was much better*
144 *after I had finished the work. Yet, as I have*
145 *said, it recalls to me a dark period in my life.*
146 *That such tones of pain, in spite of all, can*
147 *awaken interest gives me especial pleasure."*

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149 Though called the symphony #2, the second symphony
150 is *actually* Schumann's third. The true second,
151 which was withdrawn after its premiere, wasn't
152 published until many years later. Today IT is
153 known as the composer's fourth symphony. Got all
154 that? Good. Here, then is the Symphony No. 2 in C
155 major, Op. 61 by Robert Schumann. Alan Gilbert
156 conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

157 (MUSIC: Schumann II)

158 (APPLAUSE)

159 AB: Symphony No. 2 in C major, Op. 61 by Robert
160 Schumann. The New York Philharmonic was conducted
161 by Alan Gilbert, bringing this week's broadcast to
162 a close.

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164 AB: All of the music you heard on this broadcast was
165 taken from Alan Gilbert's inaugural season as Music
166 Director of the orchestra and is available
167 commercially, as part of the orchestra's digital
168 download series. More information is available on
169 the orchestra's website, nyphil.org. While there,
170 you can explore the Watch & Listen page for more
171 information about the music, archived broadcasts,
172 schedules, interviews, and much more. Once again,
173 the address is nyphil.org.

174 Lots of you already follow us on Twitter and
175 Facebook, but for those interested in connecting
176 with us in a different way, many of our broadcasts
177 are also available for on-demand streaming on
178 SoundCloud. There, you'll also find in-depth
179 interviews with our artists, musician profiles, and
180 special playlists. That's SoundCloud dot com slash
181 New York Philharmonic.

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188 PROMO for this program:

189 AB: Emmanuel Ax is the soloist in Beethoven's Fourth
190 Piano Concerto next time, on the New York
191 Philharmonic this week. Hello again, everybody,
192 this is Alec Baldwin. Please join me for a
193 broadcast that will also feature Schumann's Second
194 Symphony plus two short works by Ives and Webern.
195 Alan Gilbert will conduct...The New York
196 Philharmonic.

197 PROMO for 17-04:

198 AB: Mezzo-Soprano Petra Lang is the soloist the
199 Symphony No. 3 by Gustav Mahler on our next New
200 York Philharmonic broadcast. This is Alec Baldwin.
201 Please join me as the orchestra is also joined by
202 the Women of the Westminster Symphonic Choir and
203 the American BoyChoir for this towering work. Alan
204 Gilbert will conduct...the New York Philharmonic This
205 Week.

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